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C O N F I D E N T I A L

From : The U.S. Naval Liaison Officer,
To: P. O. ROBINSON, Regional Director,
War Shipping Administration.

Subject: S.S. JAMES DUNCAN, Report of Observation Voyage
of ~~April 16th~~ to April 26th, 1943.

1. The ship apparently is in good repair due to the excellent supervision of the Master, A. E. WYNDHAM, who despite the shortage and difficulty in procuring paint has managed to keep his ship touched up where necessary to prevent rust and corrosion.
2. The lower deck personnel with one or two exceptions is average or slightly below average which adds considerably to the Master's burden.
3. The Engineering Division is excellent in every way. The Chief Engineer, R. W. BOLDT, is thoroughly capable and maintains a high standard throughout his department.
4. The Chief Steward is conscientious and appears capable though at times carrying the regulations to unnecessary extremes.
5. The officer personnel is now in fairly good shape. The Chief Mate ERNST CARL who is new to the ship is excellent in appearance and on the voyage handled his duties extremely well. The Second Mate, S. M. COPP, is in my opinion below the average, though conscientious. His handling of the ship during his watch was at times very erratic. The Third Mate, M. L. MORROW, is of high calibre and handles himself and the ship well, though inclined to talk disparagingly about his fellow officers. The radio operator, N. W. HIBBS, is splendid; and, while his duties due to war time restrictions are not great, has been assisting in every way possible the work in connection with the electrical and communications systems aboard his ship.
6. The Master, A. E. WYNDHAM, is thoroughly capable and a splendid seaman. The convoy authorities with whom I talked have given him a good report as likewise do the Captains of the Escort Ships. He was on the bridge for a short time during every watch and when in the danger zones never left the bridge. During the time I was with him ashore his behavior was above reproach. It is my belief that whatever difficulties there may have been in the past were caused partly by incompetent personnel serving under him and partly by his having the old time ship masters outlook and being resentful of restrictions as to the handling of labor as well as the war time restrictions placed upon the handling of his ship.

/s/

F. P. KANE

JUN 19 1943

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