

UNITED STATES NAVAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
INVESTIGATION REPORT
Sixth Naval District

Confidential

Subject: SS "JAMES M. WAYNE" - loose talk concerning.

Report Made at: SIXTH NAVAL DISTRICT NYIU Date: May 26, 1943.

Report Made by: Ensign Charles H. Dorsett, USNR.

Period Covered: May 26, 1943. Status of Case: PENDING

Origin of Case: Information received from Sgt. Norman E. HAGEN, Jacksonville (Florida) Police Department, concerning a discussion of SUBJECT'S cargo and sailing time.

Reference: (a) GND Report, same Subject, dated May 25, 1943.
Character of Investigation:

Joint investigation with FBI at Navy Yard, S. C., for the purpose of interviewing Charles P. SCHOTT, Second Class cook on SUBJECT ship.

Enclosures: None Copy to: ONI - 2
GND - 2
Z-2, GND - 2
FBI - 1 (Sav)
FBI - 1 (Miami)
DDOYO, GND - 1
Z-4, GND - 1
NYIU, GND - 1

Source File No. ONI File No.:

Synopsis:

1. Charles P. SCHOTT, Second Cook, member of the crew of the "JAMES M. WAYNE", was interviewed on the night of May 24, 1943, at Navy Yard, S. C. SCHOTT stated that on May 21, 1943, he was in Jacksonville and went ashore; first, to the St. John's Inn and next to the Hercules liquor store, approximately two blocks from the St. John's Inn, and that he returned to his ship at approximately 0200 on the morning of May 22, 1943. According to SCHOTT, he rode in no taxi cab at any time during the night of May 21, or the morning of May 22. He stated that he walked from St. John's Inn to the Hercules liquor store and that at some time during the night, around 2230 or 2300, he went in the Pilot's Inn, near the Municipal Docks, where he met a shipmate, Justus WHIDDEN. WHIDDEN advised that he recalled seeing SCHOTT in the Pilot's Inn but that he, (WHIDDEN), left shortly after meeting SUBJECT and returned by himself to the ship. SCHOTT was still at the Pilot's Inn.

2. SCHOTT advises that he wore white-duck pants ashore, white dress shirt with collar open, and sleeves rolled partly to the elbow; no hat. SCHOTT advises that he was rather drunk on the night of May 21, and that he recalled meeting no man with an accent and did not ride in any taxi cab during his entire stay at Jacksonville, Fla.

Deductions: (synopsis continued on following page)

Undeveloped Leads
For: Zone 4, GND

Approved:

J. LLOYD ABBOT,
Commander, USNR.,
District Intelligence Officer

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(Synopsis continued)

3. SCHOTT advises that he was ashore three times while in Jacksonville; the first time, on the night of May 17. This time, he went ashore at approximately 1800 and returned to his ship at around 0200. On this occasion, SCHOTT stated that he was rather intoxicated and recalls meeting a man whom he believed worked in the shipyard in Jacksonville, the man's wife and his small child. SUBJECT met them in a beer joint (location unknown) and was with them for several hours. SCHOTT recalls meeting no other persons and he states that he did not meet a man with a foreign accent and rode in no taxi cabs.

4. SCHOTT stated that he was ashore again on May 22, and was drunk approximately all day. On this occasion, he visited the Hercules liquor store at about 2000 and left around 2330, walking back to his ship.

5. When questioned about general loose talk around Jacksonville, SCHOTT stated that the man who operates a beer joint inside the Municipal Docks gate at Jacksonville, had told him and all other persons present, including other members of the crew of the SS JAMES M. WAYNE, that he knew the type of cargo aboard the ship which sailed prior to the SS JAMES M. WAYNE. According to SCHOTT, this man stated he has a pass for the Municipal Docks and goes aboard and over all ships coming there. SCHOTT stated that this man did not question him as to what the SS JAMES M. WAYNE had aboard, and that he, (SCHOTT) did not discuss it with him.

6. SCHOTT's locker, aboard the SS JAMES M. WAYNE, was searched on the night of May 24, 1943. Nothing suspicious was found.

7. SCHOTT was born March 10, 1915, at Mena, Arkansas; is 5'8" tall; complexion ruddy; hair light; Z No. 242429 and E No. 325025, and is End Cook; signed on at Jacksonville May 14, 1943; wife is Lila SCHOTT, residing at Ridgewood Avenue, Tampa, Florida.

8. Photographs of SCHOTT were obtained to be submitted to the original informant to assist him in identifying SCHOTT as one of the participants of the reported conversation. Insufficient information was obtained at Navy Yard, S. C. to identify SCHOTT as the merchant seaman involved in the original report upon which this investigation was predicated.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD

Zone 4, GND will report the results of further investigation at Jacksonville, Fla.