

FILE MEMO

14 May, 1945

Subj: Am SS JOHN L. ELLIOTT; request by U. S. Army to conduct search of vessel.

On 10 May, 1945 Captain Pennington, Baltimore Cargo Port of Embarkation, U. S. Army, stated that some Army property had disappeared from the subject-named vessel and asked if the Captain of the Port would conduct a search of the vessel. The SS JOHN L. ELLIOTT is understood to be owned by the War Shipping Administration, leased to a private company, and at present under charter to the U. S. Army. The vessel was docked at Pier 3, Lower Canton, Baltimore, Md. After conferring with both Captain McCabe and Lieut. Cndr. Hoffman, U. S. Coast Guard, I spoke to Mr. Walter Stone, Assistant Collector of Customs, Baltimore, Maryland, who stated that the U. S. Customs Service had an interest in the vessel's cargo and Mr. Stone therefore believed that any search made should be conducted by the Customs' searchers. He said he would be very glad to arrange to fill Captain Pennington's request and the latter office was so informed and indicated the would deal directly with either Mr. Stone or with Mr. Frank Holston, in charge of the Outside Division U. S. Customs. Mr. Stone also agreed to permit representatives of Captain Pennington's staff and the FBI if desired to accompany the Customs Searchers.

*James L. Hood*