

(107)  
 00-6814 UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
 San Francisco, California

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
 COTP Identification Section  
 310 California Street

AND REFER TO

CONFIDENTIAL  
 10 May, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL  
 MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER CRONK

Subj: Foreign crew members aboard "SS KOTA INTEN" in reference to  
 attached reports from DCGIO and File MB-628.

1. At 1330 this date, accompanied by Lieutenant HAYES of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation Intelligence Office, I boarded the "SS KOTA INTEN" and interviewed Captain L. T. M. OUWERKERK, Marine Superintendent of the Transpacific Transportation Company and received permission to examine the foreign members of the crew as to their proper identification.
2. We interviewed twenty-one (21) Laskars, nineteen (19) Javanese, and one (1) Chinaman and examined their identification cards thoroughly. I personally examined the right index imprint on all COTP identification cards and there was no duplication on any of said cards. I then compared each right index fingerprint on the COTP identification card against the individuals' immigration right index fingerprint which appears upon their alien registration card and all were found to be in exact order and each man's fingerprint impression was identical on both his alien registration and COTP card. The total number of men examined was the total number of aliens referred to by file MB 628.
3. It is evident that the agency that had previously examined these prints and found them to be identical was in error by reason of, (1) not having proper knowledge of fingerprinting, (2) referring to thumb prints on each card whereas the Coast Guard does not take thumb prints but takes the right index fingerprint.
4. COTP identification cards referred to in this memorandum were issued by the third (3rd) and sixth (6th) naval districts.
5. No further action was taken aboard and the men were cleared by Lieutenant HAYES and me as having their credentials in proper order. It is requested a letter be forwarded to the interested agencies to clear this matter.

M. F. PRATT

CONFIDENTIAL  
 cc: Lieut. HAYES, S.F.P.E.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NN-3-26-83-11

By ch NARA. Date <sup>06/</sup>12/17