

CONFIDENTIAL

EIGHTH NAVAL DISTRICT BOARDING REPORT

COMMERCE AND TRAVEL SECTION

I. O. F.

Name of Vessel: SS "MALANG" Nationality: U. S. Cargo: General
 Boarded at: Mobile, Alabama Date: June 26, 1942 ^{1942 JUL 11} PM 12 48 Hour: 1230
 Boarding Officer: Lt. (jg) S. T. FISH, USNR Agents: Lykes Bros. SS Co.
 Master's Name: Arthur De Bozy Mate's Name: Julian KOCH
 Home Port: Wilmington, Delaware Sailed From: New Orleans, La., June 24 at 2315
 Arrived: Mobile, Ala., June 26 at 1025 Departed: Expect to depart evening of June 26.
 Next Port: Panama City, Florida Destination: La Guara, South America
 Cruising Speed: 9-1/2 knots Maximum Speed: 10 knots
 Gross tonnage: 3734 Net tonnage: 2265 Armed: Yes Degaussed: Yes
 One 4" 50 calibre gun aft; two machine guns.

Itinerary: Left New Orleans, La., June 24, 1942, at 2315, arrived Mobile, Alabama, June 26, 1942, at 1025.

Information from ship's officers: Captain De Bozy stated that subject vessel's Chief Mate sighted what he thought to be a wake of a submarine. (see remarks).

Passengers: None

Crew: Total of 32, plus a USN armed guard of 5. No members of subject vessel's crew are believed to be disloyal because of Axis or Communist sympathies.

Remarks: A copy of subject vessel's crew list is supplied herewith. Captain De Bozy complained that a seaman lc had been assigned to subject vessel as commander of the armed guard. Captain De Bozy stated that in his opinion subject vessel's armed guard commander is not competent to fulfill his duties and he requested that a Petty Officer be assigned to replace him. The reporting officer referred Captain De Bozy to the office of the Port Director, Mobile, Alabama. One member of subject vessel's crew, namely, Frank CHABEZ, fireman, signed on at New Orleans, but deserted one hour prior to subject vessel's departure from that city. Subject vessel's departure from New Orleans was not delayed for the reason that the master did not discover that CHABEZ was missing until after the vessel was underway. The following is a description of Frank CHABEZ: Age 52, height 5'9", complexion ruddy, hair black, born Mexico, U. S. citizen, Z 93273, Certificate No. 92438, address care of A. Doyle, 1000 Orleans Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. Captain De Bozy reported that no U. S. Naval craft were sighted during subject vessel's trip from Southwest Pass to Fort Morgan. Subject vessel's First Officer, Julian KOCH, reported that on June 25, 1942, at 1900, position 30.05 N, 88.10 W, he sighted what appeared to be the wake of a submarine. The wake was sighted one point off of subject vessel's port bow, three miles distant, and remained visible for a period of 2-1/2 minutes. The wake was said to have been approximately two feet in height. No periscope was visible. Mr. Koch was standing watch on the starboard wing of subject vessel's bridge and trained his glasses on the above described wake during the entire time it was visible. Subject vessel did not transmit a "SS" message for the reason that it was not definitely ascertained that the wake was that of a submarine and for the further reason that subject vessel was only eight miles distant from the Mobile bar buoy at that time.

CONFIDENTIAL

Addenda Sheet No. 1

Subject: 8ND BOARDING REPORT, SS "MALANG".
June 26, 1942.

Subject vessel passed within two miles of the position at which a tanker was sunk off South Pass. Smoke could be seen rising high into the air and flames were also visible. The above mentioned smoke and flames resulted from the oil which had been emanating from the tanker which was sunk on Monday or Tuesday of this week.

Edgar ROWELL, Chief Engineer, born Maine, U. S. citizen, address 1146 W. 56th Street, Seattle, Washington, appears to be same as 6ND card, Edgar Anger ROWELL, dated March 19, 1942, and 6ND card, Edgar A. ROWELL, January 26, 1942; E. A. ROWELL, Chief Engineer, age 70, is also reported on the Merchant Marine Suspect List as being Communistic.

EVALUATION: Of general interest.

DISSEMINATION: ONI(2); 7ND(2); Commander Armed Guard, Algiers; Port Director; Op., 8ND;
GIP; DCGO; 6ND; File.

Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation, USCG, 8ND, cognizant.

Approved:


J. M. BURT,
Lieutenant, USNR
By direction.

Hex

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NN3-26-83-11

By LW NARA. Date 6/21/17