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CONFIDENTIAL

In reply refer to Initials and No.

1942 JUL 31 AM 11 01

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

CG-IOF-601
1 August, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR CAPTAIN SHEPHEARD:

July 30, 1942

Subject: SS MOBILGAS; suspicious activities of officers.

1. The following from a reliable source is forwarded for your information.

A coxswain of the Navy Gun Crew aboard the SS MOBILGAS reported sighting a periscope at 1853Z July 25, 1942, at the mouth of the Mississippi River; at 0415Z July 26, 1942, he reported sighting a submarine on the surface not far away; that the SS MOBILGAS did not send out any radio message of these sightings and the coxswain states that offensive action by the gun crew was prevented by the ship's captain, Townes O. Jannassen, and the First Mate, Herve T. Franke, who refused to heed a request for a general alarm; and that the gun crew has requested to be taken off the ship. It is further reported that the Navy is investigating.

F. E. POLLIO

Copy to: Captain Merrill

L. H. Swan
Lieut. (jg), U.S.N.

CC: Coast Guard
Op-23-1

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NN3-26-83-11
By RAH NARA. Date 6/30/17

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In reply refer to Initials
and No.

Op-16-B-5

1942 JUL 31 AM 11 01

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

July 30, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

Subject: SS MOBILGAS, Suspicious Activities of Officers.

1. Information has been received from a source believed reliable that a Coxswain of the Navy Gun Crew aboard the SS MOBILGAS reported sighting a periscope at 1853Z July 25, 1942, at the mouth of the Mississippi River; that at 0415Z July 26, 1942, he reported sighting a submarine on the surface not far away; that the SS MOBILGAS did not send out any radio message of these sightings and the Coxswain states that offensive action by the gun crew was prevented by the ship's captain, Townnes O. Jannassen, and the First Mate, Herve T. Franke, who refused to heed a request for a general alarm; and that the gun crew has requested to be taken off the ship. It is further reported that the Navy is investigating.

L. H. Mann
Lieut.(jg), U.S.N.R.

CC: Coast Guard ✓
Op-23-L