

Office of the
COMMANDER
NEW YORK DISTRICT

411 Customhouse,
New York, N. Y.,
6 May, 1941.

From: Commander, New York District.
To: Commandant.
Subject: Complaint by anonymous crew members of American SS
MORBIAGPORT.
Reference: (a) Headquarters' letter, 24 April, 1941 (OP-206-231-601).

1. An officer from this office visited the SS MORBIAGPORT on 1 May, 1941, with two representatives of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation and inspected the boat davits and boat releasing gear.

2. The davits used on this vessel are the Welin Crescent type, size C-2, Serial No. 935. This was inspected at the factory in December, 1939, by C. A. C. of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation. It was found that it took about five minutes and about 218 turns of the hand crank with two men on each davit to swing out the boat for the full length of travel of the davit. It took about the same length of time, five minutes, to swing the boat back into the chocks. Four men were used on the crank handles to bring the boat back in, but this cannot be criticized, as the effort required would naturally be greater, there being some vertical lift of the boat when swinging in.

3. The lifeboat, a large 28-foot metal lifeboat, capacity 66 persons, built January 24, 1940, by the Welin Davit and Boat Corporation, was also inspected at the factory by C. A. C. The releasing gear was tested, and no just reason for complaint could be found, as the apparatus functioned satisfactorily.

4. The criticism of the crew, as indicated in the inclosure to reference (a), is apparently aimed at the construction or design of the davits. These were approved by the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation. The davits were greased and had the appearance of normal care.

5. It is recommended that no further action be taken.

R. W. DEHPWOLF.