

Inclusion to Headquarters, 1942 (CG-IOF-66)

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WAR DEPARTMENT
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON

August 8, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL LIEBEL:

The Wilson Line, 7th St. Wharves, Washington, D.C., operators of the SS "MT VERNON," have small signs posted at the landing dock "NO CAMERAS PERMITTED TO BE TAKEN ABOARD," and facilities for checking cameras are available at the ticket office. This prohibitive order was issued by the U. S. Coast Guard, probably as a precautionary measure against photos being made of the various AA installations, Army and Navy airports, Coast Guard equipment, etc.

On Friday, August 7th, on arrival at Mt. Vernon, I observed many women with cameras, who had apparently secreted them in their large handbags on boarding the boat. Returning to the 7th Street dock, I queried one of the office employees as to what measures were taken by the Wilson Line to comply with the Coast Guard instructions and was advised that they "rely on the honesty of the passengers."

Recommendations:

1. That the Wilson Line officials be made cognizant of the importance of taking necessary precautionary measures against taking cameras on board.
2. That the Coast Guard or Counterintelligence Group assign inspectors to duty at the docks or on the steamer.
3. That the film from cameras which have been taken on board be confiscated and a record of the name and address of the violator of the order.

/s/ Geo. H. KOUNTZ
Captain, MI

File
SS Mt Vernon (2)
x Photos - Gen (20)

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