

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Serial No. 3843616 Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
SO 1061029 Washington

October 6, 1942

From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To: Commandants All Districts (less 16th).

SUBJECT: Improper Employment of Intelligence Officers.

1. The function of the Naval Intelligence Service is to detect and combat the efforts of enemy espionage and other subversive agents and to collect and make available to the various commands information necessary for the successful conduct of the war. In carrying out these vital functions the Intelligence Officer performs a duty which has an importance second to none.

2. Reports have been received that certain Commanding Officers have directed their Intelligence Officers to perform duties not related to Intelligence and somewhat of an improper nature. For instance, Intelligence Officers have been sent in search of lost laundry; they have been employed to solve the theft of bottles of whiskey and similar extraneous duties.

3. This subversion of the Intelligence function not only subjects the Intelligence Officer to derision and contempt, but it also reflects a serious lack of knowledge of Intelligence on the part of the Commanding Officer. It should be clearly understood that the Intelligence Officer is not a policeman, a police petty-officer nor is he, any more than any other naval officer, concerned with enforcement of the Naval Regulations or other orders.

4. Commanding Officers who do not understand the proper functions of Intelligence are referred to existing publications and directives on the subject which have been issued from time to time by the Navy Department.

5. It should be noted that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is authorized by law to conduct the investigation and prosecution of common misdemeanors and crimes committed within government reservations by civilians.

/s/ F. J. HORNE

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