

DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE OFFICE
Third Naval District
50 Church Street
New York, N.Y.

RECEIVED IN MAIL ROOM

1942 JUN 29 AM 11:29
29 June 1942

SUBJECT: Landing of saboteurs and explosives at
Amagansett, Long Island, 13 June 1942.

1. At 1:55 A. M. on 13 June 1942, the Duty Officer at the District Intelligence Office, Third Naval District, received a telephone call from Lieutenant Nirshel of the United States Coast Guard Intelligence, New York City, advising of an encounter between a Coast Guardsman and four strangers on the beach at Amagansett, Long Island earlier that morning. It was reported that the Coast Guardsman received about \$260.00 from one of the strangers as "hush money" and he also had his life threatened if word of the encounter was spread. Immediately, the Duty Officer advised the Eastern Sea Frontier Duty Officer.

2. At 6:00 A. M. on 13 June 1942, the Zone Officer at Riverhead, Long Island, advised the District Intelligence Office, Third Naval District by telephone that he would conduct a thorough investigation into the matter.

3. At 8:00 A. M. on 13 June 1942, the Intelligence Officer of the Naval Air Station, New York, informed the District Intelligence Office that he had been cognizant of the situation but that because of the fog, the Naval Air Station was unable to get any planes off the ground.

4. At 10:30 A. M. on 13 June 1942, a Naval Intelligence Officer and three undercover agents were dispatched to the area. They arrived at the Riverhead Zone Office at 1430 and from thence, proceeded to Easthampton where they arrived at 1600. The three undercover agents were put to work immediately in the area on general surveillance activities and were later placed in strategically important jobs; the first as a waiter in a restaurant and boarding house operated by a German who has long been on a suspect list and on Bund lists. The boarding house in question harbors a number of German suspects over each weekend. This agent speaks German fluently and has had considerable experience as a waiter. The second undercover agent obtained a position as a helper on a wholesale fish truck which makes collections of freshly caught fish from the fishermen and fish wharves all along the eastern end of Long Island, making daily deliveries to New York and returning to the eastern end of Long Island nightly.

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The third undercover agent was placed in a position as a gasoline station attendant at Montauk Point. The station at which he works is one that commands a complete view of all traffic in and out of Montauk and puts him in a position to converse with anyone who stops at that particular station for supplies or services.

5. At 10:35 A. M. on 13 June 1942 the Zone Officer at Riverhead, Long Island, informed the District Intelligence Office, Third Naval District that his contact with the Coast Guardsman in charge at Amagansett had been unavailing, since that person had been instructed by two Coast Guard Intelligence Officers to reveal information to no one. This situation was rectified by means of a telephone call to the Coast Guard Intelligence Office.

6. At 11:00 A. M. on 13 June 1942, the Commandant, Third Naval District, the District Intelligence Officer, Third Naval District, officers of the Navy, Army, and Coast Guard Intelligence and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation held a conference, at which time, the Commandant, Third Naval District directed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation would head up the investigation, the other agencies assisting in every respect.

7. At 1800 on 13 June 1942, at a conference attended by representatives of the District Intelligence Office, the United States Coast Guard and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, members of the Coast Guard involved in the incident were questioned.

8. At 2000, four additional Naval Intelligence agents were sent into the area and immediately established a watch at the Coast Guard Lookout Tower where they had a clear view at the point where the contraband had been buried, and where they could observe anyone approaching during the daylight hours. At this time, District Intelligence Office and Federal Bureau of Investigation organized groups of agents from their respective commands, for the purpose of putting suspects under surveillance. These surveillance squads were sent into Amagansett, Easthampton, and Montauk, covering an area of about fifty square miles, the center of operations being at Amagansett. All class "A" informants in the area were called upon for information. There were eight such squads of men, each squad being made up of three or four agents of the combined services.

9. Thereafter, a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Naval Intelligence, established lookout points in the vicinity where the cache was discovered for the purpose of apprehending individuals who might return to the scene.

10. Three agents were assigned to investigate suspects on District Intelligence Office records, who were known to be in the area at the eastern end of Long Island.

11. At 2200, Naval Intelligence and Federal Bureau of Investigation established headquarters at the Amagansett Coast Guard Station, took over the Watch Tower, and instituted a watch whereby the entire beach between Napeague and Amagansett and between Georgica and Amagansett was under constant surveillance. In the darkness, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were on beach patrol with Coast Guard personnel. Other Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were stationed in fox holes previously established in the sand dunes within a clear view of the location of the contraband. The Navy Radio Station at Amagansett was maintained as a sub-headquarters where Naval Intelligence agents could telephone without exposing themselves by coming down to the Coast Guard premises.

12. On the night of 14 June 1942, information was received that a submarine was in the immediate neighborhood. Naval Intelligence agents were dispatched to the Napeague Coast Guard Station, the Georgica Coast Guard Station, and Ditch Plain Coast Guard Station and full coverage was given the area of the Amagansett Coast Guard Station and the Amagansett Navy Radio Station. A permanent watch was established at the Coast Guard Station in Amagansett so that headquarters could be notified immediately of any happenings along the line of these watch establishments. These special precautions were discontinued on Monday, 15 June 1942, and the security originated on the 13th was re-established and continued through June 15, 16, 17, and 18.

13. It was thereafter agreed between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Naval Intelligence that all watches at the Coast Guard Stations should be reduced to a minimum. Three Naval Intelligence agents were returned to Headquarters, 50 Church Street and three relief agents were sent in their stead to the eastern end of Long Island.

14. On 16 June 1942, the Nassau County Police advised the Zone Officer that on June 13, in the morning of that day, two Coast Guard officers, in uniform, appeared at Police Headquarters, Mineola, and displayed a vest. They did not explain in detail where the vest came from, except to say that it was found on the beach on Long Island. They requested that the laundry mark expert of the Nassau County Police examine the vest and tell them from the laundry marks thereon, where the vest had come from. An officer of the Nassau County Police examined the vest and asserted that he was quite sure that the laundry marks originated in the New

York City area. He took photographs of the vest and returned it to the Coast Guard officers. The Zone Officer and two representatives of the Nassau County Police explained these facts to the District Intelligence Officer and Special Agent Dryden of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. At that time, the District Intelligence Office had no previous information regarding the vest and apparently the Coast Guard officers had not divulged such information to either the District Intelligence Office or the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The vest is now in the hands of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

15. A permanent watch was established at Zone Headquarters, District Intelligence Office, Third Naval District, at Riverhead, New York. A Naval Intelligence agent who had formerly been a newspaper reporter in the Suffolk County area was established at Riverhead and instructed to proceed with investigation work in the guise of a newspaper reporter representing a well known New York newspaper. Another Naval Intelligence agent who had formerly performed real estate appraisal work in that area was established at Riverhead for investigative purposes under the guise of his former profession.

16. Three District Intelligence Office agents rented a house on the bluff road overlooking the five mile stretch of a washed out sand bar between Amagansett and Napeague and are living there under the guise of Summer vacationists.

17. All agents, including undercover agents, are functioning as described and to date have developed fifty suspects with subversive tendencies. Many of these suspects give reasonable evidence of subversive connections and potentialities which are inimical to the best interests of the country.

18. The investigation thus far has revealed that the entire eastern end of Long Island has had a marked infiltration of foreigners with possible subversive background. This infiltration seems to have been a steady influx started about six years ago.