

(SC) A8-5/QS1
Op-16-B-7-CP
CONFIDENTIAL
Serial No. 0224516

CONFIDENTIAL

JAN 29 1942

January 29, 1942.

From: The Chief of Naval Operations.
To: The Departmental Qualification Board
for Commercial Radio Operators.

Subject: Submission of information relative to
radio operators who may be considered
objectionable to the Navy for service
aboard U.S. merchant ships.

Reference: (a) SecNav letter to CNO and Commandants,
all Naval Districts, QB(169)/A3-1
(411217) Dec. 17, 1941.

Op-16-B-1

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of Reference
(a), the attached summaries of nine case histories are
submitted to the Board for such consideration and action
as may be deemed appropriate.

Op-16-B-7

16-B-7-CP

J. B. W. Waller
J. B. W. Waller,
By direction.

orig. sent By hand - 13-2

Dictated January 29, 1942.
Dictated by Lt. Comdr. F. G. Caskey, USNR.
Typed by V. Rombs, Y 2/c.

CONFIDENTIAL

SENT - DIVISION COPY RETURNED

DECLASSIFIED
Authority UND803073

(sc) A8-5/QS1

CONFIDENTIAL

BROWN, Ziva Ray

Born Peel, Arkansas, 10/12/98.
Residence: 735 Ellis St., San Francisco, California. Last ship: SS WEST CELERON, San Francisco 1/15/42. U.S. citizenship established by F.C.C. Radio Telegraph First T-14-48 issued at Seattle, Wash. 12/18/39 and valid until 12/17/42.

Rating "A"

Subject, President of the Marine Division, Pacific District of the ACA, has frequently admitted his C.P. membership in the past saying he was proud of such membership. Has been active in the San Francisco Bay area in many Communist "front" organizations since 1935 and is a frequent speaker at C.P. sponsored affairs, "defense committees", etc. He was trustee in the Maritime Federation of the Pacific and his position was taken over by REVELS CLAYTON, another well-known Communist.

Subject is close associate of HARRY BRIDGES and ROY PYLE.

Subject is reported as persona non grata by Brazilian authorities and denied permission to land in that country.

Subject, while on the SS WEST CACTUS some time ago, was overheard to remark that if the owners of the line, the McCormick Steamship Company, were not careful they might have a fire on their ship some time. There was a fire on the West Cactus shortly afterwards before sailing, which fire, it was reported, was investigated by Naval Intelligence. Results or findings not known.

At least five informants have reported subject's attendance at C.P. meetings.

Rating "B"

Subject abandoned a considerable quantity of U.S.S.R. literature and official CP USA propaganda on the SS WEST IRA when he was discharged from that vessel allegedly for "padding" overtime claims.

Returned to sea shortly after the passage of the Selective Service Act in 1940.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority UND803073

CONFIDENTIAL

DE SILVA, Alfred Stephens

Claims Texas birth but has been unable thus far to satisfy F.C.C. as to such American birth and citizenship. Holds valid F.C.C. license T-12-1036 issued 5/6/39 at San Francisco and expiring May 5, 1942 unless F.C.C. grants further extensions. Operates a grocery store near Cliff House, San Francisco.

Rating "A"

Reliable source reports subject "key man in the Water-front Section of the C.P. USA."

Subject, a member of ACA Local #3 San Francisco, is believed to be in the pay of the Communist Party.

Has paid \$31 a year (plus extra assessments and contributions.) in order to maintain his membership in the ACA and is usually in attendance at San Francisco Local meetings of the ACA without deriving any visible benefits from such membership. Has not gone to sea since 1936.

Rating "B"

In view of the fact that subject has not gone to sea since 1936, is married to a San Francisco school teacher and operates a grocery store, it would appear that DE SILVA is not dependent on radio operating or his F.C.C. license for a living, and he apparently has no intention or desire of going to sea as a radio operator. Nevertheless, subject has made persistent efforts for the past year, involving considerable correspondence, searching of records, etc., in order to keep his license renewed and to convince the F.C.C. that he is "dependent for his living" on said license. This would seem to give rise to the suspicion that subject has other purposes or reasons for trying to keep a valid radio telegraph license.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND803073

CONFIDENTIAL

HANSEN, Richard Martin

Born San Francisco, Calif. 1/15/14.
Last ship: SS PRESIDENT MADISON,
Oct. 2, 1941 signing off at San
Francisco.

In common with most Communists,
Hansen never gives a home address,
listing only the ACA Marine Local #3,
San Francisco. Lists no next of kin
on ships' articles other than a
"friend", W. Coffman, 59 San Benito
Way, San Francisco.

US citizenship established by F.C.C.
License Radio Telegraph First T-W-83
issued at Washington, D.C. 12/23/40
and valid for five years.

Seamen's Cert. Z-33296.

Rating "A"

Subject is reported as "Key man of the entire Communistic group aboard the SS President Madison." Is a definitely known Communist of the most violent type. Is thought to be extremely dangerous in his position on board.

Subject is a notorious and dangerous Communist radio operator on the SS President Garfield.

Subject employed by Pan-American Airways as radio operator on Wake Island for several months in 1937 but discharged because of his disagreeable nature, non-cooperation, and insubordination. When the SAMOAN CLIPPER was lost with all hands some time later, HANSEN signed and sent a telegram to the Pan-American AIRWAYS "Re SAMOAN CLIPPER I TOLD YOU SO" Hansen ARTA San Francisco.

Subject was ringleader and chief instigator of Communist disturbances on the SS President Madison during trip around the world in 1941. Stirred up crew to extent of trying to force company to discharge Chief Officer Dumorchelle because the latter had objected to HANSEN's attentions to women passengers on that ship.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
Authority

UND 803073

CONFIDENTIAL

HANSEN, Richard Martin (continued)

Master of SS President Madison reported to USCG Boarding Officer at Honolulu Oct. 21, 1941, that subject had "Communist tendencies and was a liability to the vessel," and was "untrustworthy."

CUSTODIAL DETENTION MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED.

Rating "B"

Hansen has been a protege of Roy PYLE and Mervyn RATHBORNE since 1936. He became San Francisco Secretary of Local #3 ARTA when Rathborne left for New York to take over the Presidency of the ARTA from Hoyt HADDOCK. Hansen, according to all reports, undeviatingly followed the C.P. line through out all the years he was Local #3 Secretary. He resigned his office shortly after the passage of the Selective Service Act, and went to sea ostensibly for the purpose of making a "survey of union news transmitted by radio." It must be noted that draft boards were deferring sea-going radio operators because of the great scarcity of radiomen and that the nature of their work was considered paramount in national defense.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

JORDAN, Chester
(CP party name Charles
Lindstrom)

927 Crestview St., San Pedro, Cal.
ACA Delegate, 212 West 6th St., San
Pedro, Calif.
Born Kingston, Ont. 10/24/99. Nat-
uralized Superior Court, Alameda County,
Oakland, Calif. 7/7/25, Cert. #2185062.
F.C.C. Radio Telegraph First, T-11SD-3
issued at San Diego, 8/4/39 and valid
for three years.

Rating "A"

Reliable source reports subject as "one of the most dangerous
C.P. members connected with the Maritime Industry on the West
Coast." Close confidant of HARRY BRIDGES, ROY PYLE, and
VOLNEY MATHISON.

Secretary of the Los Angeles C.I.O. Industrial Union Council
for past two years. Secretary of secret Communist organiza-
tion of maritime workers, the TRAVELERS CLUB. CP Book #59051
in 1938.

Reported as top man of the C.P. "United Front" movement in the
Los Angeles Harbor area. Registered as C.P. member since 1937.
District Captain for the American Peace Crusade and long con-
nected with practically every known C.P. "front" organization
in Southern California as active organizer, speaker, or writer.

F.C.C. records disclose that subject's sworn statement of
radio service in order to renew his radio license is now under
investigation by the F.C.C. Four months of necessary time on
the "GERTRUDE OLSEN" endorsed by the "TERMINAL RADIO COMPANY"
of San Pedro is regarded as fraudulent, said vessel having
been in drydock during that time without any radio operator
and "TERMINAL RADIO COMPANY" being none other than VOLNEY
MATHISON and HAMLET LEFTFIELD, Communist friends of JORDAN.
If charge of fraudulent endorsement is proven by the F.C.C.
subject not only may lose his radio license but with MATHISON
may face prosecution.

Rating "B"

The fact that JORDAN, long a paid and important C.P. function-
ary in the Los Angeles Harbor area, who has not been dependent
for years on a radio license in order to earn a living, resorts
to falsification and risks prosecution in order to keep his
license valid would seem to indicate that he has some strong
reason, other than economic, for trying to keep his radio
telegraph license valid.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority UND803073

CONFIDENTIAL

KAY, Robert Louis

Born Brooklyn, N. Y., 7/4/02.
Resides 1502 East 9th Street, Brooklyn,
N. Y.
Last known ship SS CHERIKOF, Seattle,
Wash.

U.S. Citizenship established by F.C.C.
Radio Telegraph License T-2-2080 issued
at New York 5/15/39 and valid for three
years. Ident. #Z-38148 - R.O. Cert. #
E 36784.

Rating "A"

Very reliable source confirms report of "Dangerous
Communist activities" of subject in 1940.

Reported as "dangerous Communist and trouble-maker"
by reliable Government agency.

Subject, a "known and dangerous Communist" was reported
in 1940 as having engaged in possible espionage
activities in Honolulu. In September of that year
subject was reported as lecturing at the C.P.
Workers' School at Chicago and in December of that
same year he was closely associated with CHESTER
JORDAN, notorious Communist and secretary of ACA
Local at San Pedro.

Rating "B"

Subject while of the quieter and more subtle type
of Party member, consistently adhered to the C.P.'s
line in A.R.T.A. ever since 1937, always siding
with and taking an active part in the C.P. fraction's
activities in that union, regardless of the issue
or action involved.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

MYHRE, Robert A.

Born Brooklyn, Sept. 10, 1908.
668 - 84th St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
Last known ship: SS WOLVERINE

US citizenship established by FCC
Radio Telegraph First Class T-12-246
issued at San Francisco, Cal. 11/27/40
and valid for five years.

Rating "A"

Reliable source reports subject as "active Communist, member of ACA, ship board trouble-maker and a dangerous character."

Rating "B"

MYHRE was chief strong-arm man of the C.P. defense thrown around FRANK WALLIS ROBINSON, Communist secretary of the N.Y. Local, ARTA, during the latter's trial in January, 1937. Subject, also, as self-appointed "defense man," interviewed REDLIN, FUCHS, and CURTIN being held by the N. Y. City Police in connection with the attack at Spring Valley, N.Y. on the wife and mother of a non-striker. REDLIN committed suicide later and MYHRE charged that the N.Y.C. Police had given REDLIN a "rabbit punch driving him insane and to suicide."

Examination of official A.R.T.A. meeting minutes of 1936-38 reveals that subject frequently introduced standard C.P. motions and resolutions for participation in May Day parades, demands that certain Communists be released, that Secretary of Commerce Roper and Maritime Commission Chairman Kennedy be removed from office, and other indubitable C.P.-inspired activities.

Subject is reliably reported as "sly, vicious, cunning, and capable of anything as he is a fanatical Communist who would blindly and eagerly carry out any order given him by the C.P."

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
Authority UND803073

CONFIDENTIAL

SOLDAU, John Curt
1116 1/2 Sanford
Wilmington, California

6/18/41: SUBJECT, Nazi espionage suspect, reliably reported to be on oil tanker SS EDWIN B. DEGOLIA when ship arrived in Seattle some weeks ago. SUBJECT is said to have married one "Virginia GARCIA", a Mexican girl, and will attempt to obtain employment as an electrician in the shipyard in San Pedro. (Rating B).

9/19/41: SUBJECT described as 5'6", 155 #, gray hair, blue eyes, light complexion, age 48, born in Germany, nat. U.S. citizen. Reported (Rating B) states SUBJECT is radio operator on the EDWIN B. DEGOLIA of the Hillecone Steamship Line, where he has earned the reputation as Communist agitator. SUBJECT has radio telegrapher license T-11-734 issued Los Angeles 6/11/38. (Rating B).

1/4/42: SUBJECT is Radio Operator aboard SS EDWIN B. DEGOLIA (Tanker) which arrived Tacoma 24 December 1941. SUBJECT is a German born, naturalized U.S. citizen. Master reports SUBJECT to be an expert operator and navigator, and states he has not heard SUBJECT make any statements while on board ship to arouse suspicions of disloyalty or subversive activities. This is confirmed by other officers interviewed. SUBJECT told Master that he realized that he (SUBJECT) was on the spot and expected to be removed from the ship at any time. SUBJECT talks freely about experiences in the German Navy during World War I, and more recently aboard Japanese tuna clippers, stating he submitted his observations of Japanese activities along the Mexican Coast to the Navy Department. In view of SUBJECT's background, it is suggested that he be kept under observation. Captain MARSHALL, Master on the northbound voyage stated he was recommended for a commission in the USNR, but was refused because of physical disabilities. He has been relieved on the southbound voyage by Captain R. B. GALLERY. Reliability of these Captains is unknown. Vessel is expected to depart in the next few days for San Pedro. (Rating B).

1/12/42: SUBJECT is reported to be an expert radio operator who served in the German Navy during the World War I. SUBJECT born in Germany, May 12, 1893, naturalized U.S. citizen 6/3/27 at NYC, No. 2550307. SUBJECT is the holder of a permanent Certificate of Identification No. Z140032 and a radio operator's certificate No. E190281; he is presently the holder of radio telegrapher's license 2/c T-11-349, issued at Los Angeles on May 23, 1941. Info. has been received to the effect that SUBJECT was on the SS E. B. de GOLIA until Oct. 13, 1941 when the last available records showed that he signed off at Los Angeles. (Rating A).

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority UND803073

CONFIDENTIAL

VITACCO, Jack (John)
30 West 6th Street
Mt. Carmel, Pa.

ONI

2nd Class Radio Operators License T-4-178, issued at Baltimore, Md.,
Oct. 7, 1941, 5 years validity.

Last known ship SS EKTON.

Subject was born in Mt. Carmel, Pennsylvania, February 7, 1913; was formerly radio operator on SS MELVIN H. BAKER; 5'9" tall; 145 pounds; slim build; black hair; brown eyes; dark complexion. Reliable source (rating "B") aboard SS MELVIN H. BAKER reports subject is pro-Nazi and pro-Fascist, hoping Germany and Italy would triumph. Source states subject left the SS MELVIN H. BAKER in July, 1941, at New York and got a ship immediately for the Near East. Subject signed aboard SS EKTON October 7, 1941, for a voyage of approximately 12 months. It is believed he is still aboard the SS EKTON.

Subject has brother named Anthony Joseph VITACCO, born Marion Heights Pennsylvania, February 16, 1910, to whom was issued 1st Class Radio Operator's License T-2-526 at New York, N. Y., Nov. 28, 1940, good for 5 years. Subject's brother is now aboard the SS SANTA RITA. No derogatory information has been received on Anthony Joseph VITACCO.

Rating B

B-7-1

January 29, 1942

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
Authority UND803073

CONFIDENTIAL

WICKBOLDT, Robert R.
2325 Lategrouse,
New Orleans, La.

12/3/41: Confidential informant, reliability "B", states that SUBJECT was a former radio operator aboard the tug, H. C. CADMUS, during July and August 1940. Informant states that "WICKBOLDT will do anything he can for Hitler, from the way he talks." SUBJECT left the tug, H. C. CADMUS, to take a position as radio operator in some branch of the government service, not known to informant. SUBJECT is an American citizen of German parentage. He is 28 years of age, 5'10" tall, fair complexion and brown hair. SUBJECT's book number is 118051 and his "E" number is 75547. SUBJECT lists as next of kin, his wife, and her address is given as 2325 Lategrouse, New Orleans, La. (Rating B)

12/10/41: SUBJECT radio operator aboard tug, H. C. CADMUS, during July and August 1940. Informant advises that SUBJECT is very intelligent and was anxious to get a Government job. SUBJECT left the tug H. C. CADMUS to take position as radio operator in some branch of Govt. service. SUBJECT is an American citizen of German parentage, is 28 yrs. old, 5'10" tall, fair complexion and brown hair. SUBJECT's book number is 118051, and his "E" number 75547. SUBJECT lists wife as next of kin and her address is given as 2325 Lategrouse, New Orleans, La. Informant states "WICKBOLDT will do anything he can for Hitler, from the way he talks." (Rating B)

1/27/42: As of this date, according to the records of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation SUBJECT gave as address that of his wife, Mrs. R. R. WICKBOLDT, 810 Weston Avenue, Hammond, Louisiana. (Rating A)

CONFIDENTIAL