

29 July 1943

From: Director of Naval Intelligence.
To: Distribution Lists Appended.
SUBJECT: Radio Operators, Information Concerning.

Reference: (a) SecNav ltr. to VCNO and Commandants all NDs, dated 21 October 1942, SOSED-2HD-10/12 SO 1021 1003, Subject: Administration of authority granted the Secretary of the Navy by the Act of 17 December 1941 (Public Law 351, 77th Congress, 1st Session) and by Defense Communications Board Order No. 3, dated 25 March 1942.
(b) SecNav ltr. to VCNO and Commandants all NDs, dated 16 July 1943, Serial 149730, Subject: Administration of Authority granted the SecNav by the Act of 17 December 1941 (Public Law 351, 77th Congress, 1st Session), as amended by the Act of 28 June 1943, (Public Law 97, 78th Congress, 1st Session); and by Defense Communications Board Order No. 3, dated 25 March 1942.

1. As indicated by references (a) and (b), the Secretary of the Navy is responsible for eliminating from United States Merchant vessels and from the operating premises of Commercial Communication Companies, persons considered unfit to serve as radio operators by reason of evidence of subversive activities against the United States or for any other reason. In view of the foregoing, the Naval Intelligence Service should be particularly alert in gathering derogatory information of all types concerning radio operators, including misconduct. Such information should be forwarded to the Office of Naval Intelligence for possible dissemination to the Secretary of the Navy.

2. United States Coast Guard headquarters has been requested to direct Coast Guard representatives in the field to advise Naval Intelligence Officers in the various Naval Districts of all derogatory information concerning radio operators including information regarding hearings before United States Coast Guard investigation officers whether charges are sustained or dismissed.

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3. Attention has been focused on this Subject by a recent case in which the Master of a ship made charges of misconduct and incompetency against a radio operator. When Subject arrived in Continental United States, the United States Coast Guard conducted a hearing and dismissed the charges. The same charges prompted a thorough Office of Naval Intelligence investigation concerning Subject's character and general suitability for his position. The Office of Naval Intelligence investigation report, which arrived at the Office of the Secretary of the Navy subsequent to the date of the Coast Guard hearing, did not mention the Coast Guard hearing. On the basis of the investigation report, Subject was disapproved for employment as a radio operator.

4. Even though the individual concerned in the above mentioned case would probably have been disapproved by the Secretary, regardless of the action taken by the United States Coast Guard Hearing Unit on the specific charges under its consideration, a report of the proceedings of that Unit would have given the Secretary of the Navy a more accurate and complete picture of the entire case.

Wallace S. Wharton,
By direction.

DISTRIBUTION:

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Dictated by Lt. (jg) Cox
Dictated 24 July 1943
Typed by S. Daniels

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