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Refer to No.

ON22/ND7, A8-5:EF30
(16-B-7-jeb)

HEADQUARTERS
SEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
DuPONT BUILDING
MIAMI, FLORIDA

June 27, 1942

SECRET

From: District Intelligence Officer,
SEVENTH Naval District.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations
(Director of Naval Intelligence).

Subject: MEILER, Alfred
SS GUINE

Enclosure: (A) One copy of memorandum, above subject, to Captain
J. B. W. WALLER, USN, dated June 27, 1942.

1. The urgency of delivery of this letter is such that it will not reach the addressee in time by the next available officer courier. The originator, therefore, authorizes the transmission of this document by registered mail within the continental limits of the United States.

2. It is hereby certified that the originator considers it impractical to phrase this letter in such a manner as will permit classification other than secret.

[Signature]
R. M. FORTSON

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Room 2155

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ROUTE 10- 16

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MEMORANDUM TO CAPTAIN J. B. W. WALLER, USN

Subject: MEILER, Alfred
SS GUINE

On June 25, 1942, the SS GUINE was ordered into New Smyrna, Florida, for investigation of suspicious activities on the high seas by Operations of the Gulf Sea Frontier. Subject vessel was boarded by intelligence officers of the SEVENTH Naval District to conduct an investigation. During the course of this investigation one of the intelligence officers was approached by a woman passenger who requested that one of the officers come to cabin #10 to see her husband who was very ill and who wished to be removed from the vessel. Inquiry developed that this person was recuperating from a severe case of pneumonia. Investigating officer went in to interview the ill passenger and learned that his name was Alfred MEILER, who was accompanied by his wife Elizabeth. Subject stated that he was of Dutch nationality and had boarded the vessel in Lisbon, Portugal. He produced a Dutch passport that contained an American visa from the American embassy in Madrid, Spain. Subject then told the interviewing officer that he was an espionage agent of Germany, and that the American embassy in Madrid had made arrangements for him to be contacted by the U. S. Secret Service in New York for the purpose of rendering service to the United States.

Subject further stated that he had been approached by a man whom he had known for more than twenty years and asked by this friend to represent Germany as an agent. Subject refused to divulge the name of the man who approached him, as he stated that this person was a good friend of his and was also a German agent. Subject accepted his friend's offer and he and his wife were sent to Paris, France, where they lived at the Hotel LUTECIA. At this hotel he attended a German espionage school for a period of six (6) months. In addition to all his expenses he was paid 3,000 francs per week during this period of time.

In January, 1942, subject and his wife were given transportation from Paris, France, to Madrid, Spain. He was given instructions by the German Intelligence Service to obtain passage to the United States to construct a radio transmitting set and to send information by this set to the Germans in Paris, France. Subject stated that he

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knew the call letters, frequencies, etc., of the German stations in Paris, and produced microphoto prints for the investigating officers' inspection, which he stated contained information as to construction of the set, codes, etc. After arriving in Madrid, subject contacted the American embassy and furnished them with complete information regarding his connections with the Germans. Subject claimed that the American embassy arranged and paid for his passage to the United States and he was instructed to proceed to New York and to comply with the instructions he had received.

Subject gave as his New York City address 22 E. 93rd. Street, which address is the home of Licht YADWIGN, subject's wife's sister. He was to be contacted at this address by agents of the U. S. Secret Service. Subject stated that on or about May 20 he became ill and had been bed ridden in his cabin since that date. He requested the investigating officer to aid him in leaving the ship and to proceed to New York by either plane or train. The investigating officers contacted the office of the District Intelligence Officer and revealed the above information.

The local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was contacted and after they had ascertained that the subject's story was known to authorities in Washington, D. C., they requested the cooperation of the District Intelligence Office to aid them in removing the subject from the vessel in such a manner as to avoid arousing the suspicion of the crew or passengers. Permission was received from the Senior Coast Guard Officer of the SEVENTH Naval District to remove subject, because of his illness and have him placed in a local hospital. Subject and his wife and their belongings were removed by the Coast Guard and subject was taken by ambulance to the SUNNY SOUTH HOSPITAL at New Smyrna, Florida, where he was placed under surveillance by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The captain of the SS GUINE and the ship's senior medical officer were advised that the subject was being taken ashore because of his serious illness and would be placed in a local hospital. The removal of the subject from the vessel was done by the U. S. Coast Guard.

The investigating officers turned over to an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation the following papers of the subject:

- (1) Passports and identification cards.
- (2) Sixteen (16) microphoto prints of radio equipment, frequencies, call letters and possible German codes.


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Subject claimed to have in his possession the sum of \$38,000 in American currency and \$900 in American Express Company Travellers' cheques. He also claimed to have on deposit in the Chase National Bank in New York City the sum of \$2,600. Subject further claimed that he did not know the name or names of any German agents in the United States. He stated that the German Intelligence Service had advised him that he would not receive any financial compensation until he had produced results. He further stated that no one knew of his connection with the German Intelligence Service, other than the officers who had interviewed him aboard the vessel and persons to whom he had talked with at the American embassy in Madrid, Spain.


R. M. FORTSON
Commander, USNR
District Intelligence Officer

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