

POTOMAC RIVER NAVAL COMMAND  
NAVY YARD  
Washington, D. C.

3515-15  
PRC/A16 (298)

12 July 1945

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To: (See Distribution List.)

Subj: Japanese Balloons.

1. While the appearance of Japanese balloons within the limits of the Potomac River Naval Command appears improbable, it is considered a justifiable precaution to make provisions for such an emergency.

2. Should a balloon land within the limits of the Potomac River Naval Command but not within a naval installation, naval authorities having information of the landing shall furnish it by telephone to the Operations Officer, Potomac River Naval Command (FRanklin 5700, Ext. 2414) or in his absence to the Duty Officer, Potomac River Naval Command (FRanklin 5700, Ext. 2431).

3. The Operations or the Duty Officer receiving such information will take the following action:

- a. If the landing is within the Military District of Washington, the information shall be telephoned to HEADQUARTERS, MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON (REpublic 6700, Ext. 3868).
- b. If the landing is within the Potomac River Naval Command, but outside the Military District of Washington, the information shall be furnished by telephone to HEADQUARTERS, THIRD SERVICE COMMAND, located in Baltimore (Mulberry 8320).

No further action will be taken by naval personnel unless requested by the cognizant Army authority.

4. Should a balloon land within a naval installation, the same procedure will be followed, except that the Operations Officer or the Potomac River Naval Command Duty Officer receiving the information will immediately advise the U. S. Navy Bomb Disposal Unit by telephone (ORdway 5400), and that organization will dispatch a team to render the balloon's cargo harmless. The activity at which the balloon has landed will immediately rope off the area within a radius of 200 yards from the balloon and exclude all persons from the area until the arrival of the disposal team from the Bomb Disposal Unit. No attempt will be made to inspect the balloon or its cargo until the arrival of the disposal team. No action will be required of army authorities unless requested by the Headquarters, Potomac River Naval Command.

5. All persons initiating and handling reports on the Japanese balloons will be cautioned that these incidents will not be discussed unnecessarily with other persons. Requests for information or publicity will be

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referred to Headquarters, Military District of Washington or Headquarters, Third Service Command, as appropriate, via this command in the event that the balloon does not land in a naval installation. Requests for information or publicity regarding balloons landing within naval installations will be acted upon by Potomac River Naval Command Headquarters.

6. In connection with the policy to be followed regarding classification of information and equipment related to Japanese balloons, attention is invited to Chief of Naval Operations confidential letter, Serial 0988816 of 21 May 1945.

J. B. W. WALLER  
Chief of Staff

Encl: (HW)

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