

SECRET

File No.

U. S. S. BARNETT
% Postmaster
New York City, N. Y.

8 JUNE 1942

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMANDER WESTERN SEA FRONTIER:

SUBJECT: CINCPAC SECRET DISPATCH 311221 OF MAY ;
DECODING OF.

1 . Stanley Johnston of Chicago Tribune reported on board May 15, 1942 and was assigned to a room with Commander M.T. Seligman and Commander H.S. Duckworth USN , Lexington Officers.

2 . Since the detachment of Comtrans Amphib Force and later Comtrans Div 17 , it has not been the practice to decode fox schedule messages not addressed the ship and force to which attached.

3 . When Lexington Officers including communication personnel reported on board, it was proposed by Executive Officer of that ship , Commander M.T. Seligman USN, that the Lexington communication Officers take over the communication decoding which duties they had been performing on the Lexington. This was agreed to by the Commanding Officer, as it would keep the passenger Officers busy.

4. The following Lexington Officers were assigned this duty. Lt(jg) F.C. Brewer , NR
Ens J.B. Johnson , NR
ENS G.Y. McKinnon, NR
Ens R.E. Hebbler, NR

One of the above Officers decoded the subject named dispatch.

5. At the specific request of Commander Seligman this dispatch was shown to Lexington heads of departments consisting of

Lt Cmdr A.F. Junker USN
Commander H.S. Duckworth USN

The ship's Officers who saw this message were Captain , Executive Officer , and Communication Officer.

6. The Commanding Officer consented to the decoding of this message and its being shown to these Officers as he was assured by Commander Seligman that this was the practice on the Lexington and is generally known to be the practice on vessels during the time important operations affecting the whole fleet

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7. The Commanding Officer did not see or speak to Mr. Stanley Johnston and the Executive Officer and Communication Officer only had very meager conversation with him and gave him no information.

8. The Communication Officer of this ship Lt(jg) D. Bontecou USNR states that Commander M. T. Seligman USN made the following statement to him, the substance of which is about as follows: "That he had been authorized to show secret messages and letters to Mr Johnston". The Communication Officer ~~XXXXXXXX~~ did not pay much attention to the statement at the time and of course does not know what Commander Seligman told Mr Johnston.

9. The message was never out of the hands of ~~###~~ an Officer.



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