

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

FILE NO. O.C. 65-692

REPORT MADE AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.	DATE WHEN MADE 7-1-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-17-42	REPORT MADE BY L. J. HILBERT	HM
TITLE STANLEY JOHNSTON			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - J	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Lieutenant C. J. VAN ARSDALL knew of the receipt of secret dispatch radioed to the U.S.S. Barnett, May 31, 1942; he discussed its contents with Captain PHILLIPS, Lieutenant Commander POMEROY and Lieutenant DANIEL BONTECOU. VAN ARSDALL does not remember U.S.S. Lexington Officer who obtained silhouette book of Japanese naval craft from him. VAN ARSDALL stated Lieutenant BONTECOU brought Lexington Officer to his room to get silhouette book. VAN ARSDALL never in Commander SELIGMAN'S quarters during cruise.

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REFERENCE:

Teletype received from San Francisco Field Division dated June 17, 1942.

DETAILS:

At Norman, Oklahoma

Lieutenant C. J. VAN ARSDALL, former Assistant Gunnery Officer of the U.S.S. Barnett was interviewed in Norman, Oklahoma, where he is now employed at the Navy Department Office of the Professor of Naval Science and Tactics, located at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma.

VAN ARSDALL stated upon the receipt of the secret dispatch radioed to the U.S.S. Barnett on May 31, 1942, that he discussed its contents with Captain PHILLIPS, Lieutenant Commander POMEROY and Lieutenant DANIEL BONTECOU.

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VAN ARSDALL was questioned closely as to the persons that were present at the time of his discussion of the contents of this secret message. VAN ARSDALL stated that he was positive that STANLEY JOHNSTON was not present.

VAN ARSDALL further stated that he and other officers of both the U.S.S. Barnett and the U.S.S. Lexington after the publication of the article written by STANLEY JOHNSTON of the impending Japanese action at A laska and Midway often discussed among themselves how JOHNSTON could have obtained this information but all were unable to figure it out.

VAN ARSDALL also stated that at no time during the cruise did he see STANLEY JOHNSTON near the radio room or code room of the U.S.S. Barnett where all confidential and secret matters are kept.

VAN ARSDALL stated that he did hear a rumor that JOHNSTON made a statement to some unknown person that he, JOHNSTON, saw the message lying on a table aboard the U.S.S. Barnett.

VAN ARSDALL stated that he does not remember the name of the Officer of the U.S.S. Lexington who obtained from him the silhouette book of the Japanese naval craft, but he went on to state that Lieutenant DANIEL BONTECOU was with the U.S.S. Lexington Officer when BONTECOU and the Officer came to VAN ARSDALL'S quarters and asked for the silhouette book of the Japanese naval craft, and the U.S.S. Lexington Officer told VAN ARSDALL that the executive officer of the U.S.S. Lexington wanted this book.

Lieutenant VAN ARSDALL stated that he was never in the quarters of Commander SELIGMAN all during the cruise.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN



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