

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This case originated at WASHINGTON, D. C.

File No. 65-2971

Report made at San Francisco, Calif.	Date made 6/24/42	Period 6/12 - 23/42	Report made by R. E. MAYER mfd.
Title STANLEY JOHNSTON		Character of case ESPIONAGE - J	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject, newspaper reporter of Chicago Tribune, was assigned to U.S.S. Lexington with credentials from Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet to prepare news releases re. Naval maneuvers. Some background of subject set out on page 34. He and several of Lexington personnel taken aboard Navy Transport U.S.S. Barnett 5/15/42 at Pacific port and transported to San Diego, Calif. where disembarked 6/2/42. Some time after disembarking, subject made available to Chicago Tribune information contained in secret dispatch #311221 from Commander-in-Chief Pacific Fleet to All Task Force Commanders, which was received on Barnett 3:52 p.m. 5/31/42. Information released to Tribune printed on page 8 Edition CCCC** of San Francisco Chronicle dated Sunday June 7, 1942. Three of these editions forwarded to Bureau. Article set out in pages 4 to 6 herein. ----Seventeen of Barnett and two of Lexington personnel interviewed. No direct evidence of subject's obtaining message developed. Subject quartered on Barnett with Commander M. T. SELIGMAN, Lexington Executive Officer, and seated immediately to his left in the officers' mess, a place reserved by Navy custom for the second highest ranking officer under him. Both of these actions taken at SELIGMAN'S request. These quarters, detailed in Chart on page 10 hereof, hereinafter referred to as "Commodore's quarters." ----- Lt. Com. COLEMAN (Barnett) places subject in Commodore's quarters on one occasion when other Lexington personnel working on charts in his presence and view, and on another occasion when Lexington officers were discussing identity as to class of Japanese

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5 Bureau (encls.)	2 Birmingham	
2 Washington Field	1 Chicago (inf.)	
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3 San Francisco		

naval craft. Word "KIRISHIMA", Japanese Naval Class term, used in secret dispatch #311221, heard by COLEMAN in this discussion. Barnett Japanese silhouette book observed by COLEMAN in use in this discussion. Date of discussion not set by COLEMAN. SELIGMAN known to have obtained silhouette book on date of receipt of dispatch #311221. ----- Lt. Com. HARDIN (Barnett) places subject in Commodore's quarters 5/30/42 in consultation with SELIGMAN over a map. Subject typing from notes during consultation. Nature of subject's notes not known to HARDIN. No mention of Jap naval craft names or possible future Jap naval movements in consultation. ----- Pharmacist's Mate NEEDHAM (Barnett) places subject in forward bedroom, Commodore's quarters on one occasion when one Lexington officer, whom he could not name, was seated at large table in dining room. Typewriter and many papers also on table. Nature of papers not known to NEEDHAM. Also places him in bedroom on occasion when about eight Naval officers seated at dining room table. Condition of table not observed by NEEDHAM. No conversation between subject and any other persons in room during either of NEEDHAM'S visits. ----- Pharmacist's Mate MARSHALL (Barnett) places subject in Commodore's quarters on one undated occasion at dining room table with Com. DUCKWORTH and two other Lexington officers. Subject operating typewriter. Condition of table not recalled by MARSHALL. Only remarks overheard were re. Norway invasion. ----- Com. JUNKER (Lexington) cannot place subject in Commodore's quarter on any particular date or on any occasion which can be fixed in date by other information supplied by him. Places COLEMAN in quarters on an occasion he saw silhouette book there and heard at that time discussion of Jap naval craft class. JUNKER visited quarters about 17 times and said subject usually there. Stated subject on one occasion asked he be allowed to see one of his reports, which he refused to do. Lt. Com. O'DONNELL (Lexington) can fix no dates of message receipt or visits to Commodore's quarters, advised that Dispatch #311221 was discussed therein among SELIGMAN, TERRY, JUNKER, DUCKWORTH and himself; that he cannot recall whether JOHNSTON was present; that he "feels" subject overheard this discussion; that he witnessed no discussions of it or impending Midway action when he knew subject was present; that he saw pencil notes of U.S. vs. Japanese naval forces in Commodore's quarters. O'DONNELL'S answers to Bureau's 14 specific questions set out. These answers contain no direct evidence in themselves. ----- Other personnel interviewed of no value in showing subject's presence in quarters during discussions among Naval personnel. Routing practice of messages on Barnett before and after 5/15/42 set out. Receipt and routing of Dispatch #311221 set out as far

as could be established here. Three photostatic copies of Dispatch #311221 furnished to Bureau. Lt. BONTECOU and Ensign STROUD (Both Barnett) witnesses to SELIGMAN'S statement that subject allowed to see "all secret and confidential messages and letters" on Lexington. STROUD'S signed memo to Captain PHILLIPS on this point enclosed. Record of conference 6/11/42 in office of Admiral GREENSLADE enclosed. Copies of report of 6/9/42 of Captain PHILLIPS to Admiral GREENSLADE enclosed. Original and copies of decoding watch duty list enclosed. Twelve of Barnett personnel interviewed and listed on page 9 ordered to temporary shore duty in 12th Naval District. Index to this report follows.

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DETAILS: This is the joint report of Special Agent G. A. BUSCH and the writer.

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

On June 12, 1942 the Bureau advised this office of the brief outline of facts in this case as known at that time. That information was that subject STANLEY JOHNSTON, a reporter of the "Chicago Tribune" newspaper, who had been officially attached to a man-of-war of the United States Fleet in the Pacific, had obtained information while on the United States Navy Transport "Barnett" of secret and restricted nature, and had improperly caused its publication in the "Chicago Tribune," the "Washington Herald," the "New York Daily News," and the "San Francisco Chronicle" in the Sunday edition of those papers on June 7, 1942. The news article concerned itself with advance information in possession of the United States Navy regarding an attack by a task force of the Japanese Imperial Navy on Midway Island in the Pacific Ocean.

On June 12, 1942 this office furnished to the Bureau for its files in this case three complete issues of the "San Francisco Chronicle" dated Sunday, June 7, 1942. This issue and the particular edition furnished which contained the story in question is designated as Volume CLIV, No. 143 CCCC***.

There are retained in the San Francisco file on this case one complete edition and one news section only of the issue and edition described above.

The article as published on page 8 in the San Francisco newspaper is set out in full below. The underscoring in the article as set out indicates that that portion of the article was in heavy black print in the newspaper.

"A WASHINGTON REPORT: NAVY
KNEW JAP TASK FORCE WAS
COMING--AND WERE READY

"Copyright, 1942, by Chicago Tribune.

"Washington, June 6--The strength of the Japanese forces with which the American Navy is battling somewhere west of Midway Island in what is believed to be the greatest naval battle of the war, was well known in American Naval circles, reliable sources in the Naval Intelligence disclosed here tonight.

"The Navy learned of the gathering of the powerful Japanese units soon after they put forth from their bases, it was said. Although their purpose was not specifically known at that time, the information in the hands of the Navy Department was so definite that a feint at some American base, to be

accompanied by a serious effort to invade and occupy another base, was predicted. Guesses even were made that Dutch Harbor in the Aleutians and Midway Island in the Hawaiian group might be targets.

"It was known that the Japanese fleet--the most powerful yet used in this war--was broken into three sections--first, a striking force; next a support force, and finally an occupation fleet.

"It was apparent to Admiral Chester W. Nimitz's strategists in Hawaii that the feint would probably be made by the supporting force, the real blow struck by the striking fleet, with the occupation force standing by, ready to land troops as soon as defenses were broken down.

"Had the attack on Midway been successful, Pearl Harbor and the Hawaiian islands would have been the next point of attack.

"Exactly how the Japanese disposed their units as between Dutch Harbor and the Midway islands is not known here. However, before the fleet was divided for attacks on the Aleutians and Midway, the various forces were made up approximately as follows, according to Navy information here:

"The striking force: Four aircraft carriers, the Akagi and Kaga of 26,900 tons each, and the Hiryu and Soryu, of 10,000 tons each.

"Two battleships of the Kirishima class-- 29,300 tons with 14-inch guns.

"Two cruisers of the Tone class--new 8500-ton, 6.1-inch gun ships.

"Twelve destroyers.

"The support force is described by the same source as comprising:

"One aircraft carrier of the Ryuzo class, 7100 tons.

"Two Kirishima class battleships.

"Four new 8500-ton cruisers of the Mogami class--including the Mogami, the Mikuma, Suzuya, Kumano--with 15 guns of 6.1-inch calibers.

"One light cruiser.

"Ten destroyers.

"The occupation force included:

"4 cruisers--The Chakas, Myoko, Chitore and Choda, all believed of 8,500 tons with main batteries of 6.1 inch guns.

"2 armored transports of the Kunikisma Maru class--converted liners.

"4 to 6 troopships.

"8 to 12 supply vessels.

"12 destroyers.

"10 submarines.

"Well informed as it was the Navy was on the alert for the first movement of this force. When it turned eastward into the Pacific from the vicinity of the Chisima or Kurile Island chain, all American outposts were warned.

"American naval dispositions were made in preparation for the various possible attacks the Japs were believed to be planning. Up to this time the Japanese had not committed themselves to any action. They were still in position to turn their real threat against either Dutch Harbor or Midway. By last Tuesday the Americans were able to conclude that a feint was to be made at Dutch Harbor.

"Meanwhile preparations among all available American forces in the vicinity of Midway were being rushed in the hope of striking a telling blow against the Japs. The wisdom of this course became apparent on Wednesday when the feint was made in the form of air raids on Dutch Harbor. The same day the fleets in the Midway area commenced their now historic battle."

On June 9, 1942 Vice-Admiral J. W. GREENSLADE, Commander, Western Sea Frontier, and Commandant, Twelfth Naval District, at San Francisco, California, directed to the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Fleet, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. a secret communication the subject of which was as follows:

"INVESTIGATION REGARDING POTENTIAL SOURCES OF
SECRET INFORMATION OBTAINED BY MR. STANLEY JOHNSTON."

This letter forwarded as enclosures therewith a three-page letter dated June 9, 1942 to the Commander of the Western Sea Frontier from Captain W. B. PHILLIPS, Commanding Officer, U.S.S. Barnett, and a two-page unsigned memorandum dated June 8, 1942 addressed to the Commander of the Western Sea Frontier on stationery of the U.S.S. Barnett. This memorandum was prepared by Captain PHILLIPS.

On June 11, 1942 there was conducted a conference in the office of Vice-Admiral J. W. GREENSLADE, Commandant, Twelfth Naval District, and Commander of the Western Sea Frontier, in the Federal Office Building in San Francisco, California. Present at this conference were the following:

Rear Admiral R. P. McCULLOUGH,	District Intelligence Officer
Captain W. K. KILPATRICK,	Chief-of-Staff, Western Sea Frontier
Captain W. B. PHILLIPS,	Commanding Officer, U.S.S. Barnett
Commander M. T. SELIGMAN,	Executive Officer, U.S.S. Lexington
Commander H. S. DUCKWORTH,	Air Officer, U.S.S. Lexington
Lieutenant (jg) FRED C. BREWER,	Communications Watch Officer, U.S.S. Lexington
Lieutenant (jg) DANIEL BONTECOU,	Communications Officer, U.S.S. Barnett

On Monday, June 15, 1942 Rear Admiral R. P. McCULLOUGH furnished to Special Agent in Charge N. J. L. PIEPER three photostatic copies prepared by the Navy of the secret dispatch #311221 from the Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet to all task force commanders. This is the message in question, which was received on the Barnett at approximately 3:52 pm on May 31, 1942.

Copies of the letter and enclosures of Admiral GREENSLADE dated June 9, 1942 and of a record of the conference conducted on June 11, 1942 in the office of Admiral GREENSLADE are furnished herewith to the Bureau as enclosures with this report.

The three photostatic copies of the secret dispatch in question were furnished to the Bureau for its file in this case on June 15, 1942. No copies of this dispatch have been retained in the San Francisco Field Office file and no reproduction of that message was made in this field division.

On Friday, June 12, 1942 beginning at 8:30 pm a conference was held in the office of Commander GREENSLADE in the Federal Building, in San Francisco, attended by the following:

For the Navy:

Admiral J. W. GREENSLADE, Commandant, Twelfth
Naval District, San
Francisco, California.

Admiral R. P. McCULLOUGH, District Intelligence Officer,
Twelfth Naval District,
San Francisco, California.

Captain W. K. KILPATRICK, Chief-of-Staff, Western Sea
Frontier.

R. M. BROWN, Agent, Office of Naval Intelligence, San Francisco.

For the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

N. J. L. PIEPER, Special Agent in Charge, San Francisco
Field Division

G. A. BUSCH, Special Agent, San Francisco Field Division

R. E. MAYER, Special Agent, San Francisco Field Division

In this conference Admirals GREENSLADE and McCULLOUGH gave a brief statement of facts known as of that date to the Navy and referred to the conference held in Admiral GREENSLADE's office on June 11, 1942. All of the information obtained by representatives of the FBI in that conference of value in establishing a violation of the Espionage Act is contained in the record of the conference conducted in the Admiral's office on June 11, 1942 which record is mentioned above as being an enclosure to the Bureau with this report.

On the page immediately following is a scale chart of the apartment on the U.S.S. Barnett referred to in interviews as the "Commodore's Quarters" which is the space occupied during the voyage between May 15 and June 2, 1942 by Commanders SELIGMAN and TERRY and subject. This drawing was made by Special Agent G. A. BUSCH to scale from measurements made by him and Special Agent D. F. O'DONNELL on board the U.S.S. Barnett at Pier 42- So., San Francisco, California.

On the pages following the chart are the results of the interviews with the Barnett personnel and Commanders JUNKER and O'DONNELL. For easy reference to pages wherein are shown these interviews for particular persons, reference should be made to the index on pages 3, 3a and 3b of this report.

No attempt has been made in this report to correlate any of the information obtained in interviews for the reason it could be done effectively only by the office of origin after a consideration of the information obtained from all field offices concerned with this investigation.

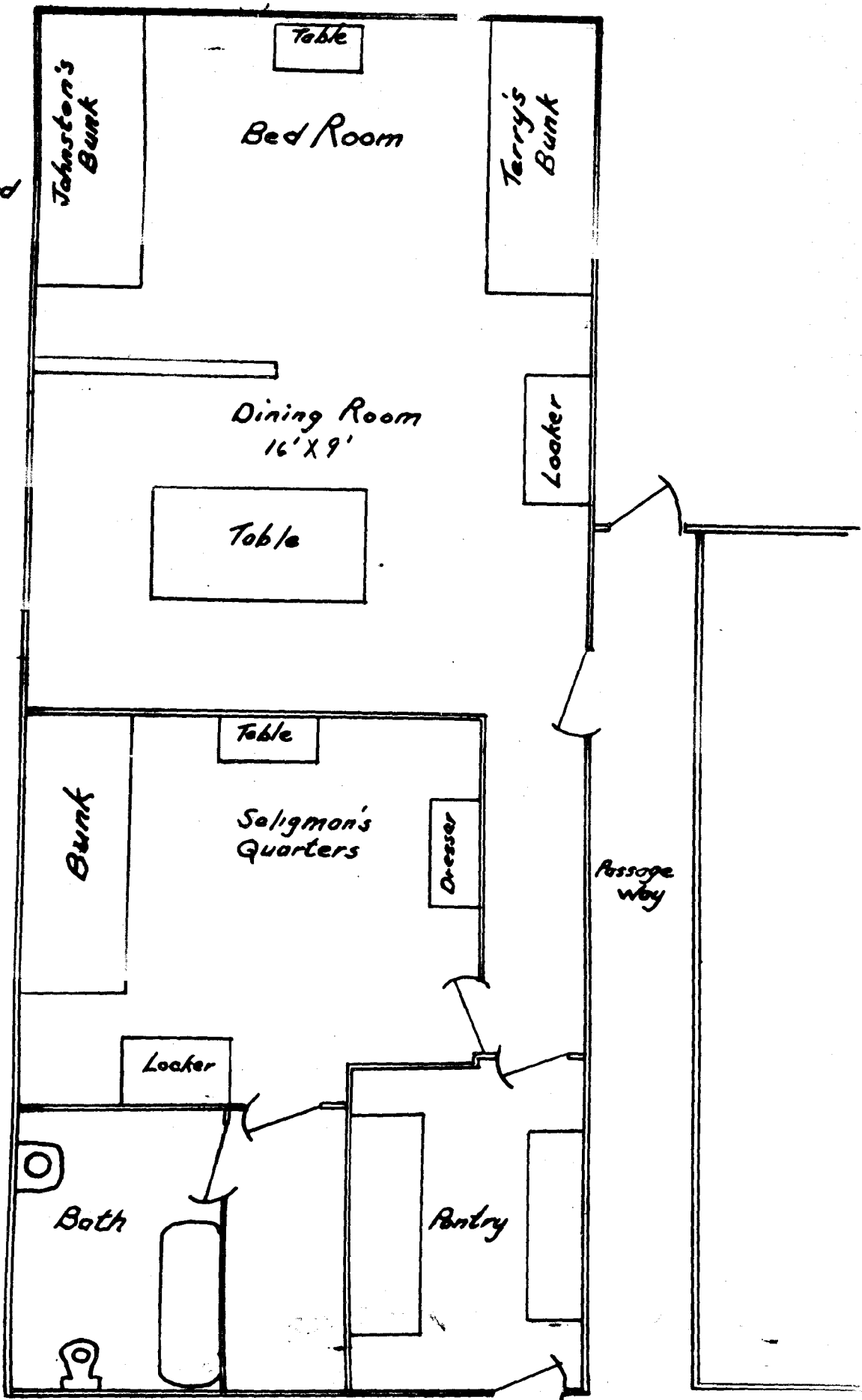
No leads are being set out herein for the reason such leads for other offices were set out by other means immediately upon materializing, and all those for this office have been covered.

On June 15, 1942 Captain W. K. KILPATRICK, Chief of Staff, Western Sea Frontier, contacted Special Agent in Charge N. J. L. PIEPER, and requested this office supply him with the names of Barnett personnel who could possibly be called as witnesses in any criminal action taken in the matter of subject. The following names were given to the Captain:

Lieutenant DANIEL BONTECOU, Communications Officer
Lieutenant J. R. BROWN, Assistant Medical Officer
Lieutenant Commander B. M. COLEMAN, Gunnery Officer
Lieutenant Commander ED HARDIN, Medical Officer
V. J. MADDIX, Pharmacists Mate
FRED J. MARSHALL, Pharmacists Mate
E. D. McCLAMMEY, Officers Steward
WM. T. NEEDHAM, Pharmacists Mate
Ensign O. T. OLSON, Billeting Officer
Captain W. B. PHILLIPS, Commanding Officer
W. A. ROBERTS, Pharmacists Mate
Ensign W. B. D. STROUD, Deck Officer.

On June 18, 1942 Captain PHILLIPS advised that all of the persons in the above list were ordered to shore duty in the 12th Naval District.

↑
Forward



← Port

Stanley Johnston
Espionage - J
65

Commodore's
Quarters
U.S.S. Bennett

↓
Aft

Scale - 1" = 4'
G.A.B. 6-15-42

INTERVIEWS WITH U.S.S. BARNETT PERSONNEL

The following pages contain the information obtained by Special Agent G. A. BUSCH and the writer during the several interviews conducted in the Commanding Officer's quarters aboard the U.S.S. Barnett on June 13, 1942 at Pier 42 South in San Francisco, California.

All of these interviews were attended by Captain W. B. PHILLIPS, Commanding Officer, U.S.S. Barnett, Agent R. M. BROWN, Office of Naval Intelligence, Special Agent G. A. BUSCH, FBI, San Francisco, and the writer.

The notes taken by Special Agent G. A. BUSCH and the writer during these interviews are retained in the San Francisco Field Office file.

The results of the interviews follow:

Captain W. B. PHILLIPS
Commanding Officer
U.S.S. Barnett

By way of background, the Captain advised that his vessel is a Navy transport ship engaged generally in transport duties as distinguished from combat duties of the United States Navy in the Pacific.

The Captain advised that on May 15, 1942 his vessel took on at a Pacific port personnel of the U.S.S. Lexington for transportation to San Diego, California. The voyage was completed and all passengers disembarked at the port of San Diego on June 2, 1942. Among those taken aboard and of interest in this case were the following:

Commander M. T. SELIGMAN, Executive Officer
 Commander H. S. DUCKWORTH, Air Officer
 Commander A. F. JUNKER, Chief Engineer
 Commander W. C. TERRY, Communications Officer
 Commander E. J. O'DONNELL, Gunnery Officer
 Lieutenant I. E. DAVIS, Assistant Communications Officer
 Lieutenant F.C. BREWER, Communications Watch Officer
 Ensign J.B. JOHNSON, Decoding Watch Officer
 Ensign G.Y. MCKINNON, Decoding Watch Officer
 Ensign R.E. HEBBLER, Decoding Watch Officer
 Ensign E.H. RAILSBACK, Decoding Watch Officer

Also taken aboard at the same time was the subject, STANLEY JOHNSTON, newspaper reporter, who had been assigned officially to the U.S.S. Lexington. The Captain outlined the standard message handling procedure on the U.S.S. Barnett in practice before the arrival of the above persons and other Lexington personnel on board. That procedure is as follows:

All messages addressed to naval vessels are received on board the ship by its radioman, who is enlisted personnel. The message is prepared by him in typewritten form exactly as received in encoded form; two copies of this message are prepared. They are designated as "original" and "work" copy. The original is retained in its encoded form in the ship's file; the work copy is then decoded as to addressee only. If the message is addressed to that ship, it is then decoded in its entirety in the decoding room of the Barnett by a qualified officer of that ship. The work copy is then destroyed completely by the decoding officer. The decoded text is prepared in single copy only on gummed tape of the type used by commercial radio and telegraph companies. This tape is cut into strips and pasted on ruled paper. The decoded message is then placed in the ship's message folder which is constructed by means of two gray colored fibre covers attached together at the back, forming a book-like affair. This folder marked "secret" is then carried personally by the Barnett's Communications Officer to the Commanding Officer of that vessel and the Executive Officer. After those persons have noted the message, it is destroyed by burning by the Communications Officer.

PHILLIPS advised that of the men listed above, Commanders SELIGMAN and TERRY and subject STANLEY JOHNSTON were quartered in one apartment of the vessel. This was a forward, outboard compartment commonly referred to on the ship as the "Commodore's Quarters." Those quarters will hereinafter so be designated. Reference should be made to the drawing of these quarters contained on Page 10 of this report. He said that SELIGMAN occupied in that apartment the private room "aft" while TERRY and JOHNSTON shared the room in the forward end of the quarters.

Regarding the matter of subject's being quartered with SELIGMAN, the Captain stated it is his recollection he was so quartered on the request of SELIGMAN made to OLSON, the Billeting Officer of the Barnett. (This was confirmed by OLSON - see interview with OLSON, Page 17.)

Regarding message handling practice after the arrival of the Lexington personnel on the ship, PHILLIPS stated that he was approached by SELIGMAN, who pointed out to him that among the personnel boarding the Barnett from the Lexington were qualified men in the various departments, and that these men were at the disposal of the Barnett to stand watches during the voyage. PHILLIPS said SELIGMAN mentioned deck, gunnery, anti-aircraft and decoding watches. According to PHILLIPS, SELIGMAN specifically suggested that the five qualified decoding officers of the Lexington on the Barnett be made up into decoding watches which would stand by on the Barnett. SELIGMAN requested that PHILLIPS permit that decoding watch to decode all messages received on the Barnett in their entirety. He also requested that he (SELIGMAN) and his four department heads (DUCKWORTH, TERRY, JUNKER and O'DONNELL) be included in the routing of all messages decoded on the Barnett during the voyage to San Diego, stating that this was the custom on the Lexington. He pointed out that it is the custom on all Navy ships to decode all messages for which the

ship is equipped with code. He stated that it was his desire that he and his department heads be apprised of operations in the Pacific generally.

PHILLIPS pointed out that had the Barnett been better equipped from the standpoint of personnel that ship would have decoded all messages, as was the general Navy custom, rather than confining the decoding of messages to those addressed to the Barnett.

In setting up this new message-handling practice, PHILLIPS issued these orders - that Commander SELIGMAN and his four department heads be included in the routing of secret and restricted messages; that all messages be decoded; that in all other respects the routing procedure of messages be the same as in effect before the Lexington personnel came aboard.

PHILLIPS did not include, ordinarily, his department heads in the message routing. He was advised by SELIGMAN that the Lexington custom was to include department heads. He stated that the custom is determined on each individual ship by the Commanding Officer unless there are specific orders given on that matter.

Regarding the handling of dispatch #311221, the Captain gave the following information -

GEORGE ZINSER, Seaman, First Class, was the radio operator on duty who received the message. He prepared it in typewritten form, making an original and a work copy. He made an official entry in the Ship's Log to the effect that the message was received at 3:52 p.m. on May 31, 1942. This information was supplied by Captain PHILLIPS while he was referring to the Ship's Log.

The next step in the handling of the movement of the message was the filing of the original and the transmission of the work copy to the members of the five-man decoding watch on duty. This latter operation consisted merely in getting up from the typewriter platform of the radio operator, stepping forward about two steps, and handing the message through the door of the decoding room to the decoding watch. This step in the handling of the message is a surmise on the part of the Captain, since that is the usual practice and since this message appeared to have been decoded promptly, and further since he knows that after this watch was set up, all messages were sent promptly into the decoding room. The next step in the handling of the message, according to Captain PHILLIPS, was the decoding. By reference to his records, he stated that he was unable to determine the name of the officer on duty as decoding officer at that time and therefore cannot determine who decoded the message. He referred to the decode text and stated there is no entry thereon indicating the hour of decoding or the officer who did such decoding.

PHILLIPS could furnish no definite information as to his own knowledge pertaining to intervening steps in the handling of the message. He did, however, furnish information which, correlated with other information obtained in this investigation, indicates that the message was seen by SELIGMAN and others on May 31, 1942, soon after its decoding. This information is to the effect that at 10:00 am on June 1, 1942 when the message folder was delivered to him, he noted the message for the first time and immediately requested Lieutenant C. J. VAN ARSDALL, Assistant Gunnery Officer, to bring into his room the ship's book containing silhouette drawings of Japanese naval surface craft. He recalls that VAN ARSDALL brought the book in to him and in so doing remarked that he had lent it to SELIGMAN and others in the Commodore's quarters at about 6:00 pm on May 31, 1942. PHILLIPS said that it is his recollection VAN ARSDALL remarked that one of the five-man decoding watch, and hence, one of the Lexington personnel, personally came to the Navigation Room and obtained the book. He told the Captain it had been returned again later on the evening of May 31, 1942.

Captain PHILLIPS initialed the message when it was delivered to him at about 10:00 am on June 1, 1942.

In an effort to determine in the interview with Captain PHILLIPS whether the message had in fact been noted by SELIGMAN and his department heads previous to the time of its delivery to him, PHILLIPS was asked whether he noted any other initials on the message at the time he signed it. He stated he could not recall whether or not it contained other initials. He also stated he could not recall whether there were other messages in the file which appeared to have been received on the ship subsequent to dispatch 311221. He stated he did recall that the book contained other messages which had not been destroyed.

Captain PHILLIPS said that the message was not destroyed immediately after distribution was completed for the reason BONIECOU was acting in the capacity of Navigation Officer and Communications Officer and was thus extremely busy and unable to effect the destruction of the message immediately. Thus, according to Captain PHILLIPS, the message folder was returned to the safe in the Decoding Room immediately after it was noted by him on the morning of June 1, 1942.

Captain PHILLIPS advised that the following persons had knowledge of the combination to the safe in the decoding room:

Lieutenant (jg) DANIEL BONIECOU,
Communications Officer, Barnett
Ensign H. B. STODDARD, Assistant
Communications Officer, Barnett
each of the five men on the decoding watch
(all Lexington personnel)

CAPTAIN PHILLIPS - REINTERVIEW

In accordance with Bureau instructions to reinterview Lieut. BONTECOU on the specific questions set out below, Captain PHILLIPS and Lieutenant BONTECOU were reinterviewed together on June 19, 1942 in the Captain's cabin on the Barnett. These interviews are reported here rather than in the section of this report covering interview with BONTECOU for the reason the information desired in answer to the questions was obtainable in the main from the Captain. The questions follow -

1. Was more than one decoded copy of the secret message made?
2. What became of original and copies, if any?
3. What was done with the coded copy of the message?
4. Were all copies of message destroyed at regular intervals?
5. Exact procedure employed in handling messages on Barnett in pertinent period.

QUESTION 1 was answered by Captain PHILLIPS and Lieutenant BONTECOU jointly. It is as set out in paragraph 1 on page 12, i.e., no copy, but simply an original is made of the decoded message. The decoding of the message results in its being printed on gummed tape similar to that used by commercial radio and telegraph companies. The tape is cut into appropriate length strips and pasted in ruled paper, which is then placed in the message folder. The photostatic copies of the message in question, which was furnished to the Bureau by this office on June 16, 1942, may be examined for an illustration of the manner of their preparation.

QUESTION 2 was also answered jointly by the Captain and the Lieutenant. It is in part answered in previous interview with the Captain on June 13 as set out in paragraph 4 on page 14 of this report. The decoded message was pasted on the ruled paper, routed to certain personnel and returned to the safe in the decoding room. It was the practice on the ship to burn the messages about every other day. However, this one was not destroyed as of the date of the beginning of the investigation of this matter by the Navy for the reason that Lieutenant BONTECOU was acting in the double capacity of Navigation Officer and Communications Officer and thus did not have time to destroy same. When the investigation commenced, the message was preserved in the event it was needed in connection therewith.

QUESTION 3 is answered in the main in paragraph 1 on page 12. It will be noted that that information was given as applying generally to all messages. It applies specifically to the one in question although since, as stated above, the Captain cannot determine who effected the decoding of dispatch #311221, he cannot state who destroyed the work copy or original of the coded copy of this message. Regarding the ship's file copy of the message, he stated that it is still in the file on the ship and that they are retained for a period of eighteen months after

receipt unless the ship is in danger of falling into the hands of the enemy, in which case all such records are destroyed immediately.

QUESTION 4 was answered by the Captain who stated as above that the decoded messages are destroyed every other day; that the original of the coded copy is maintained in the ship's files for eighteen months; and that the work copy of the coded message is destroyed by the decoding officer immediately upon decoding the message.

QUESTION 5 is answered completely and in detail above in the interview with the Captain on June 13. See pages 11 to 15 above.

In connection with the above interviews with Captain PHILLIPS and the following interviews with other personnel, it will be noted that there have been references to certain of the records of the U.S.S. Barnett. On June 19, 1942 the Bureau, in answer to inquiry from this office advised that the following papers be retained ashore and not be left on the ship when it sails -

- 1 - DECODING WATCH DUTY LIST.
- 2 - OFFICIAL DISPATCH #311221 of 5 31 42.

Captain PHILLIPS, on the occasion of the interview on June 19, 1942 gave to reporting agents the original of the paper referred to in number 1 above. It will be noted that he referred to this paper on page 13 above in an attempt to determine the name of the decoding officer on watch at the time of the decoding of the dispatch #311221. The list consists simply of a penciled schedule for the day. The original and two photostatic copies are enclosed herewith. One photostatic copy has been retained in the San Francisco Field office file. It will be noted that at the left of the list of men are some pencil notes which do not appear to be pertinent. These are some extraneous notes by Captain PHILLIPS and do not refer to the watch list. The list was folded in half vertically and tacked on the wall in the decoding room or communications room in such a manner as to make only the list of names on the right half of the paper visible. Further examination of the list indicates that it does not cover the day in question, but pertains to dates beginning with the 19th of the month. The Captain stated that is the only list left available.

Regarding the Official Dispatch #311221, reference is made to page 8 of this report wherein is stated that photostatic copies of the message were furnished to the Bureau on June 16, 1942. The original of the message is available with Rear Admiral R. P. McCULLOUGH, Intelligence Officer, 13th Naval District, San Francisco, California.

Ensign O. T. OLSON
Assistant Disbursing Officer and
Billeting Officer
U.S.S. BARNETT

In interview with Ensign OLSON he stated that it is his duty among other things on the U.S.S. Barnett to assign quarters to persons who were ordered on that ship whether crew members or transferees for transportation. He stated that he recalls the few hours previous to the Barnett's taking on the U.S.S. Lexington personnel, and explained that due to the great number of transferees and the fact that they were to be divided among several ships, and the fact that the transferring and departure of the Barnett and other ships was quite hasty, no advance detail assignment of men to definite quarters in definite ships had been made. Therefore, as the men came on the ship he made a record of them and the accommodations they required and at that time, that is after they had boarded the ship, assigned them to quarters on the Barnett.

Regarding the quarters of SELIGMAN and party, he stated that he recalls very definitely this person and JOHNSTON boarded the ship two or three hours after most of the others from the Lexington had come aboard. As in the case of others, he had made no plans for quartering them. Almost immediately upon boarding the ship, according to OLSON, SELIGMAN approached him and made the request that subject JOHNSTON be quartered in the same compartment with him, and be seated immediately to his (SELIGMAN'S) left at his table in the officers mess. Navy custom prescribes highest rank officer be seated at head of table with second highest under him on his left.

Regarding information as to activities and conversations in the Commodore's quarters, OLSON stated that during the entire voyage he made but two visits there. The first was to supply some bed clothing on a particularly cold night and the second was to collect the quarters' bill from SELIGMAN, TERRY and JOHNSTON. OLSON said his first visit to the Commodore's quarters was a few days after the Lexington personnel boarded the Barnett. He said that he definitely recalls that SELIGMAN and the subject were in the room and that subject was seated at the large table in the center room, hereinafter referred to as the Dining Room. SELIGMAN was standing nearby. The table was bare. OLSON was in the room but a very few moments. He merely spoke to JOHNSTON and SELIGMAN about their blankets and left immediately. He stated that he had not glanced around to the right into the forward end of the compartment, hereinafter referred to as the Bedroom, and that he did not see TERRY in the compartment at all, although he said that that portion of the quarters was dark and it is very possible that he might have been there.

The second visit to the apartment by OLSON was on about May 31, 1942, sometime during the afternoon. He could not even estimate the hour. He stated that he was in there for a few moments only

arranging for the payment of the quarters' bill due from the occupants of those quarters for their voyage to San Diego, California. He stated that he recalls for certain that SELIGMAN was there; that he believes that JOHNSTON was there although he cannot recall. Again he stated he did not look around to see whether TERRY was in the Bedroom. He could not recall the location or activities or conversations of SELIGMAN and subject at the time of this visit. Neither could he recall the condition of the table in the dining room. Nobody entered the room while he was there.

Lieutenant (jg) DANIEL BONTECOU
Navigations and Communications Officer
U.S.S. BARNETT

In interviews, BONTECOU advised that he had never entered the Commodore's quarters between May 15 and June 2, 1942, and thus was unable to furnish any direct information regarding persons, activities or discussions in that room.

He was asked whether he had any indirect information regarding occurrence and persons in that room and he said that he did not. He said the only thing he had heard about the room was that the men who were quartered in it had all been in the Coral Sea Battle together and were working on a Coral Sea War Report.

Also, BONTECOU said that he knows nothing of the movements of the Barnett's Japanese silhouette book. It will be noted in the report from the San Diego Field Division that information was obtained by that office to the effect that SELIGMAN denied in San Diego making any statement to the effect that subject was allowed to receive secret and restricted dispatches while on the Lexington. In order to furnish information indicating the possible relationship between SELIGMAN and subject on board the U.S.S. Lexington, BONTECOU was interrogated closely on this point. He said that he recalls the remarks by SELIGMAN very clearly and that he even recalls the circumstances which occasioned his remarks. He explained it thusly -

A few days previous to the conversation in question, BONTECOU gave to JOHNSTON a restricted Coral Sea Chart which JOHNSTON had asked for and which he stated he was going to use in some charts he was preparing regarding the Coral Sea Battle. BONTECOU gave him the chart.

On the day of the conversation in question, which day has been fairly well established in interview with STROUD following as May 21st. SELIGMAN was in the chart room of the Barnett for a purpose which BONTECOU does not recall. On this occasion of SELIGMAN'S visit to the chart room BONTECOU was also there and recalls that Ensign STROUD was present. At

this time BONTECOU recalled having given the restricted Coral Sea Chart to JOHNSTON a few days previous and asked SELIGMAN whether in his mind that was a permissible use of the chart. In answer to his question, SELIGMAN stated that it was alright for him to give the chart to JOHNSTON. He then went on and discussed somewhat JOHNSTON'S position and activities while on the Lexington. It was during that discussion that he said to BONTECOU in the presence of STROUD "On the Lexington we were authorized to show JOHNSTON secret and confidential messages and letters with the exception of _____." "If JOHNSTON talks too much when he goes ashore he will be blackballed with his paper."

BONTECOU was reinterviewed at the Bureau's request on June 19, 1942 regarding five specific questions. The results of that interview, had jointly with him and Captain PHILLIPS, is set out above on pages 15 and 16 for the reason the questions were in the main answered by Captain PHILLIPS.

Ensign W. B. D. STROUD
Second Division Deck Officer
U.S.S. BARNETT

In interview STROUD advised that he was never in the Commodore's quarters during the voyage to San Diego and that he has no direct or indirect information regarding persons, activities or discussions in those quarters.

Regarding conversation between BONTECOU and SELIGMAN mentioned above in interview with BONTECOU, STROUD gave the following information -

On May 21, 1942, at 9 a.m. he took a sun sight. At 11 a.m. he took a sight on Venus. Immediately after taking the sight on Venus he went into the chart room where he worked out the hour of the upper transit of the sun.

He said that he performed a similar sighting operation on May 23rd and that the 21st and 23rd were the only times he did any daylight sighting. He definitely recalls that the conversation took place during the time he was working out his sightings in the chart room.

On thinking back on the charting and conversation, STROUD stated he knows definitely it was either the 21st or the 23rd and he feels almost certain it was the 21st of May.

Regarding the conversation itself, Captain PHILLIPS during the interview requested that STROUD prepare a memorandum to him setting out exactly what took place in the chart room. Accordingly STROUD prepared a short memorandum which reads as follows -

"U.S.S. BARNETT

June 13, 1942

"A few days after the Barnett left on its recent trip to California I was in the chart house with Mr. BONTECOU and the Executive Officer of the Lexington. The following is a statement of what I remember to have heard from their conversation:

"Mr. BONTECOU asked the Executive Officer of the Lexington, Mr. SELIGMAN whether it was all right to give Mr. JOHNSTON access to some restricted charts that he had in his possession. The answer was in the affirmative and Mr. SELIGMAN added that 'Mr. JOHNSTON was permitted access to all secret and confidential matters except the _____.' The Executive Officer continued by stating that Mr. JOHNSTON would have to be quiet and keep these matters to himself because it would ruin his career as a correspondent. He added that Mr. JOHNSTON would be the one to go to Washington to tell the Secretary of the Navy of the action which had just taken place.

"After emphasizing the fact to Mr. BONTECOU that Mr. JOHNSTON could be trusted, and could see any confidential and secret matter, the conversation shifted to other topics.

(Signed) W. B. D. STROUD"

The original and two photostatic copies of the above memorandum are forwarded herewith as enclosures to the Bureau. Photostatic copy is being retained in the San Francisco Field Office file. It will be noted that across the bottom is written in pencil "Reference paragraph 8 of C. O. Barnett's report of June 9, 1942." That reference is to paragraph 8 on the 4th page of Captain PHILLIPS' report to Admiral GREENSLADE dated June 9th. That report is mentioned above as being enclosed with this report to the Bureau. It will also be noted that in reporting agent's handwriting at the bottom of this page is the notation "Read to STROUD 6/13/42, 1:45 p.m. and acknowledged to be his report. R.E.M. SA - F.B.I."

During this interview with STROUD, PHILLIPS interposed and supplied the names of the following Yeomen, with their serial numbers, who came aboard the Barnett from the Lexington and assisted the Lexington officers in their temporary offices on the Barnett. He stated that all of these persons are in San Diego and should be interviewed for the reason they were in the Commodore's quarters frequently -

CISKOWSKI, FRANK	291-22-25
HAGGERTY, J. P.	372-17-81
KRANZ, D. E.	238-59-19
STACY, JAMES A.	295-56-83.

Lieutenant Commander B. M. COLEMAN
Chief Gunnery Officer
U.S.S. Barnett

In interview COLEMAN stated that during the voyage from May 15 to June 2, 1942 he was in the Commodore's quarters four or five times. The length of these visits extended from a few to several minutes. He said that the reason for all of his visits is the fact that he is personally acquainted with Commander TERRY who was confined to those quarters ill and that he therefore went to visit him.

During these visits to the Commodore's quarters COLEMAN said that he recalls having seen therein subject JOHNSTON, SELIGMAN, DUCKWORTH, JUNKER, O'DONWELL, and other Lexington personnel. He said that at no time did he ever see a Barnett man in the room.

In addition he stated that he recalls details of the activities in that room on three occasions.

The first occasion was in the evening, the date of which he could not even estimate. He recalls definitely that in the room at that time were subject, SELIGMAN and two other Lexington officers. One of the officers, whose name he could not recall, was seated at the large table in the dining room making tracings by means of transparent tracing paper of the battle track and location of islands in connection with the Coral Sea Battle. JOHNSTON and SELIGMAN were seated at this table drinking coffee together. JOHNSTON was not working on this chart but the chart was easily visible to him. No messages were visible to COLEMAN in the room and he does not recall having seen the Barnett message folder on the table or any place else in the room at this time. He does not recall any of the conversation between SELIGMAN and subject. He could not recall whether there was any conversation between subject and the other two officers in the room while he was there. While he was in the room two other Lexington officers entered the room, glanced at the chart, made a few remarks about the Coral Sea Battle, and went out.

COLEMAN could not estimate the date of the second evening in question. He stated that he recalls JOHNSTON was alone at the large table in the dining room that evening, that he was working at a typewriter which was placed on the outboard end of the table and which was surrounded by papers which he was referring to in his work. He said that he cannot recall definitely, but that he believes there were no Naval officers in the room at that time except, of course, TERRY who was ill in bed in the adjoining space referred to as the bedroom.

Regarding the third evening in question, COLEMAN estimated that it was several days previous to June 2, 1942. He said that he entered the room and found SELIGMAN, JOHNSTON, SELIGMAN'S Gunnery Officer whose name he does not know, all seated about the large table in the

dining room. All of these persons were engaged in a conversation in which they were trying to determine in their own minds whether a ship of a certain Japanese class which is designated by a Japanese word was a heavy cruiser or another similar type of ship. He could not recall whether they were referring to any papers before them in this conversation. He said he definitely did not see a radio message or the message folder in the room at the time and that he did not hear the projected Japanese Midway attack discussed in the room at that time.

During the discussion engaged in by these persons to determine the class of the ship in question, they asked COLEMAN if he had a Japanese silhouette book. He replied that he did and went to the chart room and obtained it and returned with it to the dining room in the Commodore's quarters where it was referred to by those present. In an effort to establish whether this discussion was of the Coral Sea Battle which had already taken place or the Midway encounter which not yet had occurred, as of that date, the writer asked COLEMAN if in this discussion any Japanese words were used in referring to the ships. He said that he believed Japanese words were used. At this point Captain W. B. PHILLIPS who was present read to him a number of Japanese words from Dispatch #311221 of May 31st. When the Captain finished reading the Japanese words in that dispatch, COLEMAN said that he thought he had heard the name KIRISHIMA mentioned. The copy of the article which appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle June 7, 1942 was shown to him and he read the Japanese names appearing therein and he believes KIRISHIMA is the word he heard mentioned in that discussion. It is significant that this word appears in the dispatch in question and in the newspaper article. At this point Captain PHILLIPS interposed and stated that it is very definitely his recollection that this word appeared in one or more of the previous secret dispatches which had been received on the Barnett before the Dispatch #311221, which message also referred to the projected Japanese attack on Midway Island.

In conclusion COLEMAN stated that it was his impression that the discussion in which the word KIRISHIMA was used and in which the silhouette book was used was one concerning the Japanese losses in the Coral Sea Battle. He said he had this idea for the reason that the officers in the Commodore's quarters were for the most part discussing the Coral Sea Battle while he was there.

Lieutenant Commander HARDIN
Medical Officer
U.S.S. BARNETT

HARDIN was interviewed for the reason that he is the Ship's Medical Officer and for the reason that he visited Commodore's quarters to administer to TERRY who was confined in the quarters.

HARDIN said that the first evening he recalls having visited the Commodore's quarters was May 30, 1942, when he saw TERRY in consultation with the Medical Officer of the Lexington. He recalls that present in the room at that time were subject, SELIGMAN, and TERRY. He also recalls that DUCKWORTH entered and left the room a few times during this visit and that a Dr. SMITH, a passenger off the U.S.S. Solace now in the San Diego Naval Hospital, also entered and left the room while he was there.

He said that on the occasion of this visit there was a typewriter on the outboard end of the table in the dining room and that the typewriter was being operated by subject who was typing from some notes that he had on the table. The doctor said he did not know the nature of the notes. He said that SELIGMAN was seated at the table with him and that other Lexington officers were in the vicinity of the table off and on during the entire time of his visit there. He said that at no time were there any Barnett officers in the room during this visit. According to the doctor, SELIGMAN and JOHNSTON talked together over a map that SELIGMAN had before him which appeared to the doctor to be a map of the Coral Sea Battle. No messages or message folder were visible to the doctor and he did not see any silhouette book. He said that no Japanese Naval craft names were mentioned and there was no mention of possible future Japanese movements in any area.

He said that the only Barnett officer he ever saw in the room at this time was Dr. BROWN, Junior Medical Officer of the Barnett. He said the only non-commissioned man he ever saw in the room was the hospital foreman whose name he does not know.

Regarding TERRY's condition in the ship, he said that he was mentally responsible at all times.

Lieutenant J. R. BROWN
Assistant Medical Officer
U.S.S. BARNETT

Dr. BROWN could not recall the exact number of times or the exact dates of any of his visits to the Commodore's quarters although he stated he was in there several times. He said that each time he was there the subject was either at the typewriter at the large table in the dining room or asleep in his bunk. He said that he does not recall any conversations between subject and any other persons in the room including SELIGMAN, TERRY and all the officers of the Lexington. He said that at no time did he hear any conversation

taking place at the large table in the dining room. Also he stated that at no time while he was in the room was it evidenced to him that SELIGMAN and JOHNSTON were in SELIGMAN's private bedroom alone. Regarding TERRY's condition, he stated that it was his opinion that he was mentally responsible at all times during the voyage although he was very uncomfortable and had sedatives administered to him for sleeping purposes several times.

He said that in addition to himself and Dr. HARDIN, the only other person he recalls having seen in the room from the Barnett crew was the hospital foreman MADDIX.

V. J. MADDIX
Pharmacist's Mate, Second Class
U.S.S. BARNETT

MADDIX said that he was in the Commodore's quarters on one occasion only and this was one or two days before the arrival of the Barnett in San Diego. He said that there were two officers in the room in addition to Commander TERRY who was in his bunk. MADDIX said that he does not know JOHNSTON and that from a description given him by agent and a photograph shown to him he said that he does not recall ever having seen that person in the room.

WILLIAM TIMOTHY NEEDHAM
Pharmacist's Mate, Second Class
U.S.S. BARNETT

NEEDHAM advised that he made two visits to the Commodore's quarters during the voyage and that both of these were within the week immediately preceding June 2, 1942. He also was able to recall that both of these were around 8:30 p.m. and that each time he stayed about ten minutes in the room. He said that he was able fairly well to recall the details of the room when he was in there on both occasions.

On the occasion of the first visit he said that seated at the long dining room table was one Naval officer from the Lexington. On the table was a typewriter and several legal size sheets of paper on the table near it. He said he did not see anything on the table which resembled a radio message or message folder of the Barnett. He said that in the bedroom standing near the bunk which is known to be JOHNSTON's was a man whom he described as JOHNSTON. He described him as a "Britisher who wore khaki shorts". This reference was undoubtedly to subject as this description of him verified Ensign OLSON and Lieutenant BONTECOU and Ensign STROUD's descriptions.

Subject, according to NEEDHAM was standing near the end of his bunk lighting a cigarette. Under his arm was a red fiber envelope of the type with a wide flap and strings. At this point Captain PHILLIPS ordered the Barnett message book brought into his cabin. This was shown to NEEDHAM and he stated that it definitely was not the book which he saw under subject's arm.

On the occasion of the second visit, which followed the first by about three days, he said that he noted there were several persons gathered about the large table in the dining room. Subject JOHNSTON was standing alone in the corner by the foot of his bunk. At the table were about eight Naval officers who were not of the Barnett's crew. NEEDHAM said that he did not see what was on the table and he does not recall any of the remarks made by this group of officers. Nobody entered or left the room while he was there. He did not speak at all to subject. At no time on either of his visits did the subject speak to any of the officers.

NEEDHAM said that the only other persons he ever observed at any time in this room were four Marines who were taken off the Lexington and three Mess Attendants who had been taken off the Lexington. All of these men were observed by him in the pantry in the aft portion of the Commodore's quarters.

FRED J. MARSHALL
Pharmacist's Mate, Third Class
U.S.S. BARNETT

MARSHALL stated that he was in the Commodore's quarters four times during the voyage. The first visit was for a few moments on the morning of June 1st. The second visit was in the afternoon of June 1st and lasted for about two hours. The third time was in the afternoon of June 2nd when he was in the quarters for about two hours.

MARSHALL was able to recall the details of some of the visits but was unable to identify them with any particular visit.

The information in general regarding visits to the room is set out below:

The one time when he entered the room he saw four men sitting around a table in the dining room having a discussion. These were subject JOHNSTON, the Air Officer from the Lexington (DUCKWORTH) and two other Lexington officers. These persons had coffee before them on the table and JOHNSTON was operating the typewriter. He can't recall seeing any messages or message folder or silhouette books on the table.

The only remarks that he recalls during this discussion pertained to the sinking of the Lexington and the torpedoing of the Lexington, remarks by subject regarding the Norway invasion. He said he heard no other remarks concerning places or engagements or regarding Jap losses or Jap fleet composition.

E. D. McCLAMMEY
Officer Steward, Third Class
U.S.S. BARNETT

McCLAMMEY recalled that he was in the Commodore's quarters on two

occasions during the voyage. The first visit was about three days after May 15th and the second was on about May 31st at about 7:30 p.m. when he took some extra blankets into the room.

Regarding the first visit he stated that he was in there only a moment and that he could recall no person or activities in the room at the time. Regarding the second visit he said that he recalls that SELIGMAN was in his private bedroom and that the forward portion of the room was occupied by JOHNSTON and TERRY and one other Lexington officer. JOHNSTON was sitting on his bunk with his shirt off. He could not recall any conversations that took place or the condition of the table. Nobody entered or left the room while he was there.

McCLAMMEY suggested that the following persons might also be interviewed regarding persons and activities in this room:

WALTER WITHERS, Mess Attendant, First Class, U.S.S. Lexington
JOSE G. SABLAN, Mess Attendant, First Class, U.S.S. Lexington
Two other Mess Attendants whose names he does not know.

L. A. HUGHES
Phamacist's Mate, Third Class
U.S.S. BARNETT

HUGHES said that he was in the room on two occasions taking blood-counts on TERRY. His records indicate that these occasions were June 1st and June 2nd. This was determined by examination of a record book which he maintained. This examination was made by Captain PHILLIPS and reporting agent. It was noted that the earliest entry regarding TERRY appeared to be 6/4/42. The next entry was definitely 6/2. The entry preceding that which appeared to be 6/4 was definitely 5/29. Those which appeared to be 6/2 and 6/4 were the only ones pertaining to TERRY. The "4" in the 6/4 entry was not clear and HUGHES said that he was satisfied that that entry was in fact 6/1.

He said that on each of these occasions he spent about five minutes in the room. He said that while he was in there, there were two Naval officers from the Lexington. They remarked that they had lost a pair of scissors and they wondered whether any of the Pharmacist's mates who had been in there had borrowed them. He said that he can recall no person in there who did not appear to be a Navy officer and that there were no other conversations while he was there. He could not recall the condition of the table.

In addition to the above BARNETT personnel, the following were interviewed with negative results:

Lieutenant Commander J. G. POMEROY
W. A. ROBERTS, Pharmacist's Mate, First Class
C. H. DOTY, Pharmacist's Mate, Second Class
N. A. MILLER, Pharmacist's Mate, Third Class

INTERVIEWS WITH OTHER THAN U.S.S. BARNETT PERSONNEL

Commander A. F. JUNKER
Chief Engineer
U.S.S. Lexington

It was learned on June 14th that Commander JUNKER was in San Francisco. He was interviewed in Room 508, Californian Hotel, San Francisco, on the afternoon of June 14, 1942, by Special Agent G. A. BUSCH, San Francisco F.B.I. Office, Agent R. M. BROWN, San Francisco O.N.I. Office, and the writer.

JUNKER advised that he socially visited the Commodore's quarters at least daily from the time of his arrival on the U.S.S. BARNETT until he was disembarked on June 2, 1942, at San Diego, and that many days he visited those quarters twice in one day. He estimated that he was in the quarters about seventeen times between May 15th and June 2nd.

He explained that he had been the engineer officer on the Lexington and as such was one of the four department heads of that ship under SELIGMAN and was included in the distribution of decoded messages on the Barnett under the "departure message handling practice" set up by PHILLIPS on that ship after the Lexington men came aboard.

Regarding his duties while on the Barnett he stated that he was not at any time a part of the five man decoding watch set up on that ship.

He was quartered on the ship on the same deck as SELIGMAN but in a different stateroom, which was near SELIGMAN's. Quartered with him were officers DUCKWORTH, O'DONNELL, CHAPLAIN MARKLE, DR. WHITE, and Lieutenant Commander ELDRIDGE.

Regarding the message in question, dispatch 311221, he stated that he recalls definitely that it was brought to him in his quarters by either BREYER or one other of the five men decoding watch; that at the time of the delivery to him it was contained in the regular Barnett message folder along with several other messages. He accurately described this folder as described above in this report from observation of it by reporting agents on the Barnett when shown to them by Captain PHILLIPS on June 13, 1942. He stated that he cannot recall whether there were other initials on the message at the time he signed it. At this time he stated that there probably were since he was one of the junior officers among the department heads and distribution was in sequence in conformity with descending order of rank among the officers.

Regarding the date and hour of delivery of the message to him, JUNKER stated that he cannot recall either. Certain information already in the possession of reporting agent was brought to his attention at this time in order to assist him in placing the possible date and time of the delivery of the message to him. It is here pointed out that the purpose of establishing this was not to show the procedure in the handling of messages but to establish the date of the visit mentioned below that JUNKER made to the Commodore's quarters for coffee and the date of that visit also mentioned below on which he

saw the Barnett Japanese silhouette book in his quarters. It has already been established that on May 31, 1942, some time after receipt of the message on the Barnett, SELIGMAN called for and received the silhouette book.

He was asked if he could recall whether he visited the Commodore's quarters on the same date he receipted for the message. He said that he could definitely recall that early in the evening of the day he saw the message in his room (and after he saw it) he, together with O'DONNELL, who signed the message at the same time he did, went to the Commodore's quarters to have some coffee.

He was asked whether he could state definitely that on the date of the above visit he saw the Barnett Japanese silhouette book in the Commodore's quarters. He stated that he recalls that this specific book was in there on the occasion of one of his visits to the room; that while he was there, O'DONNELL pointed out to those present something in the book; that hence on the occasion he saw it there, O'DONNELL was also there; that he can recall definitely that the night he saw the silhouette book there, COLEMAN was also there; that he cannot recall whether the book was there when he got there or whether it was brought in after his arrival; that he cannot recall whether JOHNSTON was there on the night he saw the silhouette book, and cannot recall whether JOHNSTON was there on the evening he went in with O'DONNELL for coffee; that he cannot recall whether the "coffee night" was the same as the "silhouette book night"; and that he does recall that on the occasion when he saw the silhouette book here, there was a discussion taking place among the officers present around the table during which they referred to the silhouette book regarding some point of identification of a certain Japanese Naval surface craft.

In a further effort to establish the identities of the dates on which he saw the message and went to the Commodore's quarters at which time he saw the silhouette book, he was asked whether or not the message was of such a nature as to cause him to proceed soon after he saw it to the Commodore's quarters to discuss it with SELIGMAN either officially or unofficially as a matter of common interest to them. He said that it was not, since it was merely an estimate of the probable task force proceeding against Midway; that it was in a sense confirmatory of two previous messages on the same subject that had been received on the Barnett a few days previous, and that further, since he was the engineer officer on the Lexington he was not closely concerned with things operational and thus was not normally concerned with conversations or discussions of this type.

With the same view, he was asked whether on the date of the above visit to the Commodore's quarters whether he discussed with SELIGMAN the contents of Dispatch 311221. He stated he cannot recall whether he ever discussed the dispatch in question with SELIGMAN.

In addition to the line of questions set out in the four preceding paragraphs, various other attempts were made by questions and discussions of the circumstances surrounding the receipt of the message by him and the visits to try to fix these dates. Because of the inability of JUNKER to definitely recall any dates or circumstances concerning the questions, it was impossible to fix these dates.

Because of the possibility that questioning of other Lexington officers and subject might lead to establishment of the fact that the visits mentioned above were on May 31st and that JOHNSTON was in fact there, considerable time was spent with JUNKER in detailing the occurrences in the Commodore's quarters on the occasions of the above visits.

Regarding the first visit mentioned above, that is that which is known by JUNKER to be on the same date as he saw the message, he stated that he went with O'DONNELL, that they went for coffee and that they spent about twenty minutes in the room. He stated that in addition to himself and O'DONNELL he cannot recall definitely any of the others present, although he is well acquainted with all of the persons who were normally there, himself made at least 17 visits there, and knows that there were in fact other persons there during that visit. Further, he stated he could not recall what conversations took place on this evening. He also stated he could not recall whether he discussed Dispatch 311221 with SELIGMAN or others in that room on that visit. He was asked whether he ever discussed the dispatch or the impending action on Midway with any of the officers and he said that he had with O'DONNELL, DUCKWORTH, and other Lexington men but that all of these discussions took place in his own quarters rather than the Commodore's quarters. Also, regarding the first visit he said that he knows definitely he saw the silhouette book in there but cannot definitely state it was the night of the first visit. He said that he saw SELIGMAN initial the message in his own private quarters, yet he stated that he did not see the message in the Commodore's quarters on the night he went in there for coffee with O'DONNELL. He stated that at no time did he see the message on the table in the dining room.

It is pointed out that if JUNKER is correct in stating that he did not see the message in the Commodore's quarters on the night he went in for coffee, that that was not the night of the 31st for the reason that it is fairly well established or will be established by interview with BREWER that SELIGMAN saw the message on the 31st.

Regarding the second visit mentioned above, which was that upon which he definitely recalls seeing the silhouette book, he gave the following information:

The silhouette book was on the large table in the dining room and several Naval officers were sitting about discussing the class of a Japanese Naval ship. He cannot recall whether they used any Japanese words in discussing this ship. Also he could not recall whether or not subject was in the room at that time.

He stated that generally on the occasions of his visits there JOHNSTON was there and was engaged in discussions taking place among the Naval officers.

He stated that he does not recall the projected Midway engagement being discussed on the occasion of any of his visits there.

Regarding JOHNSTON's conduct aboard the Barnett, he stated that on one occasion JOHNSTON requested that he be allowed to see one of his reports on the Coral Sea engagement before it was taken in to SELIGMAN. JUNKER told him that he did not feel that he was allowed to give him this report and that if he desired to see it it would be necessary for him to apply to SELIGMAN.

Ensign HARRY B. STODDART
Assistant Communications Officer
U. S. S. Barnett

Upon interview Ensign STODDART advised that he has the combination to the safe in the decoding room; however, no messages are kept in this safe. This safe is used to house the decoding methods of the ship. During the pertinent period he did not handle any of the messages but he did handle secret letters and papers. He did not have the combination to the safe in which the secret dispatches were kept. He did not circulate or route any secret messages at that time. His duties have changed since the ship landed at San Diego and he now handles the message folder.

At the time the Lexington officers were aboard he did no decoding at all. He entered the decoding room only once or twice during that period and at no time saw Mr. JOHNSTON near there. Ensign STODDARDT advised that he has seen dispatch 311221 but that he saw it after the "Barnett" departed San Diego for San Francisco.

He advised further that he saw subject at one time in the chart room. On this occasion he believes that Commander COLEMAN brought subject to the chart room, introduced him to Lieutenant BONTECOU and stated that JOHNSTON desired a chart on which he could plot some of the activity of the Coral Sea battle. He was furnished a chart of a type which is not secret or restricted and which can be purchased from any map maker. No discussion took place at that time as to the right of JOHNSTON to have that chart. He believes that this took place about three or four days after they had taken aboard the survivors of the "Lexington."

AT CARMEL, CALIFORNIA:

Lieutenant Commander J. O'DONNELL
Gunnery Officer
U.S.S. Barnett

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent T. B. ESTEP of this office -

Lieutenant Commander J. O'DONNELL was interviewed at the home of Captain CHARLES A. JOHNSON, Second and Lopez streets. He stated that he had been the Gunnery Officer on the Lexington before it was sunk and that he boarded the U.S.S. Barnett at a Pacific port on May 15, 1942 for transportation to San Diego, California. He was quartered on the in-board side of the Barnett in quarters similar to those referred to above as the Commodore's quarters. O'DONNELL'S quarters were on the same deck and also on the forward side of the ship. He was quartered with Commander JUNKER, Lieutenant ELDRIDGE, Lieutenant Commander MARKEL, Commander A. J. WHITE and Commander DUCKWORTH.

During the voyage from May 15 to June 2, 1942 he was in the Commodore's quarters frequently and stated generally that he could recall no discussions therein regarding impending Midway Island actions or secret and confidential dispatches during which he could state for certain that subject was present.

Regarding Confidential Dispatch #311221 he said that he recalls having read and initialed that message or the top message in the message folder at the time the message was shown to him. He stated that the message was of great importance. He could not fix the exact date in his recollection as to when he saw it but stated it was received several days prior to arrival in San Diego.

Regarding discussions of this particular message, he stated that it was discussed in the Commodore's quarters between the heads of the departments of the Lexington. He then named them as JUNKER, TERRY, DUCKWORTH, ELDRIDGE and himself. He named SELIGMAN as being present at this discussion. On the point of the possibility of JOHNSTON'S overhearing this message, O'DONNELL said -

"The contents of this particular message were discussed by all the above officers (referring to those named above). I cannot say for sure that JOHNSTON was within hearing at any time the contents of this message were discussed but I am of the opinion that this JOHNSTON probably obtained the knowledge he apparently had of this message by reason of overhearing a discussion among the officers. That is the only way I know of because I do not think anyone would purposely show him the message. * * * * JOHNSTON had at no time asked me any question

about this message and I cannot say one way or the other as to whether he discussed it with any officer but he was living in the Commodore's quarters with Commanders SELIGMAN and TERRY. I feel that he overheard the discussion of the contents of the message when we were discussing the matter in the Commodore's quarters although I do not recall that he was present during any time when we were discussing the contents of the message. I recall telling Special Agent ROBERTSON (reference here is to Special Agent WILLIAM A. ROBINSON, JR., San Diego office) that I did not feel I could say how JOHNSTON obtained the contents of the message but I feel morally certain that this is the way that JOHNSTON obtained his knowledge of the message. I recall I discussed the message with Commanders SELIGMAN, JUNKER and TERRY, but I do not recall that I discussed it with any of the others."

Reference is here made to interview set out above with Commander JUNKER wherein he states definitely that he visited the Commodore's quarters on the same night of the day upon which he read and initialed the message in question.

In accordance with Bureau instructions O'DONNELL was asked the questions set out below. O'DONNELL'S answer to each question exactly as given by him is set out following the question -

1. q. Did you at any time show the message to JOHNSTON?
a. No.
2. q. Did you copy or make notes of the message?
a. No.
3. q. If so, did JOHNSTON have access to the notes?
a. No.
4. q. Did you discuss with JOHNSTON or within earshot of JOHNSTON the contents of the message?
a. It is possible he was within earshot at the time of the discussion of the message by me with other officer personnel but I, of course, did not discuss it with JOHNSTON.
5. q. Do you know if any of the other Lexington officers did any of the above?
a. (1) No.
(2) No
(3) No
(4) It is possible JOHNSTON was within earshot at the time of discussion of the message by other officers. I wouldn't want to say yes or no at this time.

6. q. Do you know how JOHNSTON may have obtained a copy of the message?
- a. No.
7. q. When and where did you see the message, who was present, and what took place?
- a. I saw the message for the first time in my quarters on the U. S.S. Barnett. I think the Chief Engineer, Commander JUNKER, was there at the time. I don't recall that anyone else was there. JOHNSTON was not there certainly. I am certain of that. It was in the afternoon. I do not remember the exact date but it had been several days before we planned it. I just read the message and initialed a group, among which was this message. I cannot say whether I initialed this particular message, as I initialed the top message of the group.
8. q. Do you have any information concerning official photographs of the sinking of the Lexington?
- a. I believe they were delivered to Commander SELIGMAN with a message about them. I saw them last when I testified before the Board that came out from Washington and at that time they were in the vault in the destroyer base. I believe they were on the Elliott and were delivered to Commander SELIGMAN by message. This may have been after we arrived at San Diego or it may have been before we left the Tongatabu. I have the impression that when I was on the Barnett and before we reached San Diego I saw the photograph showing the aft end of the flight deck blowing up and a torpedo plane in the air. I remember there was a message about delivering some photographs personally to SELIGMAN. It was to Commander DUDLEY, who was on the Elliott although he was the Lexington Navigator. As nearly as I can recall I saw this message as a result of examining the photograph in the Lexington office on the Barnett. I do not recall the circumstances of my seeing the picture of the Lexington with its aft deck blowing up, but have the impression. At the time of the inquiry, it seems to me the photographs were back in the vault at the destroyer base and that during the lunch hour the members of the Board drew the photographs from the ship's secretary from the vault for examination. That is when I am absolutely sure I saw the photographs. They were prints. There were several views of the forward end of the flight deck by Battery 2, the one with the aft end of the flight deck blowing up with the torpedo plane in midair, and I do not recall the others, although I think there were possibly six or eight in all.
9. q. From what ship were the photographs taken and where and by whom were they developed?
- a. I do not know, although some of the pictures were obviously taken from the Lexington.

10. q. Did you see such photographs in JOHNSTON'S possession?
a. No.
11. q. Where and under what circumstances?
a. - -
12. q. Who furnished them to JOHNSTON?
a. I do not know.
13. q. How could JOHNSTON have gotten them?
a. I do not know.
14. q. Did you see any pencil notations of the message in Commander SELIGMAN'S quarters when you were there with Lieutenant Commander ELDRIDGE?
a. Yes, I did. I saw a lineup of the Jap ships versus the American ships. I saw the notes but I do not know who put them down. At the time I saw them there was ELDRIDGE, Lieutenant Commander R. E. BIXON, Skipper of Scouting 2, which is an airplane groundage of the Lexington, Commander SELIGMAN, and I think other persons were there but I do not recall who they were.

Regarding subject's background, O'DONNELL furnished the following information -

"He told us he was a goldminer in New Guinea; he had worked on an invention of a gas turbine and that he had invented hair curlers and sold them in Germany. He told us he owned a house in Germany. He worked in Germany as a newspaper correspondent and selling the hair curlers. He also said he worked in Paris. He is married, apparently fairly recently, and told us his wife is an American showgirl. I judged he had not been a newspaper correspondent for very long because he spent 16,000 pounds on this gas turbine, which is a revolutionary thing. It was apparent from his talk he had a good technical background, at least he talked a good background. I am sure he speaks German and I think he speaks French because he worked in Germany and France. He spoke of knowing many newspaper correspondents all over the world, such men as Robert Casey of the Chicago News, and said he was in Luxemburg with CASEY at the time of the outbreak of hostilities in Europe in 1939 until the Spring of 1940. I think he is loyal to his newspaper above everything else. He is an Australian and said he had served in the Australian Army in the last war. From questioning him about the Gallpoli campaign, I gathered that he was familiar with it. I was a little bit suspicious of it and voiced my suspicions about him a little bit. When he first came aboard the Lexington it seemed to me that in his search for background information, some of his questions concerning gun performance were a little bit pointed. From my knowledge of the entire situation at

the present time, I feel that JOHNSTON used his contacts and friendship with the officer personnel to further his newspaper career. His description is -

"Address	Unknown, but spoke of his mother living in Sydney, Australia
Age	40 - 45 years
Height	6' 1"
Weight	200 pounds
Hair	Black, slightly gray at temples
Moustache	Black
Eyes	Unknown
Peculiarities	Voluble talker, shifty, knockneed
Languages	German, French and English
Accent	Pointedly Australian."

ENCLOSURES - TO BUREAU:

Three photostatic copies of RECORD OF CONFERENCE CONDUCTED BY U. W. GREENSLADE, Commandant, 12th Naval District on June 11, 1942;

Three photostatic copies of REPORT OF COMMANDER WESTERN SEA FRONTIER TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of the U.S. Fleet, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., dated June 9, 1942;

Original and two photostatic copies of Memorandum dated June 13, 1942 of Ensign W. B. D. STROUD (U.S.S. Barnett) to Captain W. B. PHILLIPS, Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Barnett signed by STROUD.

Original and two photostatic copies of Decoding Watch duty list of the U.S.S. Barnett.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -



National Security Archive,
Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University,
2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037,
Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu