

*Confidential*

1915

WAR/WW1/1#6

Admiralty  
Confidential

No. 261. (C.3)

Governor

(SUBJECT.)

1915

2<sup>nd</sup> June

Warning to British born Masters of  
British Ships proceeding to England.

Previous Papers.

(MINUTES.)

Hon Col Sec

Enclosed telegram received from  
the Sec of State.

I suppose the Treasurer here is  
the reporting officer, if so, please refer  
to him in order that he may have copies  
of the telegram made, and a copy handed  
to the Masters, British born, of every British  
ship leaving here en route to England.

2 June 1915

*[Signature]*  
905-

Subsequent Papers.

Hon Treasurer / To you as Reporting Officer

*[Signature]*  
C. S.

2.6.15

Hon:Col:Sect;

I am very badly placed for having typewritten copies made, neither have I a cyclostyle in my office. Can you conveniently arrange for the necessary copies to be made for me.?

*B. Thompson*

Colonial Treasurer.&c

2nd June 1915.

Hon. Treasury

Done by Mr. Poddard in my office.  
Thirty five copies herewith.

*C. A. Condell*

C.S.

9.6.15.

Hon: Lt: Sect.

Many thanks

Copies withdrawn

*W. S.*  
9.6.15.

H. S.

The Treasurer is Reporting Officer but he tells me that Governor Allardice used generally to deal himself with the Ship Captains.

G. S. will note that Treasurer has 35 copies of confidential instruction of S/S telegram of 27<sup>th</sup> May

*C. A. Condell*

C.S.

9.6.15.

Departmental No. ....

Confidential

Hon Col Sec

The reporting officers when informing British born Masters of British ships as directed above should at the same time, request the Masters to give the latest information concerning Enemy submarines and vessels, which has come to them during their voyage, to Masters of Italian and Japanese Merchant vessels met with on their voyage and departure there. This information will be kept secret by such Masters.

12 July 1915 <sup>107</sup>/<sub>905</sub>

Reporting Officer (Hon. Treasurer)

For your guidance

C. J. Conolly

Holid  
 H.S.W.  
 20.VII.15

C. J.  
 12.7.15

H.S. / To see that instructions have been  
carried out.

C. J. Condlly

C.I.

21. 7. 15

Seen. D.  
For

21. 7. 15

Telegram received from Secretary of State

(decoded)

(Following received on 29th May, 1915)

27th May. My telegram 17th February. Admiralty desires that following should be communicated to Reporting Officers. Begins. The following additional confidential instructions are to be given to British-born masters of all British ships before returning to home waters. Begins. Any submarine approaching a British merchant vessel may be treated as hostile. Gunfire from the latest submarine is effective in fine weather and at close range. If chased by submarine armed with gun, first attempt to escape; if this proves impossible turn and steer straight for submarine before she gets close enough to use her gun effectively. It is believed that German submarine must get into a position nearly end on in order to fire a torpedo. In submarine waters all ships should proceed at utmost speed; fast ships whose speed exceeds 10 knots should zig-zag, course being altered at short and irregular intervals unless proximity of other vessels makes this unsafe for navigation. Under water speed of submarine is slow and zig-zagging makes it difficult for her to get into position to deliver surprise attack. Wireless warnings sent out from Saint Just and Valencia at three and nine]a.m. and p.m. in M.V. code will tell you where submarines are active but should necessity arise warnings may be sent at any time. German submarines are fitted with wireless. No wireless signals except in emergency are to be allowed within one hundred miles of British coast. Most important to make landfall after dark and when position is verified give coast a wide berth. Submarines can operate as surface boats at night, all unnecessary lights therefore increase the danger. The presence of a ship may be disclosed to a submarine by the undue use of a siren. Ends.

Following read.  
1st June

Law.

~~Confidential~~

Hon Treasurer (Reporting Officer)

I am directed by the Governor to instruct you to warn masters of British and allied merchant vessels that German submarines sometimes operate disguised as small coasting vessels or fishcraft and have been known recently to rig themselves out as steamers and to ship two dummy funnels and two masts, heavy smoke being seen from one of the funnels.

For your guidance.

C. J. Condell

C. J.

6.7.15

Noted  
W.A.S.  
20.VII.15