

CHAPTER 13

DARKENING SHIP BILL

13-1 GENERAL:-

The purpose of Darkening Ship is to avoid it being detected by the enemy during the hours of darkness.

The ship normally will be darkened from sunset to sunrise.

Conditions may arise making it necessary to show certain lights for short intervals, such as running lights, when collision with vessels of our own forces is imminent. Such exceptions, however, will be permitted only on orders from the Commanding Officer.

While the ship is in a darkened condition, smoking on all weather decks and the wearing of white clothing will be prohibited.

Under some conditions, the wake light may be lit during darkened ship but should be specifically ordered by the Officer in Tactical Command.

13-2 DARKENING SHIP PROCEDURE:-

The Executive Officer should notify the Officer of the Deck and all Department Heads, the exact time the ship is to be darkened and for how long.

The Officer of the Deck, one-half hour prior to the time set for darkening ship, will have the word passed by the Boatswain's Mate of the Watch:- "Darken Ship." The Boatswain's Mate of the Watch and other petty officers will see that all battle ports are closed, all lights on the upper decks are screened and all hatch hoods hauled over.

The Electrician's Mate also will inspect all automatic door switches on weather decks to make sure that lights in the compartments are automatically darkened when the doors leading to the compartments are opened.

When all lights have been extinguished or provided for as outlined above, the Boatswain's Mate

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will report to the Officer of the Deck that the ship is darkened and no lights showing.

At regular intervals during the period of darkened ship, the Security Watch will make inspections for exposed lights and report the results of these inspections to the Officer of the Deck.

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