

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE COMMANDANT (OMP)
REFER TO FILE: CG-628-COMP

WASHINGTON

15 October, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CREW DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE,
WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION.

The Coast Guard has received information from a reliable source concerning Arthur E. Barry, 2nd mate on the SS AGWIDALE. Report alleges that Barry is an untrustworthy and incompetent mate who can not navigate and that he has drunk heavily on board while in port and is suspected of drinking heavily at sea.

The Coast Guard will instigate whatever disciplinary action is warranted in this case.

H. T. JEWELL
Commander, U.S.C.G.
Chief, Merchant Marine
Personnel Division

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EXCERPT FROM BOARDING REPORT WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO COAST GUARD &
JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES AT SEA:

"While subject vessel was in transit and was laying at Federal Anchorage #23 a British tanker reported as the SAN VERONICA was underway and maneuvering at approximately 2200 on June 5th. There was a pretty strong current running at the time and the tide was at flood. It was stated by the Chief Officer that this tanker drifted on the stem of subject vessel, struck it and split herself open on the starboard quarter. Before the collision, the Chief Officer said he saw what was going to happen, ran up and slackened the port anchor chain at about the same time the collision occurred. It was apparent that the British tanker had snapped off subject vessel's port anchor chain with her propeller.

A few minutes after the accident occurred, the Chief Officer noticed his ship was adrift and stated he let go the starboard anchor and held until he was able to raise enough steam to work his engines. He then maneuvered with difficulty because of the drag of the port chain as it took some time to raise steam on the windless. He said that he told a signalman to call for the assistance of a tug and soon after two Navy tugs came over and stood by. Before the tugs arrived he said that his starboard anchor had been dropped in the cable area.

Captain Spitler, U. S. Army, Coast Artillery, stationed at Fort Wadsworth, came aboard and told Chief Officer not to hoist the starboard anchor for fear of tearing the communication cables. The following morning Chief Officer stated that he deliberately slipped the starboard anchor chain at the request of Captain Spitler, to keep from damaging the communication cables."

SOURCE: 3ND Boarding Report, SS AGWIDALE (US), dated 6/8/43.

Op-16-B-5
EMH/ks
6/17/43

cc; Judge Advocate General

H/S
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