

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO

WASHINGTON

THE COMMANDANT (PMP)

REFER TO FILE: CG-628-AGWISTAR  
Comp. 3

8 July, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Subj: SS AGWISTAR; alleged misconduct of crew members

1. In compliance with your request, the report No. 43 of the American Consulate, Port Said, Egypt (Suez Branch) dated 18 January, 1943, is returned.

2. For your information, the incident reported involving 2nd Officer Sigvald Anderson, Boatswain William Schellman, 2nd Cook James Chalmers, and the Master, Peter G. Simmons, was investigated by the Merchant Marine Hearing Unit in Baltimore, and the charges against each of these men were dismissed.

H. T. JEWELL

*mal*  
*WPA*  
*Jeb*

...ing a good job. Accordingly, the Captain, with the  
this office, refused to take any action on the petition.

CONFIDENTIAL

security of the in

Respectfully



AMERICAN CONSULATE  
Port Said, Egypt (Suez Branch)  
January 18, 1943.

Subject: Incident of Assault on Board s.s. Agwistar at Suez on  
January 5, 1943.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report the occurrence at Suez on board the American s.s. Agwistar on January 5, 1943 of an incident of assault involving Second Officer Sigvald ANDERSON and Boatswain William SHELLMAN, apparently initiated by the latter. Affidavits concerning the affair are enclosed.

It seemed best under the circumstances of the case to do no more than warn the two men and to inform them that an investigation could be expected in the United States. They were likewise informed that their conduct during the balance of the voyage would no doubt have some bearing on the decision of the investigating authority.

The weight of evidence in the case seems to indicate that the Boatswain is to blame for striking the first blow. However, there seems to be doubt as to which man first insulted the other.

The Captain admitted at this office that he watched the men fight but made no effort to summon aid to restore order on the ship. Conversation with various members of the ship's company at an informal investigation on board indicate that the Master is remiss in not using the full authority of his office in dealing with the vessel's personnel. I doubt if the incident would have occurred if his authority had been firmly exercised in the past over the Boatswain, an explosive and dominant sort of person.

Various crew members presented a petition to the Captain requesting that the Boatswain be taken off the vessel, since they do not feel safe with him aboard. However, these men admitted that the Boatswain did not bear grudges and was a very capable seaman. The first officer considers him too headstrong but interested solely in doing a good job. Accordingly, the Captain, with the approval of this office, refused to take any action on the petition.

CONFIDENTIAL

Respectfully

To safeguard the security of the information herein, please

*Handwritten initials and scribbles at the bottom left of the page.*



Attest: by Sigvard Anderson, Captain and Officer reporting flight  
on board the ss "Arcturion" between the office and St. Michael's Bay, Alaska

MINISTER OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Respectfully yours,

Oscar C. Holder  
American Vice Consul

Before me, Oscar C. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of  
America, duly commissioned and qualified, personally  
Despatch in sextuplicate:

- Original and two copies to the Department
- Copy to the Legation, Cairo
- Copy to the Consulate, Port Said

File No. 886.3  
OCH/jc

Enclosures:

- No. 1 Copy of affidavit of Sigvard Anderson and told me that
- No. 2 " " " Philip Caulthorne
- No. 3 " " " Beryl Emerson
- No. 4 " " " John E. S. Cooper
- No. 5 " " " H. P. Myers
- No. 6 " " " William Schellman
- No. 7 " " " Charles Marker
- No. 8 " " " Edward L. LaFortune
- No. 9 " " " E. M. Kelly
- No. 10 " " " S. S. Bennet
- No. 11 " " " Fred McDonald
- No. 12 " " " Wm. Crow
- No. 13 " " " Piet Van Zanten
- No. 14 Petition of Crew to Master (copy) of America

A true copy of the  
signed original *Jc*

A true copy of the  
signed original *Jc*

No fee prescribed and  
none collected. Service 6



Affidavit by Sigvard Anderson Position 2nd Officer regarding fight on board the ss "Agwistar" between 2nd Officer and M. Schelman Boatswain

KINGDOM OF EGYPT )  
GOVERNORATE OF SUEZ ) ss:  
PORT OF SUEZ )  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

Before me, Oscar C. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Suez, Egypt, duly commissioned and qualified, personally came Sigvard Anderson who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

On Monday January 5th at about 3.30 p.m. I was told by the chief mate to take the boatswain and sailors forward for the purpose of heaving the vessel alongside the dock whereupon the boatswain told the mate that he was not taking any order from the second or third mates and started an argument with me and the mate but finally we went forward and under when the vessel was alongside the dock I told the boatswain to put a proper stopper on the mooring line when he started to call me all kinds of names and then he struck me and told me that he was going to kill me when the chief mate and the sailor separated as

and further deponent saith not.

(sgd) Sigvard Anderson  
242-88th Brooklyn, N.Y.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January AD 1943

(sgd) Oscar C. Holder  
Oscar C. Holder

Vice Consul of the United States  
of America

No fee prescribed and  
none collected. Service 6

A true copy of the  
signed original 96



Affidavit by Philip Caulthorne Position A.B. regarding fight on board the ss "Agwistar" between S. Anderson 2nd Mate and W. Shellman, Bosn

KINGDOM OF EGYPT )  
GOVERNORATE OF SUEZ ) ss:  
PORT OF SUEZ )  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

Before me, Oscar C. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Suez, Egypt, duly commissioned and qualified, personally came Philip Caulthorne who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

I was present at fight. But when it started by my back was turned so I was becoming in line. Being that during the argument Mr. Anderson called the Bosn a Hennie and the Bosn called Mr. Anderson a 5th Collunist

and further deponent saith not.

(sgd) Philip Caulthorne  
Tappahawack, Va.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January AD 1943

(sgd) Oscar C. Holder  
Oscar C. Holder  
Vice Consul of the United States  
of America

No fee prescribed and none collected. Service 16.

A true copy of the signed original  
signed original



Affidavit by Beryl Emerson Position A.B. regarding fight on board the ss "Agwistar" between S. Anderson Second Mate and W. Schellman Bosn

KINGDOM OF EGYPT  
GOVERNORATE OF SUEZ  
PORT OF SUEZ  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ) ss:

Before me, Oscar C. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Suez, Egypt, duly commissioned and qualified, personally came Beryl Emerson who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

While on frouthead tending lines the bosn and second mate got in an argument about the proper way to stop of a line and came to blows the bosn closed in and got a strangle holt and threw second mate a couple of times and had to be pulled of by the crew the bosn was spitting blood and the second mate had a few scratches.

and further deponent saith not.

(sgd) Beryl Emerson  
ss Agwistar

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January AD 1943

(sgd) Oscar C. Holder  
Oscar C. Holder  
Vice Consul of the United States  
of America

No fee prescribed and none collected. Service 13.

A true copy of the signed original 96

A true copy of the signed original 96



Affidavit by JOHN E. S. COOPER Position CHIEF MATE regarding fight on board the ss "Agwistar" between S. Anderson 2nd Mate and W. Schellman Bos'n

Affidavit by H. P. Myers Position A.B. regarding fight on board the ss "Agwistar" between Anderson 2nd Officer and W. Schellman, Bos'n

KINGDOM OF EGYPT  
GOVERNORATE OF SUEZ  
PORT OF SUEZ  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Before me, Oscar C. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Suez, Egypt, duly commissioned and qualified, personally came JOHN E. S. COOPER who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that: Oscar H. P. Myers who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

On January 5th 1943 in the afternoon at about 3.30 O'clock he ordered S. Anderson Second Mate of the above named ship to go forward with seamen and to securely moor the vessel alongside the quay at Suez Egypt.

During this operation the said S. Anderson became involved in a first fight with the Bos'n above named. Coming forward the deposer ordered the said two persons to their respective quarters after having ordered seamen standing around to separate the Bos'n & Second Mate.

and further deponent saith not.

(sgd) John E. S. Cooper  
Agwai Lines  
Pier 34 N.R. N.Y.C.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January AD 1943

(sgd) Oscar C. Holder  
Vice Oscar C. Holder  
Vice Consul of the United States of America

No fee prescribed and none collected. Service 17.

A true copy of the signed original

signed original



Affidavit by William Schellman Position Boatman regarding fight on board the ss "Agwistar" between 2d Officer and W. Schellman, Bosn

Affidavit by H. P. Myers Position A.B. regarding fight on board the ss "Agwistar" between Anderson 2d Officer and W. Schellman, Bosn

KINGDOM OF EGYPT )  
GOVERNORATE OF SUEZ )  
PORT OF SUEZ )  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

Before me, Oscar C. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Suez, Egypt, duly commissioned and qualified, personally came H. P. Myers who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

He witnessed argument and fight between the said parties mentioned above on the forecastle of the ss Agwistar Jan. 5th 1943 the 2nd officer criticized the bosn for the way he put on a stepper on a line and they argued some more about it the 2nd officer saying you are a heine or some words to that effect and the bosn struck the 2nd officer and they fought some and I help to seprate them and the chief officer came on the scene and ordered both parties to their rooms and they refused to go and fought some more and I helped to separate them again Is all I actually know and further deponent saith not.

(sgd) H. P. Myers  
ss Agwistar

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January AD 1943

(sgd) Oscar C. Holder  
Oscar C. Holder  
Vice Consul of the United States  
of America

No fee prescribed and none collected. Service 18.

A true copy of the signed original 96  
A true copy of the signed original 96

No fee prescribed and none collected. Service 7.



**Affidavit by William Schellman Position Boatswain regarding fight on board the ss "Agvistar" between S. Anderson, 2nd Officer and W. Schellman, Boatswain.**

KINGDOM OF EGYPT )  
GOVERNORATE OF SUEZ ) ss:  
PORT OF SUEZ )  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

Before me, Oscar C. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Suez, Egypt, duly commissioned and qualified, personally came W. Schellman, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

On January 4, 1943, at three o'clock in the afternoon Ordinary Seaman Crow came to me and gave me orders to heave the ship alongside. I told Crow that I would not take orders from him unless they were given by the Chief Mate. The Chief Mate was standing at #4 hatch. I approached him and he told me to heave the ship alongside and I told him his orders were final.

Mr. Anderson, 2nd Mate, was watching the proceedings at that time and told me that I did not know how to put a stopper on the loose line and he called me a goddam Heinie. After I secured the ship I went to Mr. Anderson and asked him what he meant by calling me a goddam Heinie, and then he hauled off and struck me in the right eye. We then had a tustle. Later I was called into the Master's office and before an Army Officers I was informed that charges were preferred against me.

and further deponent saith not.

(sgd) William Schellman  
103 Thayer Street,  
New York, City.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January AD 1943

(sgd) Oscar C. Holder  
Oscar C. Holder  
Vice Consul of the United States  
of America

A true copy of the  
signed original 96

No fee prescribed and  
none collected. Service 7.

A true copy of the  
signed original 96



Affidavit by Charles Marker Position A.B. regarding fight on board the ss. "Agvistar" between S. Andersen, 2nd Mate and W. Shellman, Boatswain.

KINGDOM OF EGYPT )  
GOVERNORATE OF SUEZ ) ss:  
PORT OF SUEZ )  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

Before me, Oscar C. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Suez, Egypt, duly commissioned and qualified, personally came Charles Marker who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

To whom it may concern.

Regarding the fight between the 2nd Officer and the boatswain, second mate told the ordinary Seaman to tell the Boatswain to heave in on the lines forward which the order came from Chief Mate. The Boatswain got insulted the way he was told and started arguing with second mate. Each one started passing remarks, then battle began.

and further deponent saith not.

(sgd) Charles Marker  
305 S. Chester Street,  
Baltimore, Md.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January 1943

(sgd) Oscar C. Holder  
Oscar C. Holder  
Vice Consul of the United  
States of America

A true copy of the signed original 96

No fee prescribed and none collected. Service 8.

A true copy of the signed original 96



Affidavit by Edward L. LaFortune, Position O.S. regarding fight on board the s.s "Agwistar" between S. Anderson 2nd Mate and W. Shellman Bosom

KINGDOM OF EGYPT  
GOVERNORATE OF SUEZ  
PORT OF SUEZ  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SS:

Before me, Oscar C. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Suez, Egypt, duly commissioned and qualified, personally came Edward L. LaFortune who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

I was not present at the start of fight and do not know what or who started it.

and further deponent saith not.

(sgd) Edward L. LaFortune  
123-2nd Ave, Troy, N.Y.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January AD 1943

(sgd) Oscar C. Holder  
Oscar C. Holder  
Vice Consul of the United States  
of America

No fee prescribed and  
none collected. Service 9.

A true copy of the  
signed original  
signed original



Affidavit by E. Kelly Position A.B. regarding fight on board the ss "Agwistar" between E. Anderson 2nd Mate and W. Shellman, Boatswain

KINGDOM OF EGYPT )  
GOVERNORATE OF SUEZ )  
PORT OF SUEZ )  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

ss:

Before me, Oscar G. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Suez, Egypt, duly commissioned and qualified, personally came E. M. Kelly who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

I don't know who started the fight.

The Boston is a troubler maker.

And further deponent saith not.

(sgd) E. M. Kelly  
ss Agwistar

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January AD 1943

(sgd) Oscar G. Holder  
Oscar G. Holder  
Vice Consul of the United States  
of America  
Vice Consul of the United States

No fee prescribed and none collected. Service 14.

A true copy of the signed original 96

A true copy of the signed original 96

No fee prescribed and none collected. Service 14.



Affidavit by F. McDonald Position Carpenter regarding fight on board the ss "Agwistar" between Shelman Bos'n and ...

Enclosure No. 4

Affidavit by Samuel S. Bennett Position OS regarding fight on board the ss "Agwistar" between S. Anderson 2nd Officer and W. Schellman Bos'n

CONSUL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
KINGDOM OF EGYPT )  
GOVERNORATE OF SUEZ ) SS:  
PORT OF SUEZ Oscar C. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ) and qualified, personally

Before me, Oscar C. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Suez, Egypt, duly commissioned and qualified, personally and came Samuel Bennett who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

I was present at the fight between the above on January 1943. The fight started when the Bos'n called the second mate a name and the second mate retorted with another. The Bos'n struck the first blow and persisted in carrying on the fight after they were separated.

and further deponent saith not. (sgd) S. S. Bennet  
C/o Powers  
3511 Somme Ave,  
Norfolk, Va.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January AD 1943

(sgd) Oscar C. Holder  
Oscar C. Holder  
Vice Consul of the United States  
of America

No fee prescribed and none collected. Service 11.

No fee prescribed and none collected. Service 10.

A true copy of the signed original 96  
A true copy of the signed original 96



Affidavit by F. McDonald Position Carpenter regarding fight on board the ss "Agwistar" between Shellman Bos'n and Anderson 2nd Mate

KINGDOM OF EGYPT  
GOVERNORATE OF SUEZ  
PORT OF SUEZ  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Before me, Oscar C. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Suez, Egypt, duly commissioned and qualified, personally came F. McDonald, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

I was not there when the fight started. All I saw was the Bos'n had the 2nd mate by the throat?

We on this ship had no support or protection from a supervisors officers on this ship. The Bos'n is to freely with his hands and nothing but a trouble maker and is trying to run the ship. The 2nd mate is not the first man on this ship the bos'n had by the throat. The Bos'n should be taking off the ship to stop trouble on this ship or somebody going to get hurt before the ship get back to United States.

He stated "I'll kill him this time", he pulled him off and, while he held and further deponent saith not. This is the 4th or 5th time on board ship this had happened to. (sgd) Fred McDonald  
ss Agwistar

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January AD 1943.

(sgd) Oscar C. Holder  
Oscar C. Holder

Vice Consul of the United States of America.

No fee prescribed and none collected. Service 10.

A true copy of the signed original

A true copy of the signed original







January 6, 1943

Affidavit by Piet vanZanten Position A.B. regarding fight on board the ss "Agvistar" between Mr. W. Shellman Bos'n and Mr. S. Anderson Second Officer

KINGDOM OF EGYPT )  
GOVERNORATE OF SUEZ ) ss:  
PORT OF SUEZ )  
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

Before me, Oscar C. Holder, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Suez, Egypt, duly commissioned and qualified, personally came Piet van Zanten who, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

On Monday afternoon Jan. 4, 1943, Mr. Anderson requested the Bos'n to haul the ship closer to the Pier. The Bos'n, Mr. Shellman who is at time an unruly vicious Person and had struck me earlier in the day, refused to do so, and stated he refused to take orders from a Second Mate, only orders from the chief mate. After Mr. Shellman our Bos'n talked to the Chief Officer, Mr. Cooper, he ordered us forward to do this very job. Mr. Anderson followed later and stated to the Bos'n that his "stopper", used to prevent lines from slipping was improperly applied, whereupon the Bos'n, called Mr. Anderson a "Square head" fifth Columist, Mr. Anderson leaning against a sail 15 feet away, said seriously, "Bos'n you talk and act like an "Heinie", Mr. Shellman our Bos'n walked to the second officer and hit him whereupon the second officer being attacked had to fight, notwithstanding I, with other seaman separated the two the Bos'n attacked him several times, only once did Mr. Anderson give him the first sock on the fourth round, he had to.

and further deponent saith not.

(sgd) Piet van Zanten  
418 Bridge St.,  
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January AD 1943

(sgd) Oscar C. Holder  
Oscar C. Holder  
Vice Consul of the United States  
of America.

No fee prescribed and none collected. Service 12.

A true copy of the signed original



Aboard S/S AGHISTAR

Enclosure No. 111

Suez, Egypt

January 6, 1943.

Captain, F. G. Simons, Master,  
S/S AGHISTAR

Sir:-

Subject: Conduct William Schellman,  
Boatswain.

We, the Deck Crew, do hereby notify you that we will hold you, the Master of the S/S AGHISTAR and the Company responsible for any personal injury or injuries that may be inflicted on any of our crew by said William Schellman, Boatswain.

We have requested this man be removed from the ship without avail.

Respectfully,

Copy: to

(sgd) Pret van Zanten

American Consul,  
Suez, Egypt.

(sgd) Wa. Crow

(sgd) L. Bennett

(sgd) B. Emerson

(sgd) Phil Panthos

(sgd) Edward L. La Fortune

(sgd) E. H. Kelly

(sgd) I. Maricer

(sgd) H. P. Myers

(sgd) F. McDonald

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A true copy of the  
signed original *9/6*