

Lima, November 27, 1943.

No. 8431

Subject: Disturbances Among the Crew of the  
American Tanker ANNIBAL at Callao-  
Lima, Perú .

Strictly Confidential

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's strictly confidential instruction of July 18, 1942 (file 195/2117, Control of Merchant Shipping) and to report the following.

The U. S. tanker ANNIBAL, owned by the War Shipping Administration and operated by the Cities Service Oil Company, 60 Wall Tower, New York City, entered the port of Callao, Perú, on November 15, 1943, and departed for other west coast South American ports on November 17, before eventually proceeding to a United States port. The Master, Jonas B. Moe, reported that he was having difficulty in maintaining an efficient ship due to the drunkenness and disorderliness of certain members of his crew. Their names and misdemeanors are listed below. All of them were removed from the ship and are being returned to the United States by air.

Wade Hopkins: Age 47. Address, Louisiana National Bank Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Hopkins was the Second Assistant Engineer aboard the ANNIBAL, and attached hereto is the signed statement of the Captain which sets forth the reasons why Mr. Hopkins was discharged from the ship. Mr. Hartwell Johnson, Third Secretary and Vice Consul of this Embassy, interviewed Mr. Hopkins aboard the ANNIBAL, and the latter admitted to the charges set forth in paragraph 2 of the Master's statement; the charges stated on October 20 and November 6 he denied. It was Mr. Johnson's impression that the annoyances the Captain was experiencing with Mr. Hopkins were in great part caused by the evident personal dislike of the Chief Engineer for Mr. Hopkins. Aware of the seriousness of having an Assistant Engineer intoxicated, Mr. Johnson nevertheless thought, after his talk with Mr. Hopkins who assured him that a like situation would not arise again, that Hopkins

should

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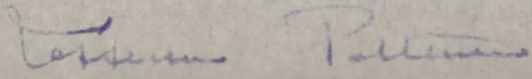
should not have been discharged from the ship; however both the Master and the Chief Engineer advised Mr. Johnson that they could not and would not guarantee the safety of the tanker unless the Second Assistant Engineer was removed. This was done on November 17.

J. Comer: Age 46. Address, Eufala, Alabama. Attached is the statement regarding Comer's inefficiency. Comer is reported as being disrespectful to his officers, incompetent, untrustworthy, and repeatedly unable to stand his watch due to drunkenness. All of these charges were substantiated by Mr. Johnson in his interview with Comer. It is the reporting officer's considered opinion that steps should be taken to prevent Comer being assigned to any merchant crew hereafter. Comer is further accused of setting fire to his canvas cot on the oil tanker and of giving a knife from his life saving suit to a Peruvian. Comer admitted to the latter, but denied the former charge. He refuses to pay for either article.

Charles Gallagher: Age 36. Attached is a record of the log book of the ANNIBAL regarding Gallagher's inefficiency. Gallagher admits to being drunk but states he is in a highly nervous condition due to having two ships on which he was serving torpedoed and sunk. The examining officer can readily understand the strain of such previous experiences, but recommends strongly that Gallagher not be assigned again as a merchant seaman.

It is the reporting officer's opinion that, admitting the culpability of the three men listed above, some blame attaches to the Master and the Chief Engineer, as both give the impression of being unable to command the respect of the crew or to prevent the unlicensed use of liquor aboard the ANNIBAL.

Respectfully yours,

  
Jefferson Patterson,  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Enclosure:

Copy of statement of  
Jonas B. Moe, Master,  
S.S. ANNIBAL.

886.3  
HJ/me

James Comer

Callao, Peru  
Oct. 19, 1943

J. Comer - For being absent without leave and from his duty in the afternoon watch (4 to 8 p.m.) he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

Callao, Peru  
Nov. 20, 1943

J. Comer - For willful neglect of his duty by being intoxicated and not able to stand his watch (4 to 8 a.m.) he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

Callao, Peru  
Nov. 20, 1943

J. Comer - For being absent without leave and from his duty (4 to 8 p.m.) he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

A copy of these entries has been furnished to J. Comer and the same have been read over distinctly and audibly to him and his reply was that he does not remember.

21-30 s 71-37 W  
Oct. 31, 1943

James Comer - For willful neglect of his duty by leaving his watch 4 to 8 a.m. while intoxicated he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages. No Reply.

Valparaiso, Chile  
Nov. 11, 1943

James Comer - For failure to stand his watch and being absent without leave 4 to 8 p.m. he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

Valparaiso, Chile  
Nov. 4, 1943

James Comer - For failure to stand his watch and being absent without leave 4 to 8 a.m. he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

San Antonio, Chile  
Nov. 5, 1943

James Comer - For willful neglect of his duty in failing to stand his watch from 4 to 8 p.m. because of being intoxicated he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

A Copy of these entries --- etc. No Reply

Talara Bay, Peru  
Nov. 13, 1943

James Comer - For being absent without leave from his ship he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

Talara Bay, Peru  
Nov. 13, 1943

James Comer - For disobeying a lawful command by bringing intoxicating liquor aboard ship, he has been assessed a forfeiture of four days pay of his wages.

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Talara Bay, Peru  
Nov. 13, 1943

James Comer - For Willful neglect of duty by not standing his watch from 4 to 8 p.m., he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

6-40 S 81-00 W  
Nov. 14, 1943

James Comer - For willful neglect of duty by not standing his watch, from 4 to 8 a.m. he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

No Replies to these entries except that on the 11-14-43 he said he stood his watch.

AIR MAIL

Charles Gallagher

Callao, Peru  
Oct. 20, 1943

Charles Gallagher - For being absent without leave and from his duty ( 4 to 8 a.m.) he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

Callao, Peru  
Oct. 20, 1943

Charles Gallagher - For being absent without leave and from his duty ( 4 to 8 p.m.) he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

A Copy of these entries has been furnished to C. Gallagher and the same have been read over distinctly and audibly to him. No reply.

21-30 S 71-37 W  
Oct. 31, 1943

Charles Gallagher - For willful neglect of his duty by being instoxicated and not able to stand his watch from 4 to 8 a.m. he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

No Reply.

Valparaiso, Chile  
Nov. 5, 1943

Charles Gallagher - For willful neglect of his duty by not standing his watch from 4 to 8 a.m. he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

No Reply.

Talara Bay, Peru  
Nov. 13, 1943  
4:10 P.M.

Charles Gallagher - For being absent without leave from his ship he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

Talara Bay, Peru  
Nov. 13, 1943  
4:10 P.M.

C. Gallagher - For disobeying a lawful command by bringing intoxicating liquor aboard ship he will be upon arrival at next port, assessed a forfeiture of four days pay of his wages.

Talara Bay, Peru  
Nov. 13, 1943

C. Gallagher - For willful neglect of duty by not standing his watch from 4 to 8 P.M. he has been assessed a forfeiture of two days pay of his wages.

No Reply to these entries.

AIR MAIL

November 17th, 1943

Callao, Peru, S.A.

Statement concerning the behavior of Wade Hopkins  
aboard the S. S. Annibal

On Oct. 20th, 1943 from 12 midnight to 4 A.M. Mr. Wade Hopkins, 2nd Assistant Engineer, was intoxicated while on watch and did not perform his duties in a satisfactory manner.

On Nov. 4th, 1943 from 12 midnight to 4 A.M. he was intoxicated on watch and overhauled the bottom blow valve on the port boiler doing a very unsatisfactory job that had to be redone by the Chief Engineer.

On Nov. 6th, 1943 from 12 midnight to 4 A.M. Mr. Hopkins was intoxicated while on watch endangering the safety of the boilers and other machinery.

At this time it was thought advisable to remove him from the ship.

signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Jonas B. Moe, Master,  
S. S. Annibal