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IN REPLY REFER TO INITIALS AND No.

EF13-7/P13
Serial 020/tb

CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICE OF U. S. NAVAL OBSERVER
BASRA, IRAQ

051/Battle Rock
RECEIVED ONI MAIL ROOM

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23 January 1945
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RECEIVED S-G FILES
ROOM 2055
9 FEB 1945
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To: U.S.N.O. ASHAR IRAQ
From: Port Security Officer,
G.I.C. I., BASRAH.
From: The U. S. Naval Observer.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations.

Subject: "BATTLE ROCK" (Amer. Tanker) - incident aboard. to leaving, many of the crew complained that the Master had refused to
Enclosure: (A) Copy of British Port Security Officer ltr. (Mr. STEWARD L.) had been V10/R/92, Conf., same subject, dated 16 Jan. 1945, and copy of extract from report dated 12 Jan. 1945.

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded for information.

Armed Guard Officer - Lt. McNEIL - stated that the Captain had been Ch. Officer prior to the late Captain & the raise in status had gone to his credit. He mentioned that he receives no co-operation from the Captain who is very domineering. During the last trip he was very ill-tempered. He is very un-

C. E. FERRY
C. E. FERRY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Op-16-B-5
Qs1/Battle Rock
CONFIDENTIAL
Ser.No.046116

/s/ J.R. Robinson
for
Captain, P.S.O.
(Shatt-al-Arab Area)
14 FEB 1945

From: Director of Naval Intelligence.
To: Intelligence Officer, U. S. Coast Guard

1. Forwarded.

H. A. BURCH
H. A. BURCH,
By direction.

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
FLEET MAINTENANCE
9 FEB 1945
RECEIVED
NAVY DEPARTMENT

205

File per

*Index
File 47 Battle Rock (2)
+ Navy Group (14)
Spec.*

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S.T. "BATTLE ROCK"

(Extract from a report dated 16 JAN 45)

Confidential

Ref:V10/R/92

To: U.S.N.O. ASHAR IRAQ

From: Port Security Officer,
C.I.C.I., BASRAH.

Subj: s.t. "BATTLE ROCK" (Amer. tanker).

When ship was boarded by British Field Security prior to leaving, many of the crew complained that the Master had refused to grant liberty. He had refused them a "draw" & the Ch. Steward (Mr. STEWARD L.) had been refused the request to see the U. S. Consul regarding the matter. The Ch. Steward also wished an interview with the U.S.C.G. at the next port of call as he wished to lodge a complaint against the Master (MOTE Moris W.) who had been drinking heavily throughout the trip. (See copy report attached.)

Armed Guard Officer - Lt. McNEILL E., U.S.N. - stated that the Captain had been Ch. Officer prior to the death of the late Captain & the raise in status had gone to his head. He mentioned that he receives no co-operation from the Captain & considers him very domineering. During the last trip MOTE was drinking very heavily & was always ill-tempered. He is very unpopular with all crew & Officers.

/s/ J.R. Robinson, S/Sgt.,
for
Captain, P.S.O.
(Shatt-al-Arab Area)

16 JAN 45

ENCL. (A) TO ALUSNOB CONF. SER. 020/tb
dated 23 Jan. 1945.

S.T. "BATTLE ROCK"

(Extract from a report made on 12 JAN 45)

Master had requested that unofficial investigation be made into the theft by the crew of part of the cargo of gin during the New Year festivities.

On 11 JAN 45, Brit. Field Security interviewed four crew-members who were found to be drunk immediately after the theft was discovered. No information was gained relative to the broaching, but the following facts seem to call for action when the ship reaches the next port of call.

KREJZEL, Rudolph A.(A.B.) in whose cabin was found two bottles of gin during a search of the ship, admitted he had purchased a quantity of whisky & gin from a bootlegger in MELBOURNE. He stated the Master knew of this & had merely warned him to be careful.

Many officers had supplies of beer and spirits. The 1st Asst. Engr. said this had been brought aboard in a legitimate manner and Officers had been warned not to supply crew-members. Master had signed off an officer who had given liquor to a crew-member.

Master was anxious to use the investigation as a means of intimidating the crew and instructed Field Sec. n.c.o. as to what he should threaten the men with. He appeared to be under the influence of alcohol & had an array of beer and spirits in his cabin.