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OFFICE OF CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
NAVY DEPARTMENT

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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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Serial 332-43
(Start new series each year, i. e. 1-43, 2-43)

Monograph Index Guide No. 505-100
(To correspond with SUBJECT given below. See O. N. I. Index Guide. Make separate report for each main title.)

From U. S. Naval Attache at Montevideo, Urug. Date 21 October 1943
(Ship, fleet, unit, district, office, station, or person)

Reference NA Montevideo Dispatch 201801 Oct. to Port Dir. N.Y., Info. OPNAV, Com4Flt, NOB Trinidad. (Directive, correspondence, previous related report, etc., if applicable)

Source Personal Observation and Interviews. Evaluation B-2
(As official, personal observation, publication, press, conversation with— identify when practicable, etc.) A-1 to B-0 etc. AD/EN 3-10; SER. 4312416-11-12-12

Subject United States Merchant Marine
(Nation reported on) (Main title as per Index guide) (Subtitles) (Make separate report for each title)

BRIEF.—(Here enter careful summary of report, containing substance precisely stated; include important facts, names, places, dates, etc.)

Opium and pipe for smoking seized by this office from Herbert Lauder Fairbanks, Acting A.B. on SS CAPE HENLOPEN (U. S.), after complaints made to this office by members of the crew and the Armed Guard Officer.

file

1. On October 20 Lt.(jg) L. N. Evans, USNR, Armed Guard Officer of the SS CAPE HENLOPEN (U. S.), called this office and requested the presence of the Security Officer aboard the vessel. The Security Officer went to the vessel where he was informed by Evans that H. L. Fairbanks, Acting A.B., had been reported to have brought a German aboard the Ship. Evans further reported that Fairbanks was smoking marijuana a board the vessel particularly since departure from Persia, the previous country of call. In tracing this report the following men were interviewed: Captain C. G. Nilsen, Second Mate John Godsey, Third Mate Walter B. Harrison, Engine Room Cadet Luther Lee Trower, Acting A.B. Elma H. Hine, and John Joseph Decker, Coxswain, U.S.N. It was learned that Fairbanks had, on Monday the 18th of October, come aboard both in the morning and in the late afternoon with an individual who appeared to be German and further that Fairbanks had been accustomed to the use of marijuana cigarettes to some extent over a period of years.

2. With the knowledge and consent of the Master, Fairbanks was brought to this Office to be interviewed and while at this office his personal effects were ordered to be examined in the presence of the Master, the Purser, and Armed Guard Officer, and anything appearing to be a possible drug be seized.

3. At the request of this office the American Vice Consul, D. H. Smith, was present when Fairbanks was interviewed by the Security Officer. Fairbanks stated that he was born in Watertown, Mass. on 21 May 1915, that he had first smoked marijuana cigarettes in 1938, and that in 1939 he spent two months at the Deer Island House of Correction in Boston, Mass. on a narcotic charge. Fairbanks has continuous discharge book and certificate of identity number Z-261471 and License Serial number E-359113. Fairbanks advised that his only previous sea experience was service aboard the SS SANTA MARGARITA (U.S.) for a period of five months just prior to his signing on the SS CAPE HENLOPEN.

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Mr Bold - WS Acq. - 13/10/43

Port Dir, N.Y., NOB Trinidad, Com4Flt, Am. Embassy Monte.,

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[Signature] 1943

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Serial 332-43

Montevideo, Uruguay

21 October 1943

4. Fairbanks stated that the individual whom he had brought on the ship was Leopold Weihs, a barber in the Cambio de Oro barber shop. Fairbanks stated that he had met Weihs casually while ashore, believed him to be an Austrian who spoke fairly good English and that he had taken him aboard for a meal and to visit the ship. A separate investigation will be made of Weihs and a report given at a later date if indicated.
5. Fairbanks stated that due to the fact that he had grown a full beard during the trip certain members of the crew had jokingly accused him of looking like a Chinaman and smoking opium. He stated that during the stop of the vessel at Khorramshahr, Persia, he went to a house and smoked opium, but stated that he had not brought any narcotics aboard the ship nor had he smoked any opium or any other narcotics since leaving Persia. Upon further questioning he admitted that he had purchased an opium pipe and brought it aboard the ship as a souvenir but had not smoked the pipe aboard the vessel and that he had requested several weeks previously that another seaman throw the pipe overboard for him as he did not wish to arouse any possible suspicion that he might be using an opium pipe. On further questioning he admitted that the pipe had contained a small charge of opium when he brought it aboard and that he had smoked it once when aboard as a "stunt", but repeated that the pipe had been thrown overboard several weeks back.
6. At this point in the interview the Master of the vessel, accompanied by the Purser and the Armed Guard Officer, came to this office with an opium pipe, a small amount of cylindrical charcoal for charging the pipe, a tobacco pouch filled with what Fairbanks admitted was opium smoking material, and a small number of other articles such as headache pills, tooth powder, and etc. At this point he admitted that he had been smoking opium and that he had asked one of the members of the crew to throw the pipe and opium overboard just prior to leaving the vessel to come to this office. This act on the part of any member of the crew was probably stopped due to an armed member of the Armed Guard conducting Fairbanks from the vessel.
7. Although Fairbanks was well known for smoking surreptitiously what was considered to be marijuana, his loyalty as an American citizen was not questioned by any officer or member of the crew. His conduct aboard the vessel was marked by several instances of being logged, one of which was for falling asleep while standing a one-hour watch at the wheel.
8. In the interest of security and in order to prevent the possible spread of the use of narcotics to others, it is recommended that Fairbanks be barred from service aboard United States Merchant Vessels.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Serial 574-743
(Start new series each year, I. e. 1-43, 2-43)

Monograph Index Guide No. 505-100
(To correspond with SUBJECT given below. See O. N. I. Index Guide. Make separate report for each main title.)

From U.S. Naval Attache
(Ship, fleet, unit, district, office, station, or person)

at Lima, Peru Date 18 November 1943

Reference _____
(Directive, correspondence, previous related report, etc., if applicable)

Source US Routing Officer Callao & pers. observ. Evaluation A-1
(As official, personal observation, publication, press, conversation with—
Identify when practicable, etc.) A-1 to SO etc.
AD/EN 3-10; SER. 437415-11-18-42

Subject Peru COMMERCE, SHIPPING, ETC. Merchant Marine (methods & effic)
(Nation reported on) (Main title as per index guide) (Subtitles) (Make separate report for each title)

File

BRIEF—(Here enter careful summary of report, containing substance succinctly stated; include important facts, names, places, dates, etc.)
The following report of misconduct by the Boatswain of the SS MELVILLE E. STONE, was submitted to the Routing Officer at Callao, Peru, by the Armed Guard Officer, Lieut.(jg) E.E. Tucker, D-V(S), USNR, on 15 November 1943, the brawl having taken place on or about 2330 14 November 1943 in a bar in Lima:

"DAVIS, Johnny Pervie, 603 08 80, SL/c, USNR, states that he, with others of naval and civilian crew, were drinking in a bar. The majority decided to leave and Cris SAUL (the Boatswain) refused. Failing to persuade him, they began to leave without him, when SAUL opened a clasp knife and made a lunge at DAVIS, cutting a gash in his left thigh, front, about three inches long by one-half inch deep.

"DAVIS, although he had been drinking, was not intoxicated. SAUL was very drunk and had been so for days. The above I know of my own knowledge.

"At about 0030 November 15th DAVIS was taken to the USS CLARK for medical attention, where a pharmacist's mate put three clamps in the wound and bandaged it. He will be unfit for duty for three days at least."

COMMENT: The Routing Officer's inspection reported dated 15 November 1943 has the following remark: "Impression in general not good. Lack of discipline and drunkenness aboard".

In addition to the above, the Naval Attache has talked to the shipping agent, the American Consul, and others about conditions aboard the SS MELVILLE E. STONE. The concensus of opinion seems to be that the Master, L.J. Gallagher, is incompetent. It is reported that this is the first time that he has ever taken a vessel to sea, having had most of his experience on Lake steamers. It is reported that there is considerable drunkenness aboard and practically no discipline. The vessel sailed at 0130 16 November 1943, leaving behind two members of the merchant crew and two members of the Armed Guard crew. The Naval Attache personally saw one ship's pass issued to a member of the Armed Guard crew who had previously lost his identification card stating that he should be back aboard on 16 November, without giving the hour. The American Consul stated that the two merchant crew members had passes indicating that their liberty was not up until the 16th. All the men stated that they had not been told that the ship was sailing, and that they had not seen any notice posted to this effect.

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