

## UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

WASHINGTON

ADDRESS REPLY TO

THE COMMANDANT (PMP)

REFER TO FILE: CG-628-COMP

25 August, 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 Emil Anderson, Master of the SSFR COTTON MATHER. During a recent voyage Captain Anderson is reported to have violated blackout regulations by repeatedly neglecting to properly use blackout screens in his quarters. It is also reported that, to save time and expenses before the vessel's arrival in Suez, he subjected his ship to danger by ordering cargo booms put up at sea. This action cut down the effectiveness of the anti-aircraft guns aboard. Also, to save time in the Port of Rio, he ordered the 2 upper tarpaulins of all hatch covers removed while still 3 days out to sea. The remaining covers were in poor condition. Further, report evidences that the Captain is physically incapacitated with respect to hearing and memory. It is stated that he has great difficulty at convoy conferences in hearing instructions and what he does hear, he forgets. Also report states (1) on several occasions he neglected to order the degaussing equipment turned on; (2) mislaid stragglers' route on 2 occasions and was unable to locate it; (3) ordered his vessel to slow down in a convoy when the order was given to close up at full speed.

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

L.J. BERNARD  
Commander USCGR  
Acting Chief, Merchant Marine  
Personnel Division

mal