

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO

WASHINGTON

THE COMMANDANT (OMP)

REFER TO FILE: CG-628-COMP

25 January, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CREW DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE,
WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION.

The Coast Guard has received information from a reliable source concerning the following officers and members of the crew of the SS EUGENE HALE.

Report alleges that there has been considerable drinking aboard this vessel during its present voyage. The steward, James Williams is reported to have brought liquor aboard and to have done considerable drinking while at sea. There is no allegation, however, that it interfered with his work. Report also states that George T. LeVeck, Master admitted that he had been drinking at sea on 3 different occasions.

Further, during the course of this voyage, it was discovered that a "boot-leg" ring was operating aboard and was engaged in selling liquor to Army passengers at \$10.00 to \$20.00 a bottle. It was established that Pedro Orpiano, chief cook, Alexander Dombrowski, 2nd cook, Pete S. Guntang, 3rd cook and Alexander Bartush, utilityman, were the crew members involved in this misconduct, the latter acting as an intermediary. The sum of \$126.00, representing the profit from the sale of approximately 17 bottles, was recovered from Orpiano, Dombrowski, and Guntang and returned to purchasers.

Further, report states that while the EUGENE HALE was in a foreign port in December 1943, Orpiano, Dombrowski, and Guntang were caught by Military Authorities in an attempt to smuggle goods ashore for unauthorized sale. They were sent to a Disciplinary Training Center for this misconduct before rejoining their vessel to return to the United States.

The Coast Guard will instigate whatever disciplinary action is warranted in these cases.

H. T. JEWELL
Commander, U.S.C.G.
Chief, Merchant Marine
Personnel Division

