

Lieutenant Wescott Houghton
 Commanding Officer, Naval Armed Guard
 USAT Exchequer.
 Chief of Naval Operations.
 Port Director, Boston, Mass.

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CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: MILLER, Joseph member of merchant crew (baker), Z214233, improper conduct on the part of.

1. On January 13, 1944, the first day the ship was in Boston after proceeding from New York, members of the Gun Crew reported that subject named man came to their messroom and made a statement to the following effect: "I am the baker and can do you Navy boys a lot of favors if, at the end of the voyage, you will take up a collection of five dollars apiece for me. "The Gun Crew laughed at him and reported the incident to this officer, who, in turn, passed the information on to the Master and the Steward.
2. On February 7, 1944, the members of the Gun Crew reported that subject named man came again to their mess room and made a statement to the following effect: "I haven't been able to do much for you boys, and since this is a short trip, why don't you kick in just two dollars apiece to me?" This time the Gun Crew became angry and expressed their opinion of subject man to him in no uncertain terms, all of which was reported to this officer. The latter again reported the incident to the Master and the Chief Steward.
3. That evening (Feb. 7) the Chief Steward called a meeting of the Union Delegates and requested four members of the Armed Guard Crew to attend. The Navy men present at the meeting were: Peden, Charles Oliver, 291 35 23, BMLc; Attaway, Bruce Jarrel, 636 34 56, GM3c; Farmer, Rupert Venton, 828 66 36, Slc; Garmon, Kenneth Davis, 635 01 82, Slc. Reported results of the meeting were that the Union Delegates impounded subject man's papers and decided to turn him over to the Coast Guard on arrival with the recommendation that he be made available for service in the Army immediately.
3. During the voyage subject man was twice reprimanded for smoking on an open deck after blackout time by this officer.

/s/Lt. Wescott Houghton
 Armed Guard Commander

USAT EXCHEQUER
 NDL/PD(LAK:mos)
 FIRST ENDORSEMENT

Headquarters, First Naval District
 150 Causeway Street, Boston, Mass.
 15 February 1944

From: The Port Director, N.T.S., Boston, Mass.
 To: The Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Forwarded.

By direction of the Port Director:

/s/ L. A. Keating
 L. A. KEATING
 COMMANDER, USNR.

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