

DECLASSIFIED

 Authority NY3 36-83-11  
 By DHS NARA. Date 5/4/17

## UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Post Office Box 147

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

MERCHANT VESSEL BOARDING REPORTConfidentialConfidentialDATE BOARDED: 4 April 1945 BOARDED AT: Chas., S.C. DATE OF REPORT: 5 April, 1945VESSEL: S/S JAMES BOWDOIN NO. IN CREW: 40CREW CHECK: NEGATIVE: POSITIVE: (See Below) XXXOPERATIONS IN PORT: Loading cargo.

ITINERARY: Arrived Charleston, S.C., 4 April, 1945, from Gibraltar.

1. Crew list checked through files of this office with negative results except Fred MOHLE, who was listed in M.M.S.L. as having made pro-Nazi statements, and having been present at a meeting with the German Consul, Boston, Mass., prior to Pearl Harbor. It was not ordered that he be held, or turned over to any agency.

2. Frederick Wilhelm MOHLE, C.D.B.#086413, was interrogated, and the following learned from him. He was born in Germany, 21 July, 1905, and illegally entered U.S. in 1926. He returned to Germany in 1933, in order to re-enter the U.S. legally, to satisfy naturalization requirements, and returned the same year. He became a naturalized citizen of U.S., 18 January, 1937, at Boston, Mass. (Petition #175115, and Case #4201098). He never returned to Germany after 1933. In U.S. he sailed on U.S. Lines ships, from 1926 to 1929, when he became a fisherman off Gloucester, Mass. In August, 1944, he sailed aboard the above ship, as 2nd Mate, which he has held since. He stated he never belonged to any anti-American or pro-German organizations; does not have any loyalty to Germany; does not intend to return there, and has a wife, daughter, and owns a home in Gloucester, Mass. He last heard from his relatives in Germany in 1941. At that time, they lived at Wesermund, and he was told his father had been killed by the Nazis. His mother, Sophie MOHLE, was living on Hafen Street, Wesermund. He has three brothers and no sisters. One brother now lives in New York City, and two are in Germany, the youngest of which is in the German Navy (name is Johann MOHLE, rate or rank unknown). The whereabouts of the other brother in Germany is unknown. MOHLE stated that he casually met the German Consul, in Boston, shortly before Pearl Harbor, in one instance, and did not see or communicate with him since. He did not discuss any political or international matters with him. The Consul merely asked him if he was an American citizen,

 DISSEMINATION: CIO  
 DIO, 6ND  
 DCGIO, 6ND  
 File

 (1)  
 (2)  
 (1)  
 (1)

BOARDING OFFICER:.....

APPROVED: .....

 HARVEY F. JOHNSON, JR.,  
 District CG Intelligence  
 Officer, 6th NavDist.



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and MOHLE answered in the affirmative. MOHLE thought nothing of this instance, and did not try to conceal it from friends or acquaintances. He recalls making no pro-German statements, prior or subsequent to Pearl Harbor. He has never had any affection for the British, however, and he admits he may have expressed discrediting opinions about them, prior to our entry in the war, which may have been interpreted by some as being pro-German. He said the FBI made a check on him in Boston in 1944, but dropped the case when they found nothing definite. He displayed a letter of application, indicating that he had applied for a U.S. Passport, 4 September, 1944, at U.S. Clerk's Office, 1525 Federal Building, Boston, Mass. An investigation is being made to determine his qualifications for such. MOHLE advised that in 1942 he applied for a commission as Ensign in the U. S. Coast Guard, but the application was rejected because of the fact he had not been a citizen for the required ten-year period. MOHLE further advised that since the questioning by the FBI no other agency or government unit has interrogated him.

3. Thomas W. OLIVER, Master of the above ship, and Paul W. WADE, Chief Officer of above ship, were interviewed concerning MOHLE. They agreed in stating that his conduct and attitude aboard the ship has been exemplary, and that he has been a capable officer. No statements or opinions of his have been inconsistent with loyalty to U.S. Because of his German birth, they were suspicious of him, and have closely observed him. Captain OLIVER stated that the previous master of the JAMES BOWDOIN, James F. LUSBY, was also well pleased with MOHLE'S ability and stated MOHLE made a first rate officer. LUSBY informed Captain OLIVER that he had never observed any suspicious actions or inquisitiveness on the part of MOHLE.

4. MOHLE was fingerprinted, and a Form NCG-2515 on him is enclosed herewith.

5. MOHLE stated he gave the following references to the U. S. State Department, in their investigation into his qualifications for a passport:

- a. Coleman Norton, 184 L Street, South Boston, Mass.
- b. Chief Warrant Boatswain Henry Schluter, USN, 144 Monmouth Street, Boston, Mass.
- c. Marion Eden, Chief Gunnery Officer, USN, aboard S/S BOWDOIN.

6. After consultation, it was decided not to grant MOHLE a regular security endorsement, but to give him a temporary endorsement, pending the outcome of the investigation for his passport. Accordingly, a letter of Temporary Security Endorsement, bearing his description, was given him this date. It states it is valid only until such time as his passport is granted or refused, and shall in no case be valid beyond 60 days from the time of issuance. Neither his COTP ID Card nor Z paper was security stamped.

7. The only alien aboard the ship, Anseleme NUNEZ, Guatamalian, had all papers in proper order, and had been previously security endorsed.



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8. Louis BAPTISTA, Chief Steward, aboard the above vessel advised that when the ship arrived at Leghorn, Italy on the 5th of March his Certificate of Identification #Z-341905, his discharge certificates, certificate of service, and Draft Registration Card were on a shelf over the desk in his cabin. On the 7th of March, BAPTISTA went to turn his papers over to the Captain as is the practice while the ship is in a foreign port, and found the papers missing. A search of the cabin and his personal effects did not reveal the papers. BAPTISTA occupies the cabin alone and had no idea as to the identity of the person who took the papers. He reported the incident to the Captain and to the local Coast Guard representative in Leghorn; BAPTISTA states he has been informed there is a thriving "black market" dealing with stolen U.S. Seamen's papers in Italian ports. BAPTISTA states the Z Certificate was issued to him at Boston in 1937; he intends applying for duplicates at Providence, R.I. BAPTISTA had in his possession Seamen's Passport, and Captain of the Port Identification Card which appeared to be in order.