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(2) That the Colombo, Ceylon, May 26, 1943.

radio operator not to give messages to Lt. Cox;

AIR MAIL

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

(3) That the Master failed to inspect the crews' quarters for liquor and arms upon the departure of the vessel from the port of call in Australia;

(4) That the Third Officer, Milton Taylor, filed complaints against E. R. SMALL, Master of the S.S. Jane A. Delano crew;

(5) That the Master refused to permit any members of the gun crew to make purchases from the ship's slop chest.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

I have the honor to report that, on May 25, 1943 when the S.S. Jane A. Delano of San Francisco (Official No. 204093) owned by the General Steamship Corporation of 465 California Street, San Francisco, called, without entering, at the port of Colombo, Ceylon, on May 25, 1943 in order to receive routing orders E. R. SMALL, the Master, accompanied by Lieutenant Alvin S. Cox, the Naval Gunnery Officer, came ashore, the former to obtain his routing orders and the latter to report to the United States Naval Liaison Officer at Colombo, Lieutenant Commander Brice W. Goldsborough.

During the course of his conversation with Lt. Comdr. Goldsborough Lt. Cox lodged complaints against the Master and I was accordingly invited by Lt. Comdr. Goldsborough to come to his office to consider the charges of Lt. Cox which were to the following effect:

(1) That during the last few days of the voyage from Australia to Ceylon, the crew's nest was not manned by any members of the ship's crew during a number of watches and that when this matter was brought to the attention of the Master he stated that there was no such requirement and that he had no men to spare from other work for this purpose as a result of which members of the gun crew manned the crew's nest to assure the safety of the vessel;

(2)

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- (2) That the Master issued orders to the radio operator not to give messages to Lt. Cox;
- (3) That the Master failed to inspect the crews' quarters for liquor and arms upon the departure of the vessel from its last port of call in Australia;
- (4) That the Third Officer, Milton Taylor, used obscene and abusive language to the officer in charge of the gun crew;
- (5) That the Master refused to permit any members of the gun crew to make purchases from the ship's slop chest.

Because of the seriousness of the foregoing charges I invited the Master to come to the Consulate in order to obtain his opinion and to caution him, if any of the charges were admitted.

As regards the first charge, the Master maintained that there was no requirement for him to station members of his crew in the crow's nest at all times. I informed him that the safety of the vessel should make it apparent that such a precaution was necessary, with or without orders, whenever a vessel was in a danger zone such as the waters in this vicinity. I requested him to give me his assurance that he would have the crow's nest manned at all times in future. The Master stated that he would do so if I would issue written orders to that effect. Such an order was at once issued, a copy being enclosed for purposes of reference.

As regards the second charge, the Master denied that it was true. Lt. Cox who had entered my office during the conversations with the Master asserted most positively that the charge was entirely correct. I informed the Master that Lt. Cox was entitled to receive copies of all radio messages pertaining to the routing of the ship and the presence of other vessels in the vicinity and requested his assurance that such messages would be given to Lt. Cox in future. This is provided in Part II, paragraph 10 of Navy Department General Instructions for Commanding Officers of Naval Armed Guards on Merchant Ships, as approved November 15, 1941. This the Master agreed to do.

As regards the third charge, the Master did not deny that it was true, but appeared to attach little importance to such matters. I informed him that

according

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according to a telegram from Admiral Land sent on October 11, 1942 to the War Shipping Administration representative at Colombo, he was required to comply with such orders and requested his assurance that he would do so upon the ship's departure from this port. This he agreed to do.

As regards the fourth charge, the Master stated that he was not present when the alleged language was used but he admitted that it was quite possibly true since he stated that all of the officers and most of the crew were thoroughly annoyed by the attitude of Lt. Cox and had filed a protest, signed by all the officers and several of the crew to that effect, of which a copy is enclosed.

So far as the fifth charge is concerned, the Master alleged that upon departure from the United States Lt. Cox had failed to share any of the cigarettes belonging to the gun crew with other members of the crew and maintained that on this account he saw no reason why any of the supplies in the ship's slop chest should be made available to the members of the gun crew. He referred to unspecified arrangements between the ship owners and the Seaman's Unions which gave certain rights to the crew and stated that he was obliged to leave the distribution of the supplies in the ship's slop chest to the union delegates on board his vessel. I informed the Master that the supplies for the ship's slop chest were placed on board the vessel by the War Shipping Administration for the benefit of the entire ships personnel and that he had no right to withhold issuing their proportionate share to members of the gun crew. Lt. Cox asserted that the small supplies of cigarettes brought on board the vessel by members of the gun crew and himself at the time of the ship's departure from the United States were their personal property and they were under no obligations to share this property with others on board. The Master thereupon denied that the gun crew comprised a part of the crew of his vessel, since they were not either listed on his articles or on his crew list. He exhibited a certified copy of his crew list and the articles and, upon examination, I found his statement that members of the gun crew were not so listed to be true, although in many cases the gun crew appears on the crew list below the other members of the crew. Nevertheless, I informed him that members of the United States Navy on board all American vessels comprised a portion of the ships crew and showed him an extract of Navy Regulations, defining the status of the gun crew and its relationship to

1. Letter (copy) to E. H. Small, Master U.S. Ship  
Delano dated May 25, 1943

the

1943 from Robert L. -4-11, American Consul at  
Colombo, Ceylon, on the subject of: Complaints  
Against E. R. Small, Master of the S.S. Jane  
the normal crew of the vessel. The Captain asser-  
ted that he had never seen such an order, (see  
Section 5, paragraph 1501 of War Time Instructions  
for U.S. Merchant Vessels) but Lt. Cox maintained  
that it had been shown to him before the departure  
of the vessel. Since the cigarettes in the slop  
chest have now all been divided amongst the members  
of the regular crew, none are available for the  
members of the gun crew for the remainder of the  
voyage.  
Colombo, May 25, 1943.

During my interview with Captain Small, he  
frequently lost his temper, raised his voice so that  
everyone in the Consulate could hear his remarks and  
showed a most uncooperative and rather arrogant at-  
titude. I appealed to him and to Lt. Cox, for the  
safety and welfare of the vessel, to try to forget  
the unfortunate incidents of the past that had  
brought about such a bad spirit between the regular  
crew and the gun crew. Lt. Cox at once gave assur-  
ance that he would forget the past and cooperate in  
the future if he could have the assurance of the  
Master that he would do likewise. The Master was  
most reluctant to give any such assurance but finally  
did so begrudgingly. hours of the day and night

During the present voyage of the S.S. Jane A.  
The investigation of the serious charges and my  
efforts to placate the discordant groups were un-  
fortunately, and of necessity, hastily conducted  
since the vessel was about to sail. I am not al-  
together convinced that the entire fault lay on one  
side, but I am thoroughly convinced that the Master  
is not only shockingly lacking in a proper sense of  
responsibility towards the safety of his vessel, as  
demonstrated by his refusal to order someone at all  
times to man the crow's nest when his ship was in a  
danger area but also that he possesses a most un-  
cooperative and unforgiving attitude toward the gun  
crew. His attitude gives sufficient grounds, in my  
opinion, at least for a serious reprimand upon the  
vessel's return to the United States.

This despatch has been shown to Lt. Comdr.  
Goldsborough who concurs entirely with my findings  
and the conclusions reached.

Respectfully yours,

Robert L. Buell  
American Consul

Enclosure:

1. Letter (copy) to E. R. Small, Master S.S. Jane A.  
Delano dated May 25, 1943
2. Letter (copy) to Port Director, Colombo, Ceylon,  
dated May 24, 1943.

Original and two copies to the Department  
Copy to Consulate General, Calcutta, India.  
Copy to Consulate General, Sydney, Australia.  
File no. 886.1

RLB:gw

Enclosure No.1 to despatch No.58 dated May 26, 1943 from Robert L. Buell, American Consul at Colombo, Ceylon, on the subject of: Complaints Against E. R. Small, Master of the S.S. Jane A. Delano.

COPY - COMPARED  
COPY - COMPARED

AMERICAN CONSULATE  
Colombo, May 25, 1943.

Port Director,  
Colombo, Ceylon.

E. R. Small, Esquire,  
Master, S.S. Jane A. Delano,  
Sir: Colombo.

Lieut. A. S. Cox U.S.N.R. Gunnery Officer  
Sir: board S.S. JANE A DELANO came on board this vessel in San Francisco, California with the

It is hereby recommended that to ensure the greater safety of the vessel you post a competent member of your crew on watch in the crow's nest at all hours of the day and night during the present voyage of the S.S. Jane A. Delano.

Very truly yours,

FOR THE CONSUL

(Sgd:) David T. Ray  
American Vice Consul

DTR:gw

Yours respectfully,

(Sgd:) E. R. Small  
Master S.S. Jane A. Delano.

A true copy of  
the signed original.

Approved:

- William Hillier, Chief Mate
- E. E. Weston, 2nd Mate
- M. E. Taylor, 3rd Mate
- W. B. Kirk, Clerk
- H. J. Fonger, Chief Steward
- Charles W. Colvin, Steward
- Frank L. Schoenbachler, Delegate Engine Dept.
- H. E. Painter, Deck Dept. Delegate

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MAY 28 1943

Enclosure No.2 to despatch No.58 dated May 26,  
1943 from Robert L. Buell, American Consul at  
Colombo, Ceylon, on the subject of: Complaints  
Against E. R. Small, Master of the S.S. Jane  
A. Delano.

CONFIDENTIAL

29 May, 1943.

COPY - COMPARED

From: Lt. Alvin S. Cox, U.S.N.R. Officer.  
To: Director of Naval Intelligence.

At Sea  
May 24, 1943.

Subject: S.S. JANE A. DELANO, Condition  
Port Director,  
Colombo, Ceylon.

1. On the afternoon of May 25, 1943, Lieutenant Alvin S. Cox,  
U.S.N.R., Officer Commanding Armed Guard on board S.S. JANE A. DELANO,  
reported Sir: and stated that his ship had not entered port but was at the  
outer anchorage and that she would continue her voyage within a few hours.  
Upon my inquiry, Lieut. A. S. Cox U.S.N.R., Gunnery Officer the ship  
he replied on board S.S. JANE A DELANO came on board this  
vessel in San Francisco, California with the  
attitude to dominate rather than co-operate.

2. By his actions, disagreements and disputes Captain  
Small had he has antagonized the entire crew against him- officials  
self and the U.S. Navy personnel, thereby break- ll leaved  
ing down their morale and disrupting the proper to accept  
functioning of the various departments of this of low con-  
vessel. Shipping Administration officials had found Captain  
Small negligent of duty and that he only mentioned the incident to emphasize  
that he was

I suggest that if he does not change his  
attitude and actions, he be transferred from  
before this vessel at the earliest opportunity, for the  
three (3) good of the service and the furtherance of this  
cigarette vessels part in the war effort.

Yours respectfully,  
Captain Small informed him that the Armed Guard crew would not be permitted  
to purchase cigarettes from the (Sgd:) E. R. Small supply was running low.  
This episode apparently precipitated Master S.S. Jane A. Delano, which the  
Master took after leaving Sydney. Further details of this situation may be  
found in enclosure (A).

Read and approved:

- L. Van Rillaer, Chief Mate
- E. E. Westin, 2nd Mate
- M. E. Taylor, 3rd Mate Milton Taylor, had, while on the
- L. B. Kirk, Clerk in the presence of Navy enlisted personnel
- H. J. Fonger, Chief Steward language with respect to him and
- Charles W. Colvin, Steward Delegate
- Frank L. Schoabachlem, Delegate Engine Dept.
- H. E. Painter, Deck Dept. Delegate