

(OMP)
CG-829-COMP

10 March, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMEN OF THE CREW DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE,
WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION

The Coast Guard has received information from a reliable source concerning William O. Risberg, Chief Mate on the SS JOSEPH M. MEDILL during a recently completed voyage. *File*

Report states that Risberg was considerably troublesome to ship's personnel during this voyage, interfering and attempting to direct the work of others without authority. It is also alleged that he (1) stole chronometers from the cargo (2) reduced the amount of current in the main degaussing coils without authority and thereby made the current inadequate to degauss the ship (3) reversed the leads on the steering compass, and broke the soldered connection on the standard compass of the degaussing resistance about 19 December, 1943, thereby causing an 11° and 9° error respectively in the compasses.

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

K. K. COWART
Chief, Merchant Marine
Personnel Division

