

CONFIDENTIAL

FINDING OF FACTS

1. A situation exists on board the U.S. KATRINA LUCKENBACH which impairs the efficiency of the ship, might cause loss of life and endanger of the ship. There are numerous instances of taking extended shore leave, failure to work and determination to adhere to the strict letter of the rules.

2. This condition is primarily the result of the hate and fear of the boatman, Felipe Garcia, by practically all members of the deck force. Due to the fact that Garcia has threatened to do bodily harm and kill some members of the crew individually and as a group of the deck force.

**FINDING OF FACTS, OPINIONS, AND
RECOMMENDATIONS OF A**

NAVAL BOARD OF INVESTIGATION

convened on board the

S.S. KATRINA LUCKENBACH

by order of

**The Commander U.S. Naval Forces
Western Australia.**

4. That Julian Register is a psychopathic personality without psychosis and is a trouble maker at any opportunity.

(a) That Julian Register did on or about the day the ship arrived in Cape Town, board into the ready area locker belonging to the U.S. Navy aboard the S.S. KATRINA LUCKENBACH which he later turned in to U.S.

To inquire into the alleged subversive activities and refusal of duty on the part of members of the crew of the S.S. KATRINA LUCKENBACH.

January 10, 1943.

(b) That Julian Register is a white male, civilian worker, who was seen in a white plate Navy uniform and assumed to be attached for transportation of the U.S. Navy, and at various ports at which the ship has called Register has been found in white to a complete navy uniform.

(c) That on January 3, 1943, the boatman Felipe Garcia and Julian Register prepared for a meal with knives on the deck of the S.S. KATRINA LUCKENBACH and were prevented from carrying Garcia by the Master.

5. The Master Fred Kordick agreed on the demand of the crew and on the advice of the American Consul, and told the crew of his decision to pay off the boatman Garcia on January 9, 1943. Later the same day he told the American Consul that he was not sure further demands upon him, therefore he would not abide by his agreement. He later told the matter before the U.S. Naval authorities. The demands made were not substantiated by the evidence.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NW 3-26-83-16
By AB NARA. Date 6/7/17

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FINDING OF FACTS

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1. A situation exists on board the S.S. KATRINA LUCKENBACH which impairs the efficiency of the ship, might cause loss of life and endanger of the ship. There are numerous instances of taking extended shore leave, failure to turn to and determination to adhere to the strict letter of the Union rules.

2. This condition is primarily the result of the hate and fear of the Boatswain, Felipe Garcia, by practically all members of the deck force. Due to the fact that Garcia has threatened to do bodily harm and kill many members of the crew individually and members of the armed guard collectively. His reputation and temperament is such that in the minds of the crew he is liable to carry out his threats.

3. In the opinion of the Master and a few of the ship's officers, John Gregory Leary, workaway, is a dangerous agitator and is responsible for the increased friction in the ship since his arrival on board but this has not been substantiated by the evidence. That on 10 January 1943, Leary attacked one Nathan Rottblett, water tender, in the mess hall of the S.S. KATRINA LUCKENBACH, breaking a heavy water glass on the said Rottblett's head.

4. That Julian Eugster, Able Seaman, is a psychopathic personality without psychosis and as such is of a type likely to promote trouble at any opportunity.

(a) That Julian Eugster did on or about the day the ship arrived in Capetown, break into the ready arms locker belonging to the U.S. Navy aboard the S.S. KATRINA LUCKENBACH and remove therefrom one .45 calibre pistol which he later turned in to U.S. Consul at Capetown.

(b) That Julian Eugster was on January 11, 1943 returned to the S.S. KATRINA LUCKENBACH by Shore Patrol, Fremantle in a uniform composed of an enlisted man's white hat, civilian sweater, and regulation navy trousers. He then put on a complete Navy uniform and demanded to be arrested for impersonating an enlisted man of the U.S. Navy, and at various ports at which the ship has called Eugster has been found on shore in a complete navy uniform.

(c) That on January 2, 1943 the Boatswain Felipe Garcia and Julian Eugster prepared for a combat with knives on the deck of the S.S. KATRINA LUCKENBACH and were prevented from engaging therein by the Master.

5. The Master Fred Kormick agreed on the demand of the crew and on the advice of the American Consul, and told the crew of his decision to pay off the Boatswain Garcia on January 9, 1943. Later the same day he told the American Consul that the crew had made further demands upon him, therefore he would not abide by his agreement. He then laid the matter before the U.S. Naval authorities. The fact that added demands were made was not substantiated by the evidence.

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OPINION

1. That the efficiency of the ship is affected by the lack of discipline aboard, but not sufficiently to warrant preferring charges against any individual for subversive activities or for refusal to obey orders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That no charges be preferred by Commander U.S. Naval Forces Western Australia before an Exceptional Military Court but that a copy of the proceedings of this Board be forwarded to proper authority in the United States for such action against Felipe Garcia, Julian Eugster and John Gregory Leary as may be deemed necessary.

2. That the Master of the S.S. KATRINA LUCKENBACH in conjunction with the U.S. Consul, Perth, Western Australia make any changes in personnel which appears advisable to them since full authority for same exists under normal maritime procedure.

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