

(OMP)  
CG-628-COMP

CONFIDENTIAL

24 April, 1944

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

The Coast Guard has received from a reliable source the following information concerning various crew members of the Motor Tug MATAGORDA.

It is reported that Darral G. Campbell, Electrician, Fred Stenquist, 1st Assistant Engineer, Horace Ebbs, A.B., and Lynn DeWitt, U. S. were removed from the MATAGORDA for misconduct and detained by authorities in the Canal Zone in March, 1944. DeWitt was subsequently released by authorities and sailed with his vessel from the Canal Zone. However, Campbell, Ebbs, and Stenquist were signed off and repatriated on the USAT FLORIDA.

Report alleges that Stenquist was negligent in the performance of his duties during his service aboard the MATAGORDA. Report states that he did not handle equipment properly, thereby causing damage. It is also reported that he (1) struck several crew members on various occasions, (2) was drunk while on watch, (3) pilfered ship's property, (4) continuously threatened and intimidated the Second and Third Assistant Engineers, and (5) was insolent to and assaulted the Chief Engineer on one occasion.

It is reported that Campbell threatened the Second and Third Engineers on occasion and on 24 March, 1944 beat the Second Cook. For assault on the Second Cook, Campbell was fined \$50.00 by local authorities in the Canal Zone.

It is reported that Ebbs and DeWitt beat the Second Cook on 17 February, 1944. It is also stated that Ebbs on 24 March, 1944, while Campbell was beating the Second Cook, stood by in an intoxicated condition, brandishing a knife.

The Coast Guard will instigate whatever disciplinary action is warranted in these cases.

K. K. COWART  
Chief, Merchant Marine  
Personnel Division

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by UP NARA. Date 7/20/17