

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO
 THE COMMANDANT (OMP)
 REFER TO FILE: CG-628-COMP

WASHINGTON

16 October, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

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 Robert S. Hayes, Master of the SS MEANTICUT.

When in convoy on 22 August, 1943, report alleges that Captain Hayes, whose ship was assigned to #13, signalled the Commodore that #11 and #12 could not keep station and that he was assuming their position. The Commodore signalled that #11 was rejoining the convoy and that the SS MEANTICUT should take #12. When #11 rejoined the convoy, Captain Hayes, in violation of orders took a position some cables outside of the #11 and signalled for permission to take position astern of the convoy because he claimed he could not follow the column. The Commodore answered that he would have to try #12, whereupon Captain Hayes signalled that he was going to keep his position outside #11 or follow in the stern. Captain Hayes persisted in maintaining this position outside #11 despite the attempt of the S.O.B. who went alongside to reason with him. Then, just before dark he took a station in the rear of open column # 5. The next morning, however, without further signal, he assumed his old position #13 and no further trouble ensued.

On August 31, when the Commodore signalled Captain Hayes that he would be compelled to report his conduct, Captain Hayes signalled back that he in turn would report the Commodore.

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

H. T. JEWELL
 Commander, U.S.C.G.
 Chief, Merchant Marine
 Personnel Division

