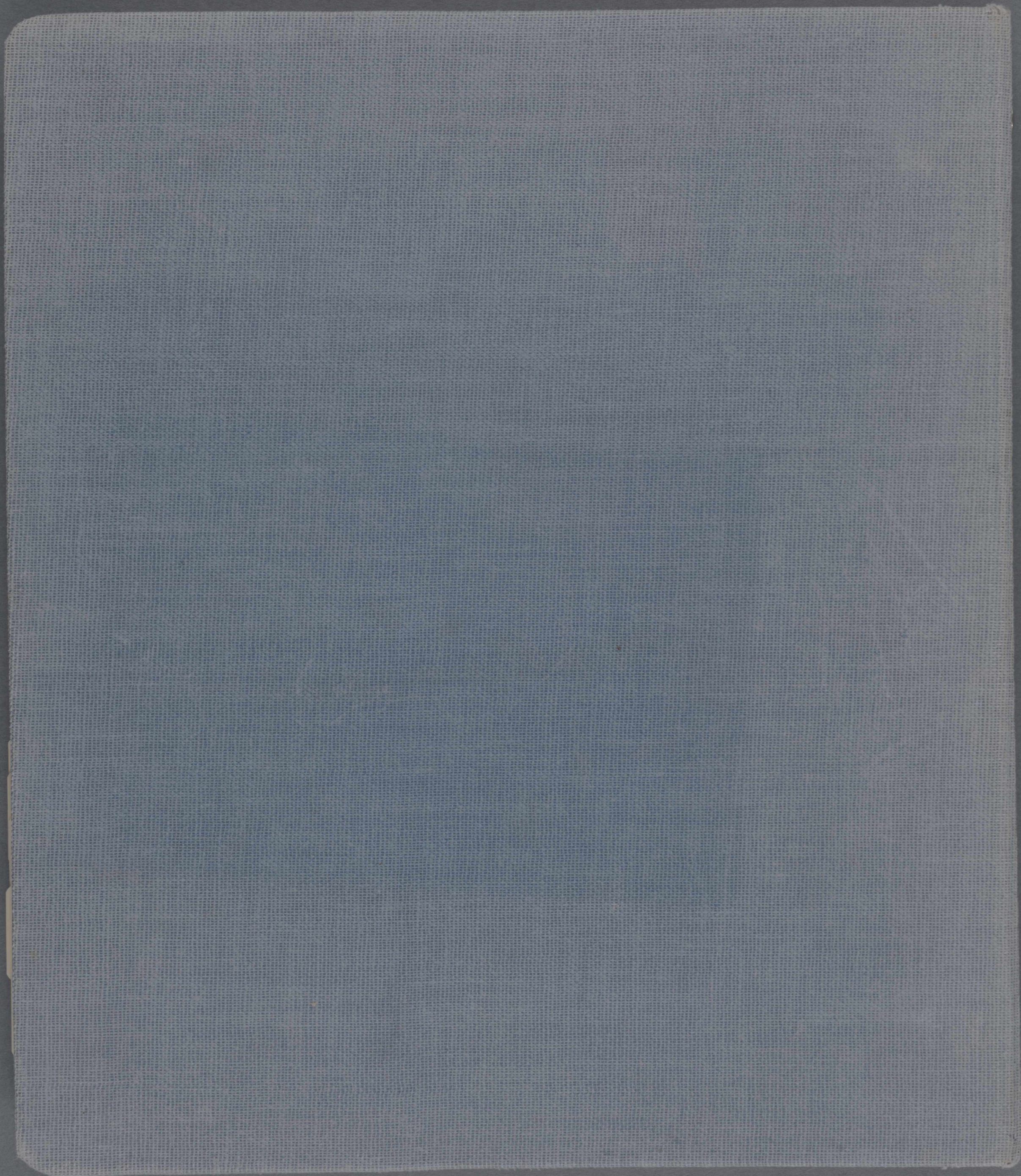




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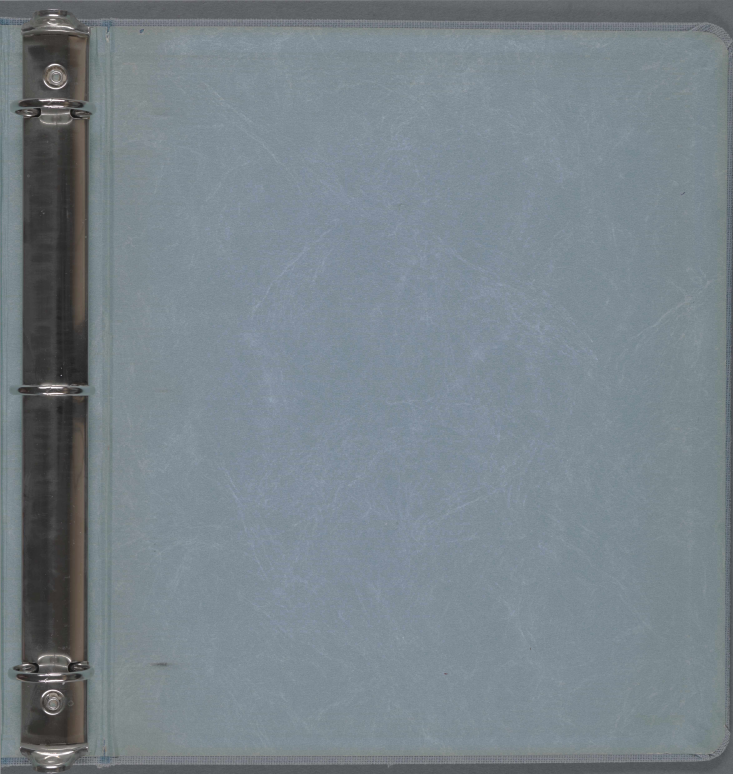


Port Chicago

Organizational Notes

and Index

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Port Chicago

Organizational Notes

and Index

ENTRY

A

See GCM
for records ENTRY
on new's history
prior to Navy

Struct. Condox

Draftees vs Enlistees

(accidental/incidental entry vs intentional entry)

- 1 Small drafted 1943 (12/6/77 p.1)
(a "by chance" situation)

- 3 Routh enlisted in Navy in "unusual" way in July 1942
(Army recruiting office was closed) 5/2/78 p.1
Enlistment opened after Joe Louis fight (p.19), 21-22
2 Criffenden drafted, had choice between Navy &
Marines. When learned that Marines "first to land,"
he chose Navy (Cvt. 12/13/77, p.1)

- 1A Shopp drafted, wanted to go in Army
(Shop 10/20/77 p.1)

- 1 Waldrop drafted, asked for Navy
(12/9/77 p.8)

Guy: drafted in July 1943 (12/14/77 p.1)
asked for Navy
June

Robinson Drafted in 1943 (5/20/78 p.1)
fight encountered discrimination at Great Lakes

4 Bordeware Volunteered in 1942, was underage (16),
kicked out, but volunteered again later (8/28/80 p.1)
family background 2, 27, 19 (Creole) -2

Meeks Drafted August 1943 (8/24/80, p. 7)
(had worked in shipyard as welder)

Entry

struct. comdx

TRAINING

6 weeks for Small then home leave
12/6/77 p. 2

Crittenden: 6-8 wks at Camp Small then home
leave for 21 day (Crit 12/13/77 p. 1)

Shay. served on mine sweeper, then went to
Great Lakes (Shay 10/20/77 p. 1, 2)
Went to gunnery school, 4-6 mos
"my naval career was different from everybody
else's. went to two boat camps."

(Shaypad 10/20/77, p. 20)

Wardrop trained at Great Lakes (12/9/77, p 6, 8
9 weeks

Guy trained at Great Lakes 10 weeks (12/14/77, 1)

Ruth trained at Great Lakes, graduated
in Sept 1942, sent to Midway Island
5/21/78 p. 7-2

no training in ammo handling

mentions a few b/f old times at
Great Lakes (5/21/78 p. 19)

Had ^{specialized} no schools at Great Lakes p. 22

Description

Robinson describes training: Learned

Copy of Blue Jacket's Manual
in JAG file

personal hygiene + how to clean barracks;
swimming, exercises + sports; Marching
+ drilling, 8 hours on rifle range
with da'22 (5/20/78 p. 2-3)
Competition in boot camp

Bordenave training was mainly marching

meeks mostly stood guard + drilled
8/24/80 p. 8

Lt Cdr Fulmer took Wagner Psychology
Course at Great Lakes (COI, 629)

Alvin Williams describes doing guard
duty (See his letters in WAGC file)

ENTRY

EXPECTATIONS

(See also
Attitude towards
the war)

Expectations controlled/limited by
restricting information using as rationale
"a slip of the lip will sink a ship"
(Small 12/6/77, p. 2) Meek, p. 9

Crittenden expected to go to sea, "That was basis
of boot training" (Critt 12/13/77 p. 2)
mentions Dorie Miller (p. 6)

Sheppard wanted to be regular seaman (gunner)
10/24/77, p. 2

"They don't tell you anything" - Sheppard

Kouth expected to be taught a trade,
but blacks weren't used for the
"better things" (electronics, computers, etc)
(5/21/78 p. 2), 22

He also expected to be aboard a ship
(p. 3) now complained about being
reduced to stowaway, "but we were
powerless to do anything about this (p. 3)
mentioned Dorie Miller

Kouth thought stowaway work "beneath"
the enlisted man (5/21/78 p. 17)

Bordenave: expected to go to sea, be a
Sailor (8/23/80, p. 2, 4)
was put in a "slave" outfit (p. 3)

See also "Hist. of Great Lakes"
p. 281 re expectations

Meeks Expected to wind up
on a ship (p. 8)
submarine duty

Navy service before PC.

Sheppard was on a mine sweeper

Waldrop was at More Island first
loading ammo (12/9/77 p. 8)

Routh was at More Island loading
ammo, men were billeted on an old
river boat dubbed the USS Waverly
(5/21/78, p. 9) was on the boat from
September thru November 1942, then moved
to regular barracks.

Describes land tender at More Island p. 21

Bordenave worked at More Island for
7 mos. making & storing ammo
(8/23/80 p. 2)

Liked More Island better because
men did different jobs, not just loading
ammo p. 30

History and Problems at Great Lakes

Racial discrimination

(See June 9, 1943 letter to Walter
White in NAACP-CC file from Charles Boyd)

See file folder containing

"History of Great Lakes
Training Station"

(See pp. 270f, 273, 277, 280

281

See also manual on ~~Negro Training~~
Command of Negroes in NAACP-CC file
(apparently not in Training office)

Notes from History of Great Lakes
Training Center, Bureau of
Naval Personnel 1942

Construction of Camp Robert Smalls
in 1942 p. 27-8 (finished in June)
(Name adopted in Aug, 1942, p. 262)
"Negro Training" pp. 261f

Armstrong, son of founder of Hampton Institute,
headed up Negro training program. 262-3
280

Robert Smalls, black civil war hero, p. 262

- Segregation was policy, 264
- Discipline problems, Armstrong not
considered "tough" enough, 264-5
"Special treatment" of black recruits, 265

Intelligence officers spied on black recruits, 270

Service Schools - 271, 275-6

- Discipline problems - marijuana, tardiness, sleeping
on duty, 273-4 (had lesson by 1945)
Experiment with integrated training, 274
13,550 black recruits in training in Feb, 1944 - 276

- Segregation policy ^{in 1945} abandoned, 277-8 - 280
Black officers criticize Negro training
policies, 281-4

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PC BACKGRND

History of P.C.

See Operational Archives folder

Also folder containing

"History of P.C. novel magazine"

History of port Chicago

(See also Naval History Documents)

See CUI,

Goss testimony, 869f

Goss' background 869

Goss objected
to using
contract standards
because of
879 race

Loading platform too narrow, 871
shortage of commercial storerooms, 872, 878-9
Lack of recreation facilities, 872-3
Constant expansion due to war, 873
Organization of P.C. (Exhibit 41) 875
Night Loading 878
Training, 878
Goss wanted white enlisted men, 880
Men at Mon Island housed
on old river steamer, 880
Was not enthusiastic about receiving
black enlisted men, 881

men had "chip on their shoulder", 881 885, 887
or exp for petty officers (blw), 882-3

Vallejo riot, 882-3, 887 Exhibit 44

Lack of
training of
888-9
officers, 900
891, 894, 900

Use of blk enlisted men for loading 892

Kenna reports 29 April 1944, 894

Holmon had bad hearing, a slow reflexes, 895

Ringquist 12 June 1944, 895

Safety memos, 897

Tonnage rate set by Goss, 906-7

Goss's report on explosion - Exhibit 71, 72

Conflict with Port Director 904, 910, 913

Exhibit 73

Causes of exp. 917-18

Work refusal, 927

(over)

Stevenson
910

Kirine Testimony

Started loading two ships
simultaneously May 10, 932, 953
Officers on board, 933

Additional men arrive, 953-4

- * 10% of civilian personnel at P.C.
quit after explosion, 956

Recreation facilities, 958

- * P.C. handled 50% of all explosions
shipped from SF Bay Area, 978

Blackboard on barge
951

Vallejo Riot

December, 1942 (?)

Small heard about it (6/3/78, p. 3)

Routh (5/21/78 p 3-4)

Sailor and cop got into fight. word spread that policeman was beating up a black sailor. Riot ensued. Routh blames it on segregation and lack of recreational facilities. Navy quickly improved recreational facilities and changed the method of rating personnel. Nobody was court-martialed. Worst officers ^{were} shipped out. (Ruth)

Condx improved at more Island and were better than at P.C. Comparison of the two pp. 4-5, 21

Note:

Compare Vallejo riot with P.C. situation

Bordenova was in the riot

(8/23/80 p 11-12)

(see no longer made - may mean PC)

Guss

882-3, 887-8 Exh. b, 244

See also interviews
re Grievances. Also
COI re. unlisted men &
Grievances

Prior work slowdowns
or stoppages

~~Woodland 853, 864~~

COI

Goss - men endeavor to bargain, 845
Exhibit 44

"Agitators" harass men going to work 904
(why?)

Recalcitrance of men

Holman 630

Woodlaw 853, 864

slowdown over food, 961

work stoppage over racist slurs, 964

See petition - letter in NARCH file
(from R.C. men in 1943)

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WORK

C

WORK

ARRIVAL AT P.C.

Small arrived in August 1943 (12/6/77, p. 2)
was in Division 4 from August 1, wind operator

C. Lifford arrived "after part of 43" (12/13/77, p. 2)
was in Division 2 under Lt. Robin (Hutchinson)

Shepard arrived May-June 1944 was checked
in with all-black base 10/20/77, 4 worked in
45 Div

Waldrop arrived 6-7 mos. before explosion
12/5/77 p. 6

Imp. 11
(2nd)

Con arrived Oct 1943 (12/14/77, 1)

was in fourth Div. worked in hold

Route arrived in April 1944 (5/21/77, p. 5)
(Got sunny court marked)

Division to (Y. 27) became wind operator (p. 7)
Sent from Main Island with a
group of 70 men (p. 7)

P.C. was in process of expansion (p. 23)

Robinson arrived Sept. 1943 (5/20/77, p. 3)
in 4th Division, worked in hold (p. 10)
base expanding (p. 10)

Got sunny court marked (p. 27)

Borden arrived March 1944 (p. 4)
was in 2nd Div Lt Robin (p. 10)
was hot & attendant (p. 5)

Moels

Worked in hold and
was wind operator 16

PORT CHICAGO (THE BASE)

IMAGES / DESCRIPTIONS OF

As muddy (small 12/11/77 p.4)

"A deserted place" (Crittendon 12/13/77 p.2)

~~Stewart~~ "Work house barn" Ship 10/20/77 p.12

only 3 buildings in Oct, 1972
Robinson 5/20/78 p.3

"It was lousy" no recreation hall at
"first Burnhove, 8/33/80 p.4
"miserable place" (p.30)

Men's impressions of each other

Small sees Lewin as opportunistic
(12/6/77 p.25) (1/3/78, 24-5)

Small remembers Wisdom as practical joker
(12/6/77 p.13)¹⁴ Sheppard as light-skinned
Green as old fellow

Small remembers the 50 as "hardmouths and
fighters", other men were "docile" (12/6/77, p.13)
adolescent (1/3/78 p.10)

Critchfield remembers Benton Dero as stutterer,
unintelligent country boy 12/13/77 p.22
also John Collins

Sheppard remembers Small as a guy who
was always "fixing things" 10/20/77, p.21

Sheppard remembers other guys as not
having too much sharts 10/20/77, p.6
"mostly had much schooling" 10/20/77 p.4

Shep. thought Green was a clown 10/20/77, p.14

Shep and Small were good friends
10/20/77 p.4, 16

Sheppard remembers Glenny as a guy who
never worked 10/20/77, p.12

Gay & ^{Critchfield} Sheppard were friends (Gay 12/14/77 p.3)

Routh — high opinion of Naval enlistees
(5/21/78 p. 17, 21-22, 24)

Black music at Mare Island (p. 21)

Russo, blk division ldr, (p. 25)

Robinson Conflict in barracks
over noise (5/20/78 p. 9)

Bordenava Log mark was made,
picked on by guards. (8/23/80, 29)

Access to Information

Attitudes toward the war

Men had access to radios, newspapers
by rote letters

(Small 6/3/78 p. 29)

Sheppard "used to get Pittsburgh Courier and
Nation Afro-American whenever I went."
(Shep 10/20/77, p. 15) (Nok: ~~Cougar~~ initiated "doubt" campaign in 1982)

Attitude toward war (See also Attitudes toward)

(Going back to work - work stop)

Small - "It wasn't discussed" "My concern with the
war started ~~when~~ ^{when} the bomb came out of box car
and ended when it was in the hold."

6/3/78, p. 29-30

Sheppard - "When I come to fight, I don't wait -
to come fighting with pots & pans" 10/20/77 p. 2, 5

North mentions Webster wanted to "get in
there and help prosecute the war"

5/21/78 p. 22

"We come to fight" p. 24

Critter Low, p. 6

Development of Small's leadership
(before Explosion)
(For more details, see Small interview 6/10/78)
on background

Small was lieutenant in CC comp (6/3/78, p. 2)

process
Note:

men chose him as their spokesman. Small enjoyed
"prestige" of it (6/3/78, p. 3)
prestige as compensation for the responsibilities
of spokesmanhip

Small compares his principal identity with Lowie's
opponentism 6/3/78 p. 25

Small sees his moving into leadership as "inevitable"
"natural leadership ability" in CC comp.

Selected as cadence caller
Compares self with petty officers
Becoming a wind operator
6/3/78, p. 26-28

also Small confronted Delveci
Hed Williams removed from barracks

WORK

street condx

TRAINING

No training given

Small - not necessary except for winch operators 12/4/77, p. 5

New men "trained" by transferring more experienced men to their division (Crt 12/13/77, p. 14)

Sheppard - Men "didn't have the training. Didn't know what they were doing". 10/20/77 p. 3

Robinson - no training, learned job by working alongside experienced men. (5/20/78 p. 4)

Winch operations only skilled job, 100% required to be able to lift ~~100~~ 165

No training

Hardware 5
Nests 16
(learned by working with experienced winch operators)

See COT section on training

WORK

Becoming a winch operator

→ At own initiative

"picking it up myself" ^{small}
becomes winchman by watching operator
12/6/77, p. 2-3

Getting someone else to teach you
Booth goes to winch school 5/21/78, p. 7, 9

Winchman worked with hatch tenders
Crittenden 12/13/77 p. 4-5

See COT section on Training
+ Winch problems as possible cause of exp.

WORK

Struct.
cont'd

SAFETY (See also COI)

Lack of safety procedures

"There weren't any" (Small 12/6/77 p.3)

"No safety procedure" (Chittenden 12/13/77 p.4)

Chittenden used shoulders instead of hands on hatch tender ("It was chilly") 12/13/77 p.5

bombs hit sides of ship
(Small 6/3/78, p.7)

Small, as wind operator nearly injured man because of rushing. 6/3/78, p.14

Sheppard - wind operator banged bombs into ship.
Ship was shocked, complained to operator 10/20/77, 3, 26

Men ignored "No Smoking" sign (Shep 10/20/77, p.5)

Lack of security - windlog 12/9/77 1, 19

Guy: Coast guard would check on handling
One time didn't like what men were
doing - rolling 500lb bombs (12/14/77, p.2)

Danger of dropping heavy bomb on someone
(Robinson 11/20/78 p. 4)-5

"No-smoking" on the deck (p.5) (over)

Robinson 5/20/78 p.5

Safety procedure on which, Operator was supposed to wait if someone on the ladder.

Detonators never stored below deck.

Lack of Coast Guard Detail (COI, p 8-9)

Work unsafe, weeks 8/28/80 p15-16

EXPLOSION

Danger of, Fear of
(Risk management)

Small predicted explosion would occur
because of unsafe condx (12/6/77 p. 8)

process notes
Discounting
Risk

Criffenden: Man joked abt being "first out
of hold" if ship blew. Saw bombs hit
bottom ~~side~~ of ship, concluded there was little danger
(12/13/77, p. 4)

Small confronted Delveci "Numerous times" abt
danger of explosion from concussion ~~Delveci~~
6/2/78, p. 6 12/6/77, p. 8, 20 ~~discounted~~
danger

~~Delveci~~
Small sez men were afraid of an explosion
but there was little they could do about it (6/3/78, p. 7)

Small sez he not really afraid, not a coward,
but fearful about unsafe working condx.

6/3/78, p. 11, 19

Small sez not afraid of dying but of being crippled.

6/3/78, p. 26

confronting
Discounting

Sheppard confronts which operation abt consequences,
danger of exp. (10/20/77, p. 3) man discounts risk

fantasy

Lack of security, possible sabotage

Waldrop 12/5/77 p. 1, 19

"Who you're going to complain to?"

Waldrop 12/5/77, p. 9)

discounting

"They said they didn't have no fuse"
Gay 12/18/77 p. 1

Henry Scott, military P.O. Dick: men had talked abt
possibility of explosion, but "never thought it would
happen" COI, 1101

Discounting) Routh: no one "really took this
serious" Accidents occurred without
explosion so men concluded that it
work was not really dangerous
5/21/78. p. 8

Discounting) Robinson: Accidents occurred w/o explosion
"We didn't believe it was any
danger to it" (5/20/78 p. 9-10
(Although with first accident men were
fearful p. 10)
no previous training/exp with ammo.

Discounting) Rorden (8/23/80 p. 5-6) ammo handled
a little rough but didn't explode
"they figured detonators wasn't in the
ammo" no training or knowledge
about safety!

Discounting) Meeks accidents happened but no explosion
officer told men there were no
detonators (8/24/80 p. 1
men were "scared to death", feared
explosion p. 10, 13

Note 8 of 9 men interviewed ^{mentioned} a discounting
process.

WORK

IMAGES OF WORK

"Work battalion" (Small 12/6/77, p. 2, 4)

"Workhorse base" (Shup. 10/20/77 p. 12)

"Regular stavedon, hard labor" Crit 12/13/77 p. 3

"We were a muleteam" (Small 6/10/78, p. 1)

"Rough work" Cay 12/14/77 p. 1

"hard common labor" (Robinson 5/20/78 p. 4)

"slow outfit" "cheap labor force"

"miserable life" (p. 5) (Bordenov, 8/23/80 p. 3)

"Like a mule" (p. 5)

"cattle wagon" (p. 10)

Noisy place - COI, 1149

WORK

See also
COI sections
on work

DESCRIPTIONS OF WORK

Small 12/6/77 p.3

Shifts — Small 12/6/77 p.5

"Regular stevedore, hard labor"
(Cuttenden 12/13/77 p.3)

Cuttenden was hatch tender, used shoulders to
direct winches (12/13/77 p.4-5)

"Solid work. Go down in ship and build yourself
all the way up. just racking"
(Sheppard 10/20/77, p.12)
men would slide down ladder like firemen
(Shep 10/20/77 p.6)

Glenny never worked, always thrown in brig
(Shep 10/20/77 p.12)

Waldrop — 12/9/77 p.10

Gay — "rough work" handling bombs"
(12/14/77 p.1)

Gay told story of George Booth who
broke open box cars and got rows of
women written in language. Wrote them
letters (See Annotated Notes, p.3)

Routh 5/21/78 p.20

Lack of motivation

Routh says officer never assembled
me to explain importance of work
5/21/78 p. 18, 25

(Cf Robinson 5/20/78, p 7)

Robinson describes work 5/20/78 p 3-4, 5, 6

Status system Guys who worked in
hold had "better status" than guys
on docks (Robinson 5/20/78 p 8)

Bordenave 8/23/80 p 4-5

Munks. 8/24/80 p. 13
(man worked at refineries on
Rex off days)

WORK

NOTE: Godwin
10 turns/hatch/in
for ch of Inv. 1209

TOMNAGE

(See also competition)
(See also COI)

Officers check tomnages being loaded
(Snail 12/6/77, p.3
skip. 10/20/77, p.5

"There was always a tomnag ring"
Coffman 12/13/77 p.5

offering "tomnag winds" (skip 10/20/77, p.6)

You produce (load) so much weight on
somebody caught hell (wulday 12/9/77 p.10

wulday head officer discuss tomnag
(12/9/77, p.12

Gay: ~~Memorandum~~ one officer (Shewar)
would discuss matter. Gay himself was
thrown in brig (12/11/77 p.2)

~~Re: 120310000~~ tomnag posted on
bulletin board (5/12/01 p.7)

WORK

Competition in boot training
(Robinson 5/20/74 p.2)

COMPETITION

(See also COI, Tonnage issue)

"We were pushed"

Officers betting

Competition going on "from beginning" (in Aug, 1973)

Lack of punishment was reward

(small 12/6/77, p.3

"You always knew what the division did in front of you" Critchden 12/13/77 p.5

Threat of taking away liberty as punishment

Crit 12/13/77 p.6

Men got into spirit of the thing, bent over among selves. "We'd have this little thing between us" (Critchden 12/13/77 p.6

"It was kind of play" Monitor between men

(Kourr 5/21/78 p.6

Drapping about it - Robinson (5/20/74 p.7)

Officers would make men go faster "Ship 10/6/77 p.6

Guys "didn't have the real snafu"

Counter
Cultural
patrie

Men would slow down "You couldn't strike, you couldn't quit, you just slowed down

(Wednesday 12/5/77 p.10)

Men given recreational privileges as reward for competing (Wednesday 12/9/77 p.11

Good
Description
of process

Robinson: DeLucci built up patriotic
feeling in men, told them ammo
was needed for invasions (5/20/78, p. 6-7)
"Like a coach of a football team"
"They got you psyched up"
"We used to brag about it"
tonnage posted on Bulletin board
flag given to division that
loaded most tonnage each week

Bordenave (8/23/80 p. 8)
"The pace was heavy"
A flag on pennant was given to
the best division - "E" flag

Mark, p 15

LIBERTY

Descriptions of Liberty activities

6/5/78, p.3

Black Diamond St. in Pittsburg

Small 12/6/77, p.6

Club 7 on 7th St. in Oakland

6/10/78 p.1-2

→ Conflict with soldiers in Pittsburg

Small 6/3/78, p.3

Fillmore St. (Shops 10/20/77 p.12)

Waldrop 12/4/77 p.7

Oakland - Club Slim Jenkins (City 12/14/77, p.2,3)

SF - Club Alabamian, Club Havana Club 5th St

Sewants in Oakland (Koblenow 5/20/78 p.12)

no Navy bus to Oakland / SF / Pittsburg

(Small 12/6/77 p.5)

Went to Oakland, SF, Stockton (Carpenter 12/13/77 p.3)

Every other week (Bordenov, 8/23/80 p. 10)

Recreation facilities COI - 9584, 962

PUNISHMENT / DISCIPLINE

+ (Blue Jacket's manual)

Restricting liberty as chief form of punishment ^{Small}
(Small 12/4/77, p. 6) ^{no brig on base (?) 12/17/78, 27}
^{guilt after explosion (?)}

Blue Jacket's manual — "This was our Bible"
men commonly discussed it because officers
expected them to be able to recite sections
of it. men were punished if they didn't.
Story about homosexual trying to get a section 8
(Small 6/17/78 p. 7-8) (Robinson 5/20/78 p. 18)

Blacks handled punishment; whites put men
on bread and water (Walchop 12/9/77 p. 9)

Guy was put in brig several days
for apparently being absent from work
He worked in the hold (12/14/77, p. 2)

Bread & water a popular punishment
(Robinson 5/20/78 p. 8)

Robinson said men check Blue Jacket's manual
re getting leaves if wounded 15/20/78 p. 18

Disciplinary problems — See COI sections
on enlisted men problems as seen
by officers

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GRIEVANCES

E

GRIEVANCES (See also C&I Grievances)

FACTS OF ~~C&I~~ MANAGING

Base muddy, lack of recreational facilities
"Nothing we could do about it" (Small 12/6/77, p. 4)

Gripping

Men talked abt grievances among selves but
"never brought to any demonstration"
(Small, 12/6/77, p. 6) (Korth 5/21/78 p. 3)

Offset
Grievances BALANCED against benefits

- 3 meals, bed, etc (Small, 12/6/77, p. 6)
- ^{Robinson} balanced discrimination against getting into Navy as a seaman (5/20/78 p. 1) ~~at~~
- Balanced Navy combo against home condx (Robinson 5/20/78 p. 11) so Navy seemed "great" by comparison

Went Thru
chain of
command

Grievances taken to petty officer when they "died"
(Small 12/6/77, p. 6) Cutler 12/13/77 p. 9-11
(Waldrop 12/6/77, p. 12) Robinson 5/20/78 p. 23
Small suspects misuse of funds (\$250,000)
appropriated to modernize base (rumor?)
Small 12/6/77, p. 7-8)

Small confidently Delucci abt danger of exp.
D sez not possible w/o Arses; and if it does
blow Small won't know so don't worry
Small 12/6/77 p. 8, p. 20

Editorial
petition

"We'd sign a petition" asking for ratings
(Waldrop 12/5/77 p. 12) See NACCR-L.C.
Also for copy of 4/43 letter/petition sent to
attorney Walter Gordon

Delucci gives Small a manual on
bombs (12/6/77, p. 20)

"Acceptance, but..."

"Segregation and all-white officers — we
accepted that" but Clitterden went on
to recite patriotic high school oration
calling on country to give black men a
chance to prove self
(Clitterden 12/13/77 p. 6)

Nothing
could
be done

"We knew the situation shouldn't have been
that way but it appeared that it was
out of reach" (Crist 12/13/77, p. 7)
(Routh 5/21/78, p. 3)

public
outside
pressure
attempted

Letter sent by P.C. men in 1983. Small
heard abt it, that "things are gonna change"
(Small 6/3/78, p. 1) Public sentiment, importance of to Small
(6/7/78, p. 14, 17/18)

Nothing
could
be done

Now feared ^{danger of} explosion but there was "little you
could do abt it" (Small 6/3/78, p. 3)

Discouraging
Risk

Sheppard complained to wind operator abt carelessness
(11/20/77 p. 3) Don't worry no fuse in
them

Robinson saw bombs dropped, bent, concluded
danger minimal (5/20/78, p. 9-10)

Nothing
could be
done

"Where you going to complain to"
(Waldrop 12/9/77 p. 9)

slow
downs

"You slowed down" (Waldrop 12/9/77 p. 10)
men slowed down to protest promotion policy
(Robinson 5/20/78 p. 8)

CONFINANCES (see also COI section)

~~Dispersal~~

(only 8 lks. looked at)

Segregation and all-white officers" ^{North} ^{Strickland, p. 5}
(Gay 6/3/77, p. 14) (Cuthbertson 12/1/77, p. 6)

(Walsh 12/9/77, p. 1, 7, 26) (Sheppard, 10/20/77, p. 4) (Gay 12/14/77, p. 2)

Base muddy, lack of recreational facilities

(Gardner 3, 4, 9 (small meals, p. 3, p. 4) 5

I wanted another work because of money

Crit 12/13/77 p. 8

Wings

Structural limitations on possibilities of getting higher ratings (Crit 12/13/77 p. 8

"Nobody got a leave" after explosion
Cuthbertson, p. 16, Robinson, p. 17-22 Mead, 3-4, 9

No black officers (small 6/3/77, p. 1-2
Small told he too young to be promoted to petty officer

Competition caused rushing, (conclusiveness (dangerous working conditions)
(Small 6/3/77 p. 7

Which operator barged bombs, against ship (making contact)
(Shep. 10/20/77 p. 3)

Common later

Lack of ratings — doing standard work
when went to running school (Shep. 10/20/77, p. 4) p. 6, 7
Walsh 12/6/77 p. 1 (Mead, 21

No transfers to other bases — Walsh had
tried to get in 12/9/77 p. 4, 7
Also see ~~Walsh~~ Gay 12/14/77, p. 2

Dangerous
working

Crit

Note:

The segregation grievance is chiefly related to the restriction of blacks to hard labor (no white leading arms) and the denial of advancement opportunities to blacks (ie discrimination)

Lack of ratings: blacks doing work of carpenters, leadmen but not given ratings Waldrop 12/9/77 p. 6-7

Poor food Waldrop 12/9/77 p. 7, 11
Small 12/6/77 p. 5

Ratings: Navy didn't give blacks the "better ratings" Roth 5/21/78 p. 2-3, 5

Poor transportation (Small 12/6/77, p. 5)
Roth 5/21/78 p. 5

~~Robinson doc.~~

Discrimination at Great Lakes

(Robinson 5/20/78 p. 1)

Robinson sez men thought things at PC were "great" at first, few skips most men just out of high school, had better conditions than at home (p. 11)

Robinson Grievances built up until explosion (5/20/78 p. 19) 20

no promotions - marks, p. 14

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OFFICERS

F

OFFICERS

(See also C of F
on back of exp.
officers)

As seen by men

Officers come around to check loading
and turnage

Small 12/6/77 p. 3

Crit 12/13/77 p. 9

Sheppard says officers
would leave (10/2/77, 5)
except to move men
work faster (p. 6)

Petty officer "incompetent" (Small 12/6/77 p. 6)

P.O. K.D.'s harass men, dump them out of bed
AS "slave drivers" (Crit 12/13/77, p. 7-8)

P.O. as easily "handled" by officers (Crit 12/13/77, p. 11)

P.O. has different interests from enlisted men (Crit, p. 11)

Small complains Delucci abt danger of exp

12/6/77 p. 8

6/3/78 6-7

D gives small a manual 12/6/77, p. 20

Small remembers Delucci as "hot tempered, red-necked
cracker" 12/6/77, 16

Christensen Remembers Tuben as about 45 yrs old
(12/13/77 p. 2)

He thinks Tuben sent to P.C. "for something he had
done" (ibid)

He describes Tuben as "a psychologist" (12/13/77, p. 7)

Got next to you, got you to work

Tuben tries to get crit to go back to work (p. 16)

Highest ranking blk was P.O. 3rd class (small 6/3/78, p.2)

4th Div. had two blk KOs, who had private
rooms in barracks (small 6/3/78, p.3)

Delucci a "no good son of a bitch". Ex-prof.

Wrestler, belligerent (Shep. 10/20/77 p.4)

in late 20's (10/20/77 p.23) in 30's (Kushner 3/29/78 p.13)

in late 30's (May 12/18/77, p.2)

Guy remembers Delucci as a "nice cat."

I had my way around the base on
account of him. (12/14/77, p.1)

remembers blk P.O.s - Boyer & Woods

Didn't like Shower, a Virginian cracker
(p.2)

Ruth sez relations with officers were "civil."

"No real hostility" 5/21/78 p.5

Thinks officers were not happy at P.C. (25)

Robinson: None of the guys liked Delucci
but they respected him (5/20/78 p.12-13)

He stuck to the rules

Officers were "the bosses... the ones
who made you work so hard"

Lt. Elwood became his godfather when
he converted to catholicism (p.12)

Elwood, who was executive officer, was
trying to find a "decent spot" (better job)

for Robinson (13-14)

Note try to analyze/categorize
different ways men viewed &
related to African

Bordenave Little contact with African
until men got on the "cattle wagon"
to go to work (8/23/80, p. 10)

Enlisted men as seen
by officers

See COI sections on
enlisted men problems

Causes of eq (rough handling)

Grievances

Work stoppage / slow downs

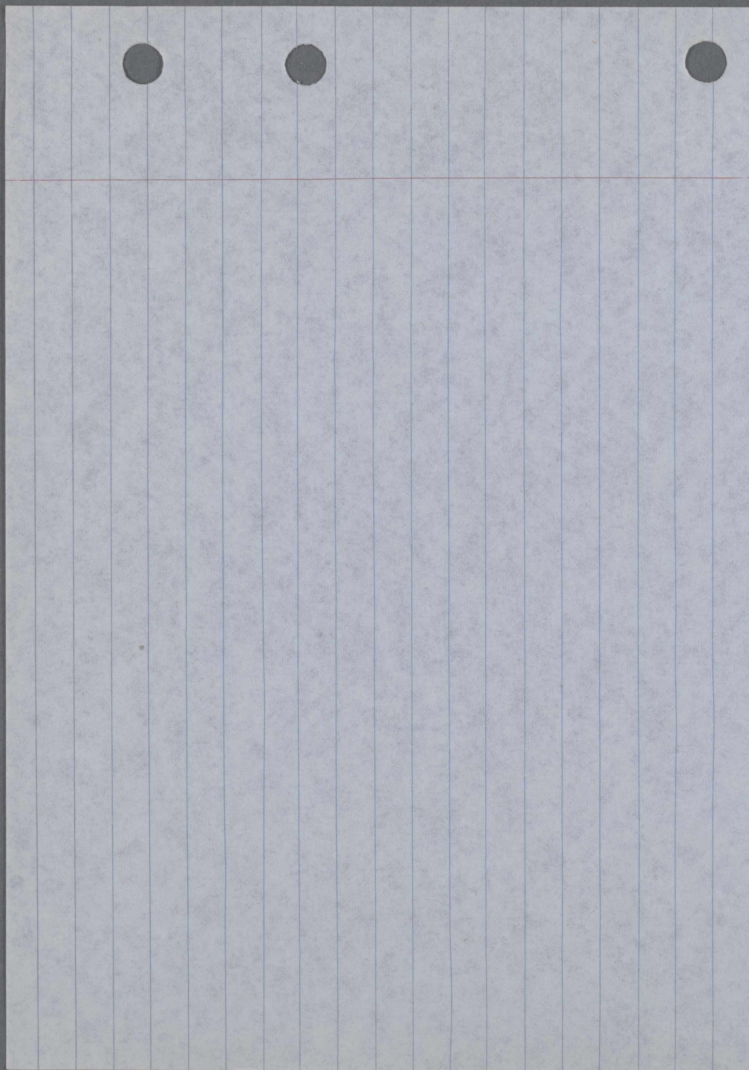
Goss testimony 888f

Kinne
junior officers

Descriptions by medical doctors

C O S O N

Others 1076f



Training of Officers

See COI

See NAAACP-CC file for ^{many} pamphlets:

"Guide to Command of Negro

Naval Personnel" (Feb, ~~1944~~ ~~1945~~) 1945

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EXPLOSION
& AFTER

G

EXPLOSION

See also. CDE
on explosion

PRIOR EVENTS ON DAY OF

Small came off work on SS Mormacstar that morn
(12/6/77 p. 17) went on liberty, had date (6/16/78
p. 1

Crittendon was transferred to new division
but he got out of it (12/13/77 p. 11-12
Also another man, who went away

Strange thing abt ship coming in after
4 p.m. (Crit. 12/13/77, p. 12 (also Rook 5/21/78 p. 27)

Waldrop saw ^{mystery} black coupe come on dock
that morning 12/8/77, p. 2, 4-5
(cf testimony in Ct. of inq by blk driver

Routz wash clothes, wrote letters, felt very
depressed, had a cry (5/11/78, p. 9)

Cary had done laundry (12/14/77 p. 5)

Robinson was learning to be winch
operator (5/20/78 p. 13-14)
Worked on ship that day (Rogan?)

Meeks worked that ship (E. D. Ryan?)
(8/24/78 p. 2

Ringquist describes event in plan
just prior to explosion (COI, 651)

COI

Explosion

lack of coast Guard Detail

Safety

P.B. Cronk, Capt. of Port — There was
no Coast Guard loading detail
at P.C. on 17 July (to supervise &
inspect loading) p. 8 See also p. 5
and Exhibit 5 (Goss declines Coast
Guard detail)

There was a preloading inspection, 8-9
or was there? 34

See also 132

EXPLOSION

(See also COI)

DESCRIPTIONS OF

Small sez everybody on deck killed but one man who was in chock sleeping (12/14/77 p. 17)

Barracks taken up "like match boxes" (Small 12/14/77, p. 18)

"Another Pearl Harbor" Crittendon was at HQ reporting for guard duty (12/13/77, p. 14-16)
helped with injured.

Exp. came over ammo bunkers (Small 6/3/78, p. 1)

Small helped with wounded (6/3/78 p. 2)

DWision 3 (who were killed) were just out of boot training (Critt 12/13/77, p. 11-12)

Small, 6/3/78, p. 28
(Quinnalt victory was also brand new)

Sheppard was in toilet, thought Japs had attacked, jumped on truck, went to docks.
He not injured (10/20/77, p. 13)

"I can remember the guys that died. There wasn't enough of them left to stick in cigar butts" (Shep 10/20/77 p. 25)

"It was like daylight out there" (Walchop 12/5/77 p. 13)

Guy was knocked out of bunk but not injured (12/14/77 p. 5-6)

Routh describes how he lost sight in
one eye and other was injured
by flying glass (5/21/78, p 10) 26-27
He was then hospitalized (p. 11) 16-17

Robinson got hit in the face. A
friend had his arm broken off
concussion went up hill and
came back on PC town (5/20/78, p 14-15)
Went to hospital at Camp Stoneman,
Thor Man Island.

Bordenave: was knocked out of
bunk and cut by glass. Hospitalized
(8/23/80 p 7, 12) for 5 days

Meeks was on liberty (p 2)
(Describes bodies, p. 3)

Alvin Williams describes exp in a
letter to his family (NAPCP-CC file)

~~Alvin Williams~~

~~Clemons~~

Crittendon
15-16

sh. up 25?
sh. up 1

EXPOSITION

See COI on
fears of war

Theories
of

accident caused
by rushing

sabotage due
to poor security

EXPECTATIONS OF

Small "predicted" exp "months before" 12/1/77, p. 8
(DeVucci sez "don't worry")

Waldrop: Base lacked security, whites could
come onto it without identifying selves. ^{possibly} sabotage
12/9/77 p. 1, 6-7, 9, 15

Guy thinks (1) somebody went to sleep
at the wind (accident) or (2) it was
sabotage (12/14/77 p. 6)

Kouff thinks it was sabotage 5/21/78, p. 8
p. 27-28, 29

Robinson thinks it was an accident
because loading crew were beginners
(5/21/78 p. 15)

thinks last thing being loaded (on Kygon)
was the detonators (p. 16)
(see also p. 5 re detonators)

Maells exp due to accident from
rough handling 8/24/80, p. 1

Henry Scott - ^{now} ~~new~~ thought it was sabotage
C OI, 1102
(O.O. 6th Div)

EXPLOSION

SOCIAL IMPACT

"It opened everything up" - led to
improvements at base (Small 12/6/77 p. 8)
Renovating (12/6/77 p. 18)

Small - it was "an opportunity to force the Navy"
to improve base 6/3/78 p. 14

Explosion was the instrument by which all this
injustice was brought to light."

(Small 6/3/78, p. 31)

"Eventually something would have happened or
being about would stoppage" (ibid)

immediately
Behavior of ² men after ~~the~~ ~~exp~~

Capt Kinnear praises enlisted men
for "coolness & bravery" after
explosion

(See FRC Son Bruno file)

Fire
Fighters

Enlisted men given medals for
fighting fires in boxcars after exp.

Commendations

(See 10/27/44 press release in
FRC Son Bruno file)

Also see "Nine Brave Men" article
in Ft. Huachuca file

See also press release in
Operational Archive file

BASE AFTER Explosion

Ruth: While CB sent to rebuild base did so in one month (5/21/78 p 23)
PC base still today largest port in U.S. for shipping ammo (5/22/78 p 23)

Clean up

Guy's saw bones in Rose woods
Robinson (5/20/78 p 16)

Weeks worked on ground duty
& clean up 8/24/80, 14)

See COI & Red Cross report
for info on aftermath

Navy announces plans to expand P.C.
(Press release 10/27/84 in FRC San Bruno file)

Summary of cost of repairs to base.
(See Annual Inspection Report, 1945,
in P.T. Hueneme file)

See other materials in P.T. Hueneme
file about clean-up of P.C.

Red Cross report mentions

three views among P.C. citizens

- (1) Navy should buy out town at pre-war evaluation
- (2) Navy should simply pay school costs of repairs.
- (3) Navy should pay for 12 excess of actual physical damage costs

Explosion aftermath

10% of civilian personnel at
p.c. quit after explosion
COI - Kinne, 956

Physical effects of Explosion

See photographs &
newspaper stories

See Descriptions of. from interviews
(Also in COI section)

Also see Volume V, VI, VII,
for information on deaths,
injuries, property damage, claims

~~the~~
Many bodies washed up near Avon
pier COI, 1163f

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AFTERMATH

H

MEN UPSET, IN SHOCK
(Others also fearful)
See cot + (Small's Dream)

Wideman yells "fire" as joke
(Small 12/6/77 p. 14 6/3/78, p. 15)

* "Kept you from sleeping at night" "Guys
just lost their minds" Crittenden 12/13/77, p. 15-16

"Nobody got a leave" after exp Critt 12/13/77, p. 18

Small's Dream - he interprets it to Miller, that
men would be jailed, have mark (scar) against them,
but would come out okay. He uses it to calm
men down. 6/3/78 p. 15-26, 32, 33
(This apparently occurred on Yankee Brown during trial)

men thought they would be transferred after
the explosion (Caldrop 12/9/77 p. 15)

men were talking abt going home, expected
leaves (Kobinson 5/24/78, p. 16-17)
"Everybody was scared", "nervous" (p. 17)

Borden heard about how men had been
blown to bits (8/23/80, p. 21)

men angered by no survivors leave
(marks p. 3-4, 9)

Alvin Williams mentions in letter being nervous
(NMP-CC file July 24 - 1984)
(see also letter from his sister)

AFTERMATH

(^{re:} Action
Tactics)

TALKING IT OVER

Men ^{come to} ask Small what he will do
(Small 12/6/77 p. 7)

Process
Note:

Small appears irrevocably committed to refusal
(cf 6/3/78, p. 25)
but he also keeps options open in refusing
to sign petition (6/3/78, p. 10) His refusal
was conditional, based on view that working condns
hadn't changed

Men come to ask Shap: what he would
do (10/20/77 p. 4)

Small talked to different guys, walked around
(Shap. 10/20/77, p. 10)

Men talked among selves (Gay 14/14/77 p. 3)

Robinson
Shap
1.16.77, 18

Men talked w/ going home. Say he
still had bawdage on face ^(p. 16), other men
had hand bawdaged (p. 17)

Men kept asking to go home instead
sent out to do light work (p. 17)

Men decided not to go back to work (18-19)
(checked blue jackets men w/ leaves if
wounded - p. 18)

Men enjoyed by lack of supervision; 1 down
Robinson (see above) weekly (3.4.80) 17

Discounting of risk no longer possible

"That so-called innocent ammo is what did most of the damage"

Small 6/8/78 p. 6-7
p. 10-11

21, 26, 31-2

"Got me on a ship and let me
fight out there" (why) lose your life
on somebody else's negligence"

Sheppard p. 5, 25

Widdows could no longer discount risks of sabotage
caused by lax security p. 1-2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 15
18, 19

Crittenden recalled (after exp) how men had
joked abt being first out of hold in case
of explosion p. 15-16

I got a chance w/ an enemy but no
chance in that hold' p. 18

Small 12/6/77 p. 7

Moore was horrified, in cleaning crew, 2-3, 14

Shap 25
Not enough of
food men left so
put in cigar butt

Accommodating
~~Balance~~ process disrupted after exp

Balance disrupted - more expected
Survivors' leave Robinson, 17-18, 19
"all your little grievances come out, that
had built up long before" 19

Mark, now arranged with not getting
30-day leave 3, p. 10

Borden p. 4, 9

Crit 16, 17 no home leave

PETITION

(AN action
tactic)

Petition circulated. Small destroys it.

Small 12/6/77 p. 15

Small refuses to sign petition (6/3/78 p. 9)

Keeping
options
open
vs
irrevocable
commitment

Small destroys petition, as a "bad idea",
it closes off option to change your mind.
(Small 6/3/78, p. 10)

Lawler's petition (Small, 6/3/78, p. 24)

"Decided to exercise the American way"
(Sheppard 10/20/77, p. 7-8, 10)

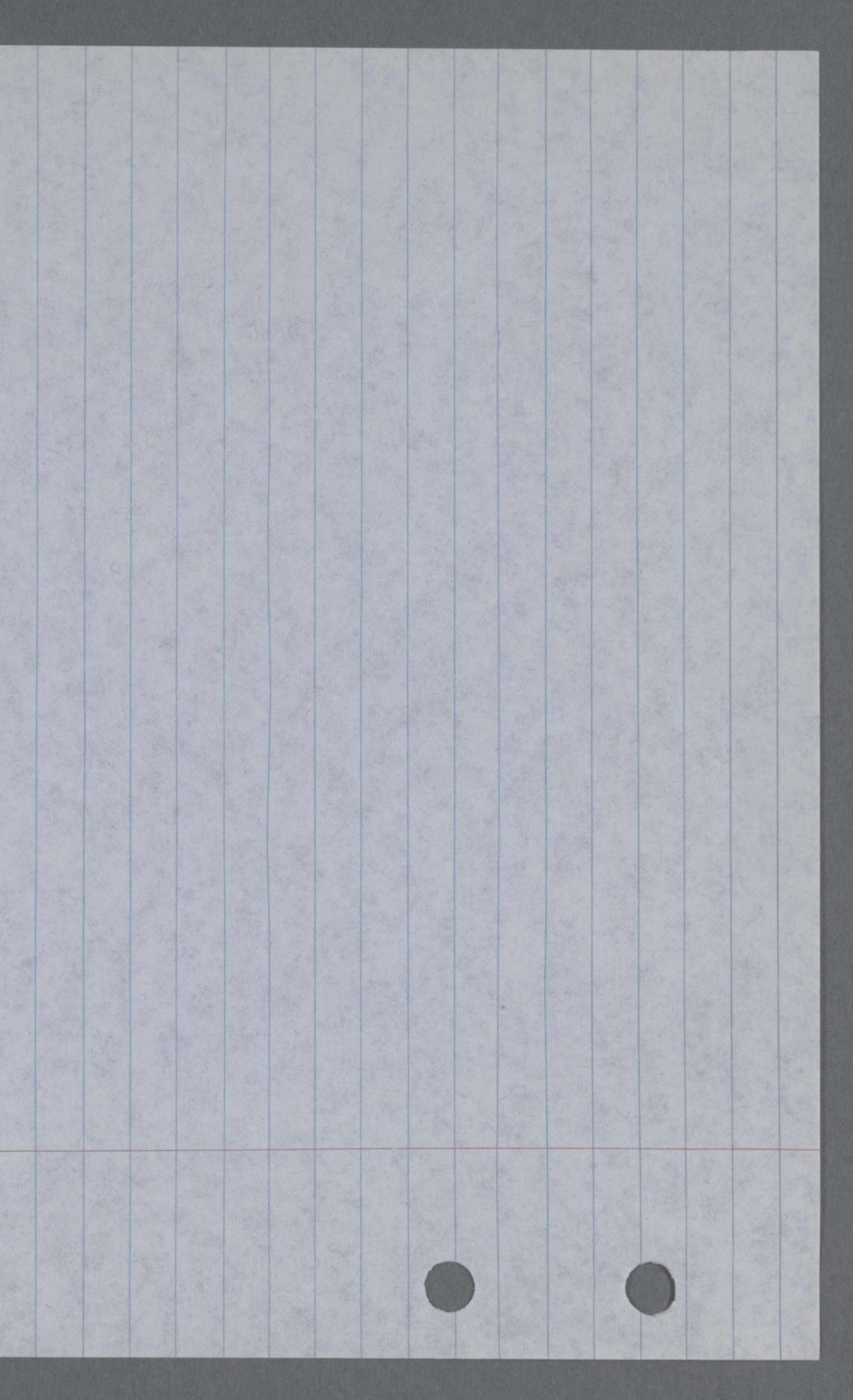
(Note previous letter petition sent ~~to NANCY~~
by P.C. now in 1943. See NANCY file)

~~#~~ Civilians

10% of civilian personnel at
D.C. quit COI, 956

Civilians
Runners of more explosions
to follow

COI, Exhibit 95, p. 16



Black & Left Press reaction
to explosion

See COJ, Exhibit 95, p. 17

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CT OF INQ

107

K

Issues in COI

Safety vs Speed

{ Port Director vs Goss/Kinne

{ Coast Guard Detail, merit of
(Port)

Fitness of enlisted men

mechanical problems

People who testified at COI selected
by Judge Advocate, Goss
and Kinne

13th day of COI (attending at
Herald Island) was Aug 9, 1944 (p. 405)

what does
this mean?

capt
Capt Goss & Merrill Kinn are present
as "interested parties" at COI. Allowed
to examine witnesses & present evidence
"in the same manner as a defendant" (2)

Note: No enlisted men who
worked on Bryan (a Quivert victory)
The day of the explosion were called
to testify at COI. Why?

(especially since at GCM Ernest Gaines
mentioned having trouble controlling
wind on Bryan)

SAFETY DISPUTE

Note Goss' conflict with Capt of
Port, Crank, and Port Director
rep. Shepard (1504) over who
was responsible for safety of loading
operation at P.C. also Zach 3774
and whether unsafe
methods were allowed

Goss, 904, 910, 913
Exhibit 73

919, 922-3, 4, 928

Port Director, 972

Safety
Issue

COI

Possible Causes of Explosion

(e.g. tower)

R. C. Stratton suggest "Supersensitive" ammo with "thin films" of explosives, 12-13, 14

Thinks first explosion was on join, 15

Human error

"Rough handling", he thinks, caused detonation, 16, 17

(Note: Winch problems — in GCM 80%, 5
* Ernest Gaines, winch operator on E. A. Ryan, said he had trouble controlling the winch. Was this a mechanical problem?

Mechanical problems

* Boom on #5 winch was swung very low, COI, 469-~~73~~ 73, 512 663-4

Ryan's winch ~~was~~ ^{was actually} inspected before loading, 40, 62
(~~It~~ she had undergone some repair work, 33) 51
Reference to possible winch trouble, 40

(no automatic safety brake on winch, 47 44-45)

maximum lifting weight on smallest boom: 5 tons

* Brake trouble reported to mate, 58-60 (50)

(no repairs made) or M1 hold

Foot bracing
when used
to check
descent, 376

pressure on winches was below ^{125 lbs} normal, 63, 66

(~~see~~ winches were going too fast) 66

636
694

* Bearings trouble on No 2 winch (replaced), 68, 584

Ringquist heard crash (boom falling?) 659, 680-81

(had seen winch checked on 4V-665) 689

782 (D.V. booms were being positioned

on 17 July

Human error

Rough handling mentioned under questioning of Sheppard, 160, 166, 167, 169

Wind trouble, 741 (Lt. John Wilson)
775 (#14 wind repaired on Bryson)
805, 810, 820-1

Human
error

Fuses stored too close to
ammunition, 163

Inexperience of men, 174, 176

Mechanical

Explosiveness of fuel oil considered 178-187
QV. Wind striking oil 421

190
-210

Mechanical

Alarm (clanking coming)
Clarence Johnson, driver, heard a
metallic clanking sound before
explosion, 326 (cf 651-Kingsport)
(on like railway cars clanking together 328)

Goss, 902

Rough handling mentioned by Blower
Whitaker, 335
Racism, 340 (of white)

Competition, 337

White
deers, 351
Hawkins

Hawkins, 345-347 (also mention Ensign
York wouldn't let them
come on with more
dunnage)
350

Hawkins see windman
worked okay, 349

Turner, blackman, sez men were "overly
cautious" in loading 356, 358
(note also that ship captain's son was even careful)

Zacher - rough handling 373-75, 390
(but not on Bryson, 388)

Haskins, 519 (wind driving carbon)

Holman, accident due to windman, 622, 623
626-27, 635

* Goss, 918

Kinzie, 941

COI possible cause of explosion

(8.2)

Bryon's winches not retested by Holman, 639

Lack of intelligence of men, 703

Rough handling

Lt. Robin 728-9, 733

Plumber, 777

Forstner, 788-9

Goss, 802

Lt. Woodland thinks it was an accident,
not carelessness of men, 851-2

See his testimony on sliding Mark 54 bombs
down a chute. See also Kinn, 934

See also Bureau of Ordnance
report (in JAG file) which lists
careless handling of Mark 47 torpedoes
as cause of exp.

E. A. Bryan was about half loaded, 637

Put Lamplugh - closest survivor, was
in jigger ship at edge of pier. (274)

Fire in box car, 297

Alonso White, rigger 332

"Joe Dunnage"
338

(White resigned after explosion - sez
his nerves were shot, 337-9)

Hawkins also quit because of "nerves" 348

Punker quit, complain about slow raising, 397

Civilians
quits
(before
"moving")

Hodgdon sez bones come from
hold of ship, 457-8

Dr. Carson sez 245 were sufficiently
injured to be sent to hospital, 489
319 dead

* * Events on pier just prior to explosion, 651-2
(Klingvist describes, also explosion itself 684-5, 6
men were having trouble with certain bombs in boxes) → -89
incendiary bombs, have detonators installed 697
also 695, 699 York, 816

* Description by divers, 712-15, 19-21, 760-4
of remains of ship

Lt. Tobin, 733-4

Lt. Mangson, 957

Capt. H. Yuba, 744

* Kinne, 939-40 (fire incident) also 297

* Eschen, Coast Guard officer who despatched boat to K.C.
1161-2

COT

Tonnage 155w

~~Kinn~~ asked Port Director's
rep (Sheppard) about need to
get ships loaded by certain
date. 158-9, 168 see also 600-3.

Blackboard with tonnage figures
Alonso white numbers, 337

Hawkins mentions speed of loading 345, 47, 49

Zacher (Port Director's loading officer) refers
to memo from Capt Kinn on need
for loading, more tonnage, 372, 384, 386

Competition: Hodgden denies there
was any, 456
Also denies that pennant were
given to best div. 862 (of hardware)

Dr. Carson mentions the "emphasis on tonnage"
at P.C. 495, 501

Lt. Moray mentions 10/tons/minute/hour, 527, 554
Lower rates used, 601 568

Aulman says 10/tons not very rapid, 632
Denies he was ordered to load
as rapidly as possible, 641

U. Tobin, pressured by Kinn to
increase turnage, 731-3, 735-6
748 (see exhibit #23) 754-~~7~~

Connected
to
rough
handling

* Competition mentioned by Tobin, 749-51

also Cordine, 770-71-2

also Mallow, 784

Turkington, 806, 811, 817 visit

York, 821-823, 824 (left notes/ he too much
dangerous
you)

Kelly, 829 (henson) 833, 839

Woodward, 850, 859, 866

"healthy spirit of competition" Goss 887
turnage issue - Goss, 905-6, 7
(rate set by Goss)

* Competition - Kinn explains, 951
(He introduced Blackburn)

Port Director suggested turnage was low, 977-8, 992

~~P.C. hester, 1000-1001 in 1943, 995 1008~~

* Layton, 1029

Knapp (outside from Para 4) said P.C.
man "worked lots faster" than at Para 4
1149

COT

Sabotage question

Crew of Michael ^{invited} ~~saw~~ ^{heard}
of strange boat in vicinity
of P.C. (see also 237 - ^{was a} known
tugboat)

See
237

reverted
truck used
by Marine
by Sgt.

Marine sent Murphy saw
unidentified black car or truck
come up on pier before XP (229)

Arrest of 3 civilians at main Gate
230 (Sailors from the Bryan, 231)

See testimony by ^{Johnson} ~~Charles~~ ^{synthesizer}
driver (324) may have seen his
station wagon

Lt Rowley testimony, 1022
& Exhibit 95, 94

No evidence of sabotage, 1024

P.C. Loading
man
Exhibit 36

SAFETY ISSUE

For running disack between
Boss & Kinn and tops of post
Capt of post (Crown) and post
Breaders often over in location
unsafe loading practice was
allowed at P.C.
150t
513t 537-8940-43 (Gosh taken recognition
595t 548 553
Exhibit 19 is a list of injuries due to
accidents at P.C. before 1950

Hodgdon say safety logs were not
posted in 6 months 1952
Drinking - 2 inches of methanol
by Hodgdon, 460

Ellington say men were warned to
be careful with smoke, 466

Shurben Ellington Taylor were
called to assist first with
drivers had been properly instructed
and advised about safety.

West Grand allocated to
bands 530 546 556-79

607

but these were missing from CC table and 5974

See
Lt. Byrd
re. slings
A. bomb
on 10/14/62

Commercial standards not more careful

Kelly, 830, 838, 842-3

Goss, 904, 910
1020 1036

Harry snipers mentioned
974

Goss says he criticized rough handling, 536

Slings vs nets, 619 vs pellets, 657-8
683-84

Hilman

Safety lectures given to men, 633-4 727
(only 2 actually given)
officers not necessarily familiar with
safety regs 634

Safety regs posted on pier, 641

Holman says it impossible to load heavy
bombs without rolling them, 647
also Tobin, 727

Holman

Loading platform should be wider, 647

Ringquist says bombs were rolled 666-1
(Red back followed "partially")

safety measures at pier (fire boat, safety) 690-1

Dennis speed up vs safety - 691

crowded comdx on deck, 726, 737, 759, 790

Lt. Tobin says Kinne lectured officers
on safety 731, 736

rough
handling
Kinne, 931
safety regs
1035

Dock Too Narrow - York, 818 (crowded)
Goss, 871, 884-5

Safety Memos, Goss 897, Kinne, 932f
947-8, 950-1

Safety regs not posted in barracks, 951

+ other
Wind training (for men)

Shelden (wind instructor) 430f
not given written regulations 431
Wind drivers in Div 3 had experience, 442

Ellington 465 461

Dayton vgw wind (H4) on Kegan
on July 16 479

Holmes, 620, 21 (At first
No extensive training)

Ringquist, 655, 656, 693-4

Lt. Tobin, 724

Lt. Corder, 769

Ensign York - 815, 820

"Jolly Roger" erected - Goss 898

Goss, 903 wind men satisfactory

W^a) J^m3

loading process Work, Organization of
COI, 455

Wolter Ellington describes unloading
process, 467

Number of work divisions - 8, 617-18
631, 640

8 men in hold, 658-9
8 on pier (plus hatch attendant & winchman - total, ¹⁸26)

See Lt. Tobin testimony for
descriptions of breaking out boxcars
730, 748

Loading, organization of, Woodland, 862

Daily work routine, Kerner 949, 952

Fitness of Enlisted men

[Notice how questioning abt enlisted men's
[Fitness occurs chiefly after Aug 9 (L.H. p. 405)]

Enlisted men educational
rating intellectual

Lower 60% — 463-4, 633

"low level of intelligence" Dr Carson 491-2
* Lt. Hat, 702-3, 4-9 499, 505

Professional stereotypes considered
more competent 532-4

Layton says experiment enlisted
men sent to P.C. when it was
first set up 591-2 (cf Roath)

Holman, recalcitrance of men, 634

Renzigist — men have low intelligence, 665
men become more efficient, 680

Intelligence of men

Quality
Lt. Tobin, 725, 753

Lt. Cordner, 769-70, 72, 73

Forstenson, 788

York, 818

Lt. Kelly, had good men, 829, 840 (educational level)

Weddland, 853

Schubert, 842

Goss, 886

Kinne 937-8

* Exhibit 78

Exhibit 44

Reluctance of men
Woodland - 853, 864

Goss, 887

* Men endeavored to bargain
Goss, 885

Educated men as "troublemakers"
Goss 887

"Agitators" harass men going to work
(before explosion) 958

Shady's Expenses

Logan 592¢ 598

608

~~Adam~~ No regular training for others, 643

Lt. Tobin, had no prior experience
with ammo, 723, 751

Lt. Cadman, no prior exp. 765-6
loading, except at New Island

Lt. Mullen, no prior exp, 778

Thompson, worked as steward 786
no prior ammo exp, 794

Ensign Yarn - no prev. ^{ammo} exp. 814
no shadow

Lt. Kelly - 18 yrs ^{ground} ^{experience} ⁱⁿ loading exp. 827
also ^{ammo} ^{exp} 834

Lt. Woodland - ^{no} ^{ammo} ^{exp} 846

Woodland took course on "radio psychology"

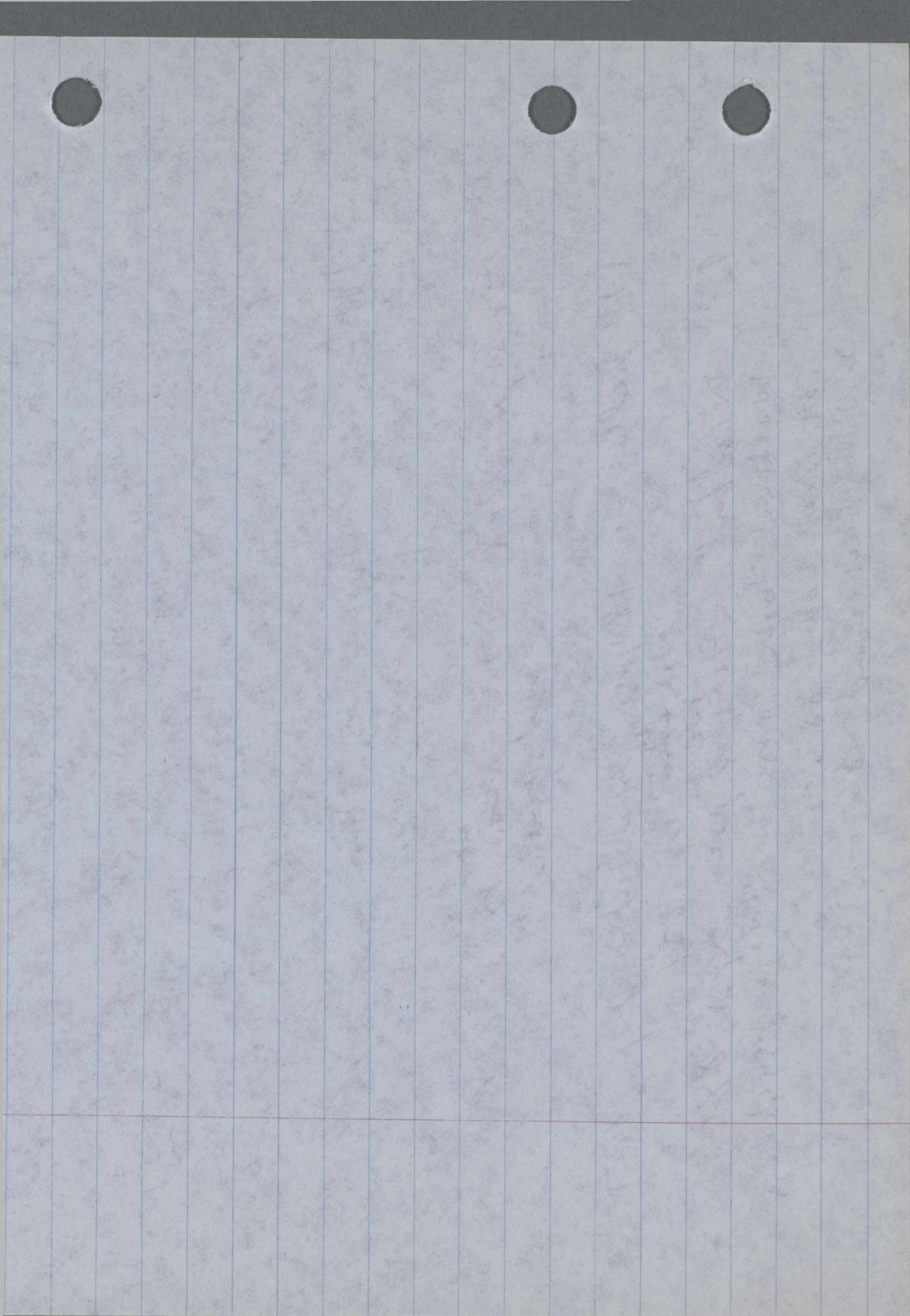
at Great Lakes, 853

at P.C. background, 863-5

Lack of pretty often 926-7

2015, 885, 899-900, 1

Lack of phone 888-9, 891, 898, 900-1



Confusion in Command
Structure at P.C.

2 Separate Commands
Barracks - magazine
608

Conflicts between officers, 752

No common senior officer, 900

C.G. Caring problem with
enlisted men, 573-Y, 913

C.G. objected to rolling
bombs 534, 546, 556-7, 607

Coast Guard Issue

~~75~~-80
Ringquist 666-~~77~~ saw unsafe procedure
72,76 supervised by C.G.
695 6011 11 min 937
Red Book inadequate, 674-5

Derivations from Red Book 695-6

Lt. Tobin never had copy of
C.G. reg 723, 739

Neither did Lt. Cardner 767
Nor Kelly, 831 Woodland, 849, 860

Thompson saw unsafe methods
in use at Parr Terminal, 791, 798-800
contract standards - 804-5

Kelly, C.G. would not build to safety, 830
837
Woodland, 863

Woodland - saw unsafe handling under
C.G. supervision, 854-5

Problems with C.G. unit at P.C.
573-Y, 855-6

Goss, 907, 8
913-13 "Red Book," 911-12

See also

Port Director discussion

904, 910, 913

Exhibit 73

{ Port Director's response, 974

919 922-4, 928

G.G. Detail →

Kinne, 930 — (criticized by G.G.)
943, 947

933, 937

948, 956

Port Director sez loading was bad

974-5

Sez contract stevedores more careful, 976

Coast Guard detail - 979-81f

984
988

Discussion with GOS, 981-989

He warns "mustard" the red book, 991

P.C. boats inadequate 1943, 995

See also Layton, 1028f

Pyrex usage

Mr. Masperson, 1037 (Port Director's men inexperienced)
- 3 pgs 1045

Coast Guard supervision inadequate 1039f, 1044

Men's fearfulness (after exp)

Lt. Hart 703-4, 5

Henry Scott - men had talked abt possibility
of explosion 1101

Also among officers
Lt. Cordner, 771

Civilian personnel

10% quit after explosion, Kinn 956

Grievances expressed by men

many

Had expected to go to sea, 724-5, 753
853, 1101

Complained abt being assigned to
labor battalions, 281-2, 960, 966

Complained abt discrimination
See Exhibit 84
also 961

Slowdowns on food, 961

Racist slurs, 964 (causes work stoppage)
965

Discontent in medical section at R.C., 1071, 2
(and among enlisted men) 1076

Henry Scott, mustering petty officer, Div 6.
Men expected to go on ships, 1101

James Strickland, mustering R.O. 3rd Div
now "thought they were being slighted
because they weren't at sea" 1105-7

Security measures

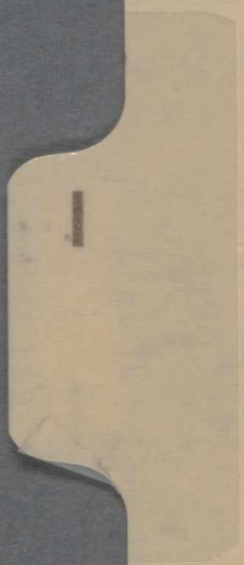
Kinna 9Y8F

Exhibit 79, 80

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WORK STOP



Initial Work Stoppage

[Note there is mention of another work stoppage on 18 August
See PC War Diary, Aug 1944]

Descriptions of

Small

12/6/77 p. 6-7, 15-16

6/3/78 p. 2, 9

Crittenden

12/13/77 p. 16-17

Sheppard

10/20/77 p. 8

Gay 12/18/77 p. 3-4 (cf Crittenden) p. 20)

Bordenave Was ordered back to work when came out of hospital. Decided to refuse (8/23/20 p 13, 21 on own - "no conspiracy" - didn't talk with any one else. (Means that he did any work after being released from hospital - perhaps means he didn't handle any p. 22)

meals p 10 (due to no leave)

WORK STOPPAGE

SMALL AS "SPOKESMAN"

"If small don't go, we're not going either"

Small 12/6/77, p 6-7, 15-16

6/3/78 p. 2

6/3/78 p. 9

note: Small sees
himself as spokesman here
(self image / construction)

As "outspoken" at 3 day anty
(Robinson 5/20/78 p 22)

WORK STOP

SMALL AS "RING LEADER" (and sheppard)

Small meets with Admiral Wright.
Wright expects other men will follow
Small. Small refuses to go back.
Small, 12/6/77 p. 7-8 6/3/78, p. 6

Sheppard & Small good friends: They tried to build
case around Small as "Ring Leader" (also shep)
(Shep. 10/2/77, p. 4)

Waldrop: "They wanted you to have numbers
on Small" as "Ring Leader" 12/9/77 p. 4, 5
also sheppard

Small organized men on barge to handle
chow (Waldrop 12/9/77 p. 17)
(purpose was to keep men from getting
into trouble)

Robinson Small as "outsider"
(p. 22)

WORK STOP

EXPECTATIONS

Mutiny charge a surprise
(Small 12/6/77 p. 7)

Now had read Navy Jackets manual, thought
mutiny could only be committed on the high seas
(on board a ship)
Small 6/3/78 p. 8 (Robinson 5/20/77, p. 22, 23)

Small expected dishonorable discharge or transfer
(6/3/78, p. 11)

"Work stoppage" & "strike" compared.
Small felt "Navy had no interest in this, he"
(Small 6/3/78, p. 25-26, 30-31) Robinson 5/20/78, 12

"Work stoppage inevitable" Small 6/3/78, 31

Mutiny vs work stoppage: "It was just sug
refused to go" (Sheppard 10/20/77, p. 8)
"strike" Robinson 5/20/78 p. 19

Waldrop "I can understand it" (mutiny charge)
"we had bucked the biggest outfit in the
world" (12/9/77 p. 13)
Waldrop expected men would be transferred
(12/9/77 p. 20)

Routh was "thrilled" to hear of work
stoppage. "I needed something to lift my
morale" 5/21/78 p. 17-18

Lack of motivation

Routh noted that officers never assembled
men to explain the importance of
their work (5/21/78 p. 18)

[cf Robinson 5/20/78 p. 7 who said officers
would sometimes say ^{needed} "amma we all
in this or that invasion, but
Vague since everything was top secret"]

Routh thinks officers not happy at VC (25)

Robinson calls it a "strike" (5/20/78 p. 19)
"defiance"

men expected to be let go home,
maybe put in brig, but not shot, may
transform (5/20/78 p. 19-20)

"We didn't know what mutiny
meant" Thought it involved killing
or taking over something (p. 22) 23
can only happen on a ship)

Discounting possibility of being shot

Crutchen 12/13/77 p. 19-20

Robinson 5/20/78 22-23

Brown expected to be shot (8/23/70 p. 16)

"Didn't expect mutiny change
I didn't talk to nobody"

Mack mutiny change unexpected
(p. 18-19)

LEADERSHIP OF MEN

Admiral expects men will follow Small
(Small 12/6/77 p. 7-8)

Small as Spokesman for refusers,
(Small 12/6/77 p. 7)

Small contrasts Delucci w/ danger of exp.
(Small 12/6/77 p. 8)

Small discount's Lowie's leadership as
opportunistic (Small 6/3/78, p. 24-25)
compares self to Lowie

Men came to Sheppard to ask what he would
do (10/26/77 p. 4)

See memo on
Army's policy to
reconsider work
after strike

OFFICERS TRY TO GET MEN BACK TO WORK (See also Baseball Diamond Refusal)

Tobin tries to get Crittenden to go back
to work, he sez he's afraid, wants transfer
(Crittenden 12/13/77, p. 17-18) Tobin (rec'd, 126)

Admiral tells men that they'll be shot
(Critt 12/13/77, p. 19)

Crittenden expresses disbelief (Waldrop 12/9/77 p. 19)

offer
negotiations

Officers wanted men to go back to work
and settle for a lesser court martial
(Waldrop 12/9/77 p. 20)

Small sez there was no negotiations to
return to work (C/3/78 p. 14)

Process
note

Analyze
this
human

Since the men could not legally strike
there could be no formal ^{collective} negotiations
for a settlement. Hence, negotiation process
(e.g. Small's mtg with Admiral Wright, Tobin's
mtg with Crittenden, Waldrop's experience, etc)

had to go on sub rosa with individuals
comprone with other strike/work stoppage situations

(his godfather)

Robinson: Lt. Elwood tried to get him to
leave gap & go back (5/24/78 p. 13)
This was very "tempting"; some guys
got out that way.

Bordenave Lt. Rubin sent his brother
to try to get him to go back
(8/23/80 p 17-18)

Rationalities and ATTITUDES toward GOING BACK TO WORK

"I got a chance over there with the enemy, but I ain't got no chance in that hold" (crit 12/13/77, p. 18)

Small had "legitimate reason" for not working -
danger of another explosion
6/3/78 p. 6, 13-14

Small sez he was not really afraid 6/3/78, p. 11

Small advises a man not to leave base & go back to work (6/3/78 p. 13-14)

Small wants improved working condx and desegregation
6/3/78 p. 14

Shoppard - "Can't they find anybody else to do this work. I want to be on a ship, let me fight"
(10/26/77, p. 5)

"Get some whittys" to do work (Shop. 10/26/77, p. 11)

Walchrop: "We didn't refuse to work; what we did say, we wouldn't work on that base"
(12/9/77, p. 1) due to lack of security
p. 3

Guy: "We didn't want no more loading ammo because of what happened at PC. No more loading anywhere" (12/14/77 p. 3) told officer "Wah, I wasn't afraid to load ammo. I just didn't intend to load anymore" (p. 4)

Shoppard
p. 25
"I can
remember
who did
the
work"

Borden's: "I just made up my
mind I'd rather be dead than
do that kind of shift" p. 9, 16

Man engaged by lack of surviving learn
checks, 3-4, 10, 17, 18-19

Baseball Diamond Refusal (2nd refusal)
(white in bronze)

Description of process

Small 6/3/78, p. 19, 20-22

Admiral Wright Throats men with death
(Sheppard 10/26/77 p. 9-10)

Waldrop 12/9/77 p. 2-3, 19-20

Guy 12/14/77 p. 3 Robinson J/20/78 p. 24-25

Some discount this possib. l.h.

Critchfield 12/13/77 p. 19-20

Robinson J/20/78 p. 22-23

men divided into two groups

Robinson, J/20/78 p. 26-27

Wright Threatened to shoot men
(Hornblower, 8/23/80 p. 14)

meeks (8/24/80 p. 4, 17)

See Lt. Rubin's testimony, p. 124f

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BARGE

J

BARGE

Descriptions of (Physical + situational)

Situation: men fearful of being shot "almost in a panic" (Crittenden, p. 19)

physical "Packed on there like sardines" "marched to mess hall" "spies on barge" (Small 6/3/78, p. 4)

2-3 decks high, bunks very cramped
Small 6/3/78, p. 11

Situation "General state of rebellion" on barge. men arming
Small 6/3/78, p. 12-13

Back to workers Small advises a man not to leave barge and go back to work. He would be a traitor to the group (6/3/78, p. 13-14)

No offers or negotiations while men on barge
(Small 6/3/78, p. 18)

Back to workers Conflicts, Divisions among men on the barge {sub accepting very routines going back to work
Small 6/3/78, p. 17

Switch Spy suspected on barge (See Barge mtg notes)
Small, 6/3/78, 22-23, 24 Walchop 12/9/77 p. 28
(intentional or opportunistic, or unintentional (Benton Dees?))
Gony 12/14/77 p. 5

Men had to organize own chow after some fights broke out (Walchop 12/9/77 p. 16/17)
Small organized this, to keep men from getting into trouble, and to show others men not totally recalcitrant

Guy 12/14/77 p. 3-4

Robinson 5/20/78 p. 21-22

men concerned abt "getting the
short end of the stick" because the
force had changed from going home
or going to the brig. Threatened with
being shot by admiral

men determined to stick it out, although
a few wanted to change their minds
small as "outspoken"

Back to
wars

BARGE MTG

Men hot tempered, fighting, stockpiling weapons. Stab guard. Small asked by marine officer and men to "do something" abt conduct of men. Threat of being shot

Small 12/6/77 p. 9-10

6/3/78 p. 12

Discounting of
this possibility
crittenden 12/13/77, 19-20
revision 5/11/78, 22-23

Small tells men they can't do anything for us if we don't do anything to them - stick together - got Navy by the balls
sez he trying to "quit men's tears" of being shot

12/6/77 p. 9-10 6/3/78 p. 5

"We got together to calm men, tell them they couldn't be shot (Crittenden 12/13/77, p. 19)

Crittenden - At mtg men look to believe nobody would get hurt, "just stick together and some change is gonna be made" (12/13/77, p. 20)

Small sez he "wasn't" cautious of what I was saying" (6/3/78, p. 8)

"We never had a real mtg in first place"
(Shoy. 10/20/77 p. 11)

Waldrop: Small told men "If we stick together we can get transferred" 12/9/77 p. 19

top for
the
opinion

Robinson "It was a discussion
"Some people more outspoken than
others" they picked out as
"leaders"; ~~"leader"~~ "That
didn't mean leaders to me. I
come out of a gang-oriented
situation in Chicago" 5/20/72 p 21-22

Burdenov "Small held a meeting" but
he didn't hear what was said
(p 14-15)

OK The
Boys after the 50 were
taken away

Gary says men expected to be transferred
to another base (12/14/77 p. 4)

Instead they were taken to Shomona
for interrogation.

Then imprisoned at Shomona 72 days
(on summary court martial?), and
afterwards shipped overseas on probation
for six months (p. 5)

Gary says they caught hell in
being at Shomona (p. 4)

Processes/ow barge

Back to workers

vs Hot tempered fighters

vs cool heads (small, etc)

Divisions
among
men

Discounting of Threat of being shot
[Cr, Hendon 19-20; Robinson 22-23]

Expectations

Cooperatives of men after
work retired

Waldrop, p. 17

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INVESTIGATION

L

PROCESS OF SELECTING THE 50

Were "most nerry men".
"Loudmouths and fighters"
Small 12/6/77 p. 13

man who "stood up for
selci" "halliganist"
Small 6/3/78, p. 9-10

Crittenden describes self as "loud mouth"
(CLT 12/17/77, p. 14)

Crittenden initially with rehiers, then decides
to get off barge by saying going back to work.
Then went AWOL, got caught and was
ordered back to work, rehired and was placed
with the 50. (12/13/77, p. 20)

See Baseball Diamond Refusal notes (1st work stop
section)
Small 6/3/78, p. 19-22 stepped 10/20/77, 10

They convinced men into joining the 50s
(Kobinson, 5/20/78 p. 25-26
Crittenden, others rehired being
"perished."

Interrogation at Camp Shoemaker

specific
tactics of

calls it "trickery" (p. 22)
Crittenden asked abt what happened on
barge (Critt 12/13/77 p. 22, 24)

Interrogator said:

Bennow Dees told officer that Crittenden
spoke at barge mtg (Critt 12/13/77, p. 23-24)

Officers try to get info on barge mtg as
evidence of conspiracy to mutiny
(Crittenden, 12/13/77, p. 23-24)

Small put in solitary (6/3/78 p. 24)

Men did not know they were going to be
interrogated, and couldn't tell others afterwards,
because they sat someplace else (Small 6/3/78, p. 29)
This contradicts Waldrop (12/9/77, p. 3) who said
men compared notes during interrogation.

men called in one at a time, asked who leaders were
Sheppard 10/20/77 p. 10

"They try to get you to ~~say~~ talk about
somebody else" 10/20/77 p. 25

Waldrop: Investigators "squashed" talk of
poor security 12/9/77 p. 2-2

Not told they being interrogated by
prosecution (Waldrop, 12/9/77, p. 1, 3)

Waldrop: Small supposed to be "king tender"
"They wanted you to hang numbers on small"
12/9/77 p. 4, 5

trying to
get info out
of them

Dees
(Crittenden)

Revision They asked who leaders
were. He showed them was a
Mr. But was got covered with
giving names 5/24/78 25-26, 27, 28

Everybody threatened with sword
cutt in back (p. 27)
Robinson thought that if they said
there was no IDs all would be released
a 1/2 year say in Chicago (p. 28)

Robinson They tried to say Small
was on level, and that we
were communists (8/23/80 p 15)

Reason
for
initial
info

Waldrop told by Intergalactic: "Rex
Guy (small, shaggy, etc) don't mean you
no good." (12/9/77 p. 4)

Gary: He told me I could get 7 1/2
after 15 years" (12/14/77, p. 4, 5)

"They had the right names. Somebody
was skittling" (12/14/77 p. 5)

Statements at Shoemaker

Critchfield refuses to sign type-written statement, it "changes my thought"
(crit 12/13/77 p. 24-25)

Sheppard refuses to sign type-written statement
10/20/77 p. 11

Sheppard sez Smith^(?) refused to make any statement 10/20/77, p 25
(Parhages Rls. was Ernest Brown. See his testimony, R630 (Card 44))

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TRIAL

M

Imprisonment before/during trial

Was bad experience, terrorized by guards
(Cuthbertson, 12/17/77 p. 20-21)

Sheppard gets in fight with Ollie Brown
(Sheppard 10/20/77 p. 14)

Gay was imprisoned at Shoemaker before
trial (12/14/77 p. 4)

Much abused by Marine guards
(Bordenave, 8/23/80 p. 17-18, 29)
made cage rats in stockade

"They treated us like dogs" Meeles, 56

Men got together to resist
being provoked Meeles, p 6

TRIAL

EXPECTATIONS

"trial was just procedure ... we knew we was going to be guilty" (Crit. 12/13/77 p. 21)
Told couldn't say certain things

Lawyers "admitted that we were going to get some time" (Small 6/3/78, p. 6)

Public sentiment - Small was aware of significance of
for changing cords at base (6/3/78, p. 14, 17-18
and outcome of trial

Small's Dream - 6/3/78, 15-16, 32
(after sentencing)

Dordman I figured we'd go to
trial and Ben get shit (p. 16) 20

WAVX Lawyers

Impressions of

5 lawyers and

Not a good one in the group (Small 6/2/78, p. 8)

"5 shaved tailed Lieutenants" (Small 12/6/77, p. 10)

"3 little ol' young dudes" (Wuldrup 12/9/77 p. 18)

Defense Strategy

Laufer told Small to deny making statement abt having navy by the balls (Small 6/3/78 p. 5-6)

Tried to show Small "as dedicated Navy man"
(Small 6/3/78 p. 6)

Limits of Defense: Men couldn't talk about working cowboy because that would be damaging to the Navy (Small 6/3/78, p. 18)
(Sheppard 10/20/77, p. 15, 23)

Fear of Ammo as reason: Small sez men heard him give this reason and then they used it 6/3/78, p. 19

Offie Gussard had hand in cast. He only one who had "valid reason" for refusal (Shep. 10/24/77 p. 16)

Defense / Laufer didn't use all available material to defend men (Watchdog 12/9/77 p. 17-18)

"It was a mockery" Bordmore 8/23/80 p. 19

Thurgood Marshall

Marshall come to trial met with men,
asked why hadn't they contacted NAACP
(Cutterd 12/17/77 p. 26-27)

Sheppard sed Marshall didn't take note, as though
he knew outcome. He met with the men, who
decided to stick with navy-lawyers (Sheppard 10/20/77 p. 15-16)
Shep sez he
wished they had
let Marshall
handle trial w/ th.
still probably could not have won
10/20/77, p. 23

Marshall was friendly with white woman
reporter (Mary Lindsay) (Shep. 10/20/77 p. 20)

~~Marshall~~

Marshall at trial. White woman reporter
mentioned Waldrop 12/9/77 p. 20-21

Dorland met Marshall 8/20/80 p. 20

Meek met Marshall 8/24/80, p. 12
he said to "f/g it cool"

Testimony (as remembered in interviews)

Sheppard sez Belucci lied on stand
about hearing "white mother fucker"

10/20/77 p. 23

Incident with Ollie Green (Shepp 10/20/77 p. 14)

Men had no prior understanding among
selves as to what they would say
Walsh - There was nothing else you could say
12/9/77, p. 18

Small - sez now heard him give "fear of ammo"
as reason, then they used it 6/9/78 p. 19

Guy testified at trial, denied knowing
anything abt barge mtg (12/14/77, p. 5)

Men who got summons used to
testify against others (Sheppard,
cf Guy's experience 10/20/77 p. 10)

Verdict and The Sentencing

Critchenden thought of his family and background ~~where~~ at moment of sentencing (Crit 12/13/77 p. 25)

Men given copies of their transcript to lug along as they marched behind a truck to prison (Sheppard, 10/20/77 p. 14-15)
Critchenden, 12/13/77, p. 25-26

Navy found us guilty to soviet spy. "We'll make an example of these niggers" (Small, 6/3/78, p. 18, 31)

Small's Dream 6/3/78 15-16, 32

Sheppard "My knees almost hit the ground" Rough of infant daughter 10/20/77 p. 23

Men given handwritten note informing them of conviction (Waldrop 12/9/77 p. 21-22)
"Ring-leaders" got 15 years

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PRISON

Mc

PRISON

Description

men kept to selves, called "PC niggers"
Had rep. for being "unruly and bad"
Had little trouble in prison except for
fights among selves

(Small 12/6/77 p. 18

Waldrop 12/7/77, p. 24

Guards called men niggers over PA system
"But you upside the head in a minute" (This at
Treasure
"end?)
(Sheppard 10/20/77 p. 15)
Imprisoned - 22 mos. (Shep p. 16)

"They didn't bother you much"
Shep. 10/20/77 p. 22

Sheppard remembers learning of. end of war
while in prison. Describes incident (11/20/77, p. 27)

Waldrop thinks they were at San Pedro one year
(12/9/77, p. 22)

Waldrop got in fight with Ollie Green
over a cigarette (12/9/77 p. 24)

men stuck together in prison

Guards would make it hard for all when there
was trouble

Spies suspected of being planted
men kept together, guards didn't trust them
(Waldrop, p. 25)

Bordenave now felt better in
prison than loading ammo.
Felt Ray had 'done something'
8/23/80 p 18

"We was more free" at San Pedro
than at P.C. (Bordenave, p 23)

"We had a good group - a group
of guys that thought the same.
That they didn't like the injustices
of the Navy" Bordenave, p. 23

Means treatment pretty good
at San Pedro p 27

PRISON

EXPECTATIONS

Marshall came to Son Pedro to encourage men not to give up hope. Gave them magazines, pamphlets (nothing new? let?)
Cliffenden, 12/13/77, p. 26

White woman reporter (Mary Lindsay) came to visit men, encourage them, tell them of Marshall's efforts (Shay. 10/20/77 p. 22)

~~Sheppard said he wished they had had more~~

Prison experience of
The men given summary
court martial

Bay 12/14/77 p. 4

Robinson 5/20/78 p. 28-29, 30

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CAMPAIGN

N

PUBLIC CAMPAIGN

(See NAACP-L.C. file for materials)

Small head rumor that someone had
raised \$150,000 for p.c. defense fund

Small 12/1/77 p. 11-12

See National Archives files

NAACP-L.C. files

Newspapers
JAG file

for info on public campaign

+ Navy response

Involvement of Franklin &
Eleanor Roosevelt
(See Roosevelt File)

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APPEAL

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APPEAL

small heard someone had gotten \$150,000
for P.C. defense fund 12/6/77 p. 11-12

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RELEASE

P

RELEASE

Many broken into groups of five and shipped out; rode from port to port, no duties, being "conditioned for discharge" (Small 12/6/77 p. 19, 21) Shep. p. 16-17, 18

Worked on
seamen
for first
time

Small talks of racial conflict on ship after release; ~~and~~ fights and makes friends with white Southerner 12/6/77 p. 20-21

Cutler sent to Philippines on a Landing Craft Tanker (?) worked as sailor for first time. Became friends with a white sailor. Had "an enjoyable year and probation" (Cutler 12/13/77, p. 27-29)

Sheppard describes release (he with Small), being sent on wherry under Golden Gate bridge to an aircraft carrier (10/20/77 p. 16-17, 18, 19)

Got back to SF early, discharged at St. Albans

Waldrop released with Small, Sheppard, McGee (12/9/77 p. 22)

Burden released with Percy (Kobinski), shipped out to Guam, after 6 mos discharged at Stockton p. 25-26, 30-31

Mans stayed ~~at~~ 12 U.S. on
The U.S. Caulwood due to
injury 8/24/80 p. 14, 18, 25

Others were "Shanghai" and
Split v. p. 25

Release for men who
got summaries

Goy: we got shanghai'd overseas
12/18/78 p. 8

Robinson: All of them sent to
New Caledonia, then separated
Some guys went to Guam, got
involved in riot there
5/20/78 p. 30-31

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CHANGES

Q

Chow Release (Irony of)

Men got what they had
wanted when they refused
work at P.C.

They were aboard ship in
seaman jobs. They were
not segregated. Got promotions.

Had a good experience
Their "meeting" had made
this possible by forcing
Navy to change policies. Their
imprisonment kept them in
Navy long enough to experience
the change

Also note change that had
occurred at P.C. base

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PC TOWN

R

PORT CHICAGO (The town)

Descriptions

Crittenden sez many foreigners ("blackhands")
There (12/13/77, p. 3)

Waldrop said PC jam crowded worse
than Mississippi. He heard that
black men had trouble in town
(12/9/77 p. 26)

Guy claimed PC not segregated
Says he went there with pelucchi
(See Annotated notes p. 3)

Routh: PC town was hostile to blacks
5/21/78 p. 5

Routh Says Navy decided to buy town
in 1967. People didn't want to move.
5/21/78 p. 6, 23

town "was nothing", "3rd place to look at"
PC town ^{still} largest port for shipping ammo
(Routh 5/21/78 p. 23)

Note: Why did Navy decide to buy PC town
in 1967. Must have had to do with Vietnam
war, and possibly anti-war demos at PC

Robinson remembers PC as "pretty nice place"
5/20/78 p. 11

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MEN TODAY

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T

PC Man today
Their present lives/work

Small become building contractor. Lost two
sons in a fire in 1958. Joined Apostolic
Church (Small 6/10/75 p. 10, 11-12, 20)
Now is a "fix-it man" employed with ICCDC
program working on a school. (p. 21) lives
in an unheated house in the basement (p. 11)

Crithfield is a car salesman (2)
came back home, ~~fixed~~ went to
college (Cost 12/13/77, p. 29)

Sheppard now unemployed bus driver.
10/20/77 p. 20-21.

Waldrop seems unemployed or retired
Gay is storekeeper in NY

Ruth is VA Counselor in L.A.
(See his story of his struggle to
get an education and his VA benefits)
5/22/78 p. 11f
Kobinsson (?)

Bordenwe owns a Liquor store in L.A.

(8/23/84, p. 24, 31-32-35

"Whitney taught me to go ahead
and do it myself

Meeks works in security, 23

Couldn't get behind as a welder, 22

PC men today
Their present Attitude towards their Experience

Small has written about PC experience
(6/6/78 p. 15-16, 17)

Small recounts incident w/ racism and concludes: "That's the way these United States are. I've come to the conclusion that my only way to escape it is through God"
(6/10/78 p. 25)

Small thinks work stoppage was inevitable
6/3/78 p. 31

Chittenden: Probation exp was only thing
he found enjoyable in Navy.
made use of GI bill for schooling (12/13/77, p. 25)
~~Chittenden~~

Sheppard: "I don't even think about it.
This story that I'm telling you, I've never
told this to anybody. Men talk about their
stories in the Army and Navy. I don't say
nothing" (I never even told my son)
10/26/77 p. 21, 22

Small's sons went into Navy. Small thinks
Navy has changed "remarkably" (6/10/78, p. 22-23)
(same rationale as used by some
men in 1944)

See Caldwell's Daily News
column

Waldrop is proud of way men stuck together during prison. "That bunch of men stuck together better than any bunch of blks I've ever seen" (12/9/77 p. 25, 26)

Thinks govt failed to prove motive (p. 26)
~~that~~ He noted that publicity from trial caused Navy to bring in white boys to start unloading ammo (p. 26)

"Boy we put a hurtin' on them"
12/9/78 p. 26

Gary was put with men on barge who were going back to work (12/14/77, 4)
Says now that "I'd a rather been with those that refused"
(Annotated notes, p. 3)

Ruth (See his struggle for VA rights and education)

Thinks memory of men who died was berminched 5/2/78, p. 26

is peeved that Navy "treated us in the manner in which they did" (p. 29)

Bordenave "I'm glad I did it. I feel I did something for the black cause" (p. 23)
trying to get honorable discharge
"still a little bitter" p. 32

Attitudes today (continued)

Robinson "It allowed me to go back
to school" 5/20/72 p. 31

"^u Experience was great... worth
the effort" but we didn't
have intelligence to handle situation,
use right method (p. 32)

Meek has not told son p 11
with fearful of more repercussions, p 12
Thinks men got a "raw deal" p 20-21
ambivalent about whether
men did right thing p 21, 23
Bitterness, 25-26

Contacts between men since 1946 ~~1944~~ Release

Small - had tried to locate men, but
had no success 12/6/77 p. 21

Crittenden: Encountered Benton Dales
working as "janitor or something"
at A + M College in Huntsville
(12/13/77 p. 25)
Had some contact with Gay (in 1950s?)
Got call from him in 1977 (p. 30-31)

Sheppard: May have "bumped into" Willie
Gardner. Says he doesn't tell anyone the
story of P.C. 10/20/77 p. 20-21
Met Glenney, talked abt 1 1/2 hours (p. 13)

Waldrop

Waldrop used to see Offie Green who had
a stand in Northwest (12/9/77 p. 14)

Gay Saw Crittenden in 1950 (12/14/77 p. 4)
Located him again in 1977 through
Red Cross (p. 3)

Route: Used to visit Jesse Jones in
1950s; met Percy Robinson in
church in L.A. (5/21/78 p. 6) 16

Robinson saw Charles Gray(?) in Chicago
(5/20/78 p. 261)

Bordewave hasn't seen any of
The 50 8/23/80 p. 28)
has met Ruth

Meek hasn't seen other men, p 28

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ENTIRE

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Will include maps, diagrams, photos

Revised Outline

10/30/15

Introduction (brief)

1. A Day at Port Chicago (Joe Small story)

^{The day of}
2. July 17, 1944 at Port Chicago Computer file ch 2

^{The men}
3. Blacks in The U.S. Navy (Disc. ch. 1)

^{The issue}
4. Background of P.C. (Disc ch. 2) Computer file ch 2/1

^{The explosion}
5. The Explosion & Aftermath (Disc ch 3)
inc. Court of Inquiry
Expand with more descriptions

6. The Work Stoppage (Disc ch 4)
inc. Interrogation

^{The trial}
7. Trial & Imprisonment: The Court Martial (Disc ch 5)

8. The Outcome: (Disc ch 5 & Epilog)
release, war/ben today
significance / Joe's views

Appendix: The Social Psychology of Rebellion

Appendix: List of Those who Died in Explosion

Sources

Note: Follow Joe Small activities / thoughts through each chapter. Use more interview material.

Tell story in part through eyes
of various individuals

Book Outline

3/5/85

Ch 1: The Day

Day of Explosion

introduce several individuals

— Joe Small

— other men (composite)

Zucker — others ^{background} Civilian / newspaper editor?

See "prior events" / Explosion

Recent find log of loading of E.A. Ryerson

~~Ch 1~~

Ch 2 The Base

→ History of P.E.
the Navy in WWI
+ in Bay Area

~~History of the Navy~~
Segregation

Ch 3

The Enlisted

Backgrounds

Training

Expectations

Teachings

— others

Backgrounds
Training

men + the officer
→ make men in it any

recognition

Ch 4

The Work

also as

Content

crime?
murder

and
the work

Ch 5 The town

History of P.C.
attacks in the Bay Area / Simpson, clubs
(or include in notes on reactions / entitled men)

Ch 6 The Explosion Descriptions

Doctor's account
Aftermath
held cross report

- Roe Island residents
- pilots
- pulling ships
- town
- coast guard
- shore / man
- media

Ch 7 The Court of Inquiry

intelligence report (March)
press reaction - Exhibit 95 (p. 17)

Arthur's biggest
or Cavaria?
and his changed
view

Ch 8 The black choppage 'Muting'

FDR / EK responses

Ch 9 The ~~Real~~ Court Martial

Thurgood Marshall, Mary Lindsay Starns
background attached

Ch 10 Imprisonment and release ~~imprisonment~~ ~~the outcome~~

Imprisonment, the campaign, release
the new today
The base today
The town today

Ch 11 Epilog & The Writer & The Story (Impact on me)

Appendix: P.C. as a case study in
Social Psychology & Power

Appendix: List of ~~casualties~~ those who died in Explosion

Need to do

Find ^{local} newspapers

accounts of P.C. history/background

accounts of explosion

accounts of navy buying
of P.C.

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XYZ

RUMORS

Small hears "scuttlebutt" abt \$250,000 to
modernize base 12/6/77, p. 7-8

Rumor abt \$150,000 for P.C. Defense Fund
Small 12/6/77 p. 11

Small hears "scuttlebutt" abt letter sent in
1947 and every/thing's gonna change
6/3/78, p. 1

Small hears rumors before verdict that everything
will be acquitted 6/3/78, p. 18
heard that judge advocate was killed

REUNION

Small once considered reunion of
Port Chicago men, but dropped idea
(Small 12/6/77, p. 22)

MEMENTOS

Small has photograph of himself taken
in uniform in 1946 (Small 12/6/77, p. 22)

Small has semi-fictional account of life
and work at P.C.

**twenty five
copper
reinforced
a-z index
dividers**

25 A-Z INDEX DIVIDERS 11x8½
3 HOLES REINFORCED WITH HEAVY DUTY COPPER

