

MINUTES OF SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING:

1. The Master held a meeting of the Ship's Safety Committee in his office at 1300 this date. The following members were present:

Captain G. W. BERLIN, Master; Mr. Wm. H. Cunningham, First Officer; Mr. J. R. Rhodes, Chief Steward; Mr. L. C. McHugh, Purser(Recorder); LCDR W. B. Cobb, Jr. USN, COMILDEPT, and LT S. R. Edwards, MC, USN, Medical Officer.

2. The meeting was opened with the reading of the minutes of the last Safety Committee Meeting, followed by a reading and discussion of the departmental safety meeting minutes held during the last month. It was found that all deficiencies reported therein were minor and can be corrected by the ship's force.

3. The Master asked the Department Heads if they had any safety hazards to report. All replied in the negative.

4. The Master stated that after a recent emergency drill it was reported to him by one of the ship's officers that a crewman had refused to obey an order issued by that officer, the reason given being "that is not my job." The Master directed the Department Heads to make sure that all members of their departments fully understand that an order issued by any ship's officer, during a drill or actual emergency, is to be instantly obeyed under pain of severe disciplinary action, and that if there is any question as to whether the order given is a "proper order" or a "legal order" that question will be resolved later. The Master went on to state that it is very possible that some of the new men, not yet aware of the rigid requirements for unquestioned compliance with orders from superiors, during drills or actual emergencies, are under the impression that they do not have to comply with an order unless it is issued by an officer in their own department. The Master directed that this subject be fully dealt with when indoctrinating new men, and that it frequently be mentioned at departmental safety meetings.

5. The Master expressed grave concern regarding incidents during this voyage involving injuries to the eyes from the use of chemicals. This matter was discussed at length. In summary, the Master directed the Department Heads to emphasize to their men the importance of treating all chemicals with due respect. All posted orders, precautions spelled out on labels, etc. are to be strictly observed by anyone using chemicals for cleaning, etc. Men not familiar with the various chemicals used in ships should get the advice of their supervisors before using them. The accidents do not always happen on "some other ship." Allowing fumes and the chemical itself to touch the eyes or any exposed skin can be very dangerous and at times fatal. This is a subject which cannot be too highly stressed and must be given the attention it deserves if we are to prevent crippling or perhaps fatal injuries, the Master warned.

6. The accidents which occurred since last Safety Meeting were reviewed. Outside of those caused by chemicals discussed above, they were minor and for the most part caused by the usual assortment of causes such as falling down ladders, slipping on wet decks, etc. The Master emphasized that the nucleus of journeymen in ships nowadays must be continually on guard to detect and correct unsafe practices by the new men to the end that our accident record will be contained within acceptable limits.

7. The meeting adjourned at 1350.


G. W. BERLIN

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