

- (12.3)
22. Q. Where did you go then?  
A. Immediately to the pilot house to pick up my helmet.
23. Q. Who did you see in the pilot house at that time?  
A. I am not able to name the individuals because I went through in such a hurry.
24. Q. Where did you go after you left the pilot house?  
A. Up the ladder to my station on the bridge. That's the flying bridge.
25. Q. Did you see soundman McGuire?  
A. I did not see him in either place. The wardroom couch, the pilot house, or on the way to the pilot house that I recall.

Neither the recorder, the interested party or his counsel, nor the board desired further to examine this witness.

The board informed the witness that he was privileged to make any further statement covering anything relating to the subject matter of the investigation which he thought should be a matter of record in connection therewith, which had not been fully brought out by the previous questioning.

The witness said that he had nothing further to state.

The witness was duly warned and withdrew.

Ensign Charles Elwood Weymouth, was recalled by the board and warned that the oath previously taken was still binding.

Examined by the board:

1. Q. During the firing of the 3<sup>rd</sup>/50 caliber gun on 28 June of the PC 815 you stated that you were at the bridge desk near the sound stack.  
A. Yes, sir.
2. Q. Did you see McGuire, soundman second class, in the pilot house at any time?  
A. Yes, sir.
3. Q. Where was he standing?  
A. Facing my right near the recorder, sir.
4. Q. Did you hear McGuire make any comments concerning the firing?  
A. No, sir.
5. Q. Did you see McGuire converse with the helmsman during the firing or shortly thereafter?  
A. Yes, sir, we were all talking.
6. Q. Relate the substance of that conversation.  
A. Just before the firing the helmsman had sort of cracked a joke about if the gun went off he could be replaced, but the port in front of him could not be. That was just the gist of the conversation.
7. Q. Was there any discussion or conversation concerning the firing?  
A. No, sir, not that I heard.
8. Q. Did you hear a target designated?  
A. No, sir.



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9. Q. Did the captain inform you that the firing would be conducted on that afternoon?  
A. I don't remember.
10. Q. Did you know that firing was to be conducted that afternoon?  
A. Well, I gathered as much when I saw them making preparations.
11. Q. Did you see any of the shots fall?  
A. No, sir.
12. Q. How many shots were fired?  
A. I am not sure. Do you want me to estimate? I don't know.
13. Q. How far were you from land when the firing was conducted?  
A. I don't know.
14. Q. Were you sitting or standing while in the pilot house?  
A. Standing, sir.
15. Q. Did you have cotton in your ears?  
A. Yes, sir.
16. Q. What speed was the ship making when the firing was conducted?  
A. I don't know.
17. Q. Was the sun shining?  
A. Yes, sir.
18. Q. What was the visibility?  
A. Fair.
19. Q. Did you see the target at which the ship was firing?  
A. No, sir.
20. Q. Did you look for the target?  
A. No, sir, that's the reason I didn't see it.
21. Q. Did you know whether they were firing at a rock, or an island, or a wooden floating target?  
A. No, sir, I don't know.
22. Q. Was the ship heading into the sun at the time of firing?  
A. I don't remember.
23. Q. Do you recall being on the flying bridge with the captain of the PC 815 and McGuire, soundman second class, on the afternoon of June 28?  
A. Yes, sir.
24. Q. At about what time was that?  
A. That was just previous to the firing at the time general quarters was sounded. Let's say 1615.
25. Q. Was there any statement made by the commanding Officer at that time to you or to soundman McGuire to the effect that he was going to hold general quarters or that he was going to fire the 3" gun?  
A. No, sir.
26. Q. Did the captain have any discussion with soundman McGuire which you observed or overheard or participated in?  
A. No, sir.



Examined by the recorder.

27. Q. Did you see McGuire at anytime during the firing of the small arms off the Coronados Islands?  
A. No, sir.

Cross examined by counsel for the interested party.

28. Q. Was the ship dead in the water at the time of the firing?  
A. Underway.

29. Q. Judging from the vibration, would you say that the ship was moving at a one-third or two-thirds speed or standard speed.  
A. I cannot remember, sir.

30. Q. Well, was she nearly dead in the water?  
A. I don't remember.

31. Q. Was there any spray coming over the pilothouse?  
A. I didn't see any.

32. Q. Did you notice any water on the deckhouse and forecastle at anytime?  
A. No, sir.

33. Q. What was McGuire doing when the first two shots were fired?  
A. He was just standing there as far as I know.

34. Q. Did he appear to be observing the firing?  
A. No.

35. Q. Was he standing in the center of the pilothouse with you?  
A. No, sir. He was over at one side with the recorder. I don't even remember that he moved during the time that we were going there.

36. Q. Was he looking out to sea?  
A. I can't say exactly where he was looking all the time. As I remember, he was facing me, but I can't say that I ever saw him looking out to sea.

37. Q. Prior to the firing had you seen the aircraft bombing targets that had been referred to?  
A. We had seen them that day.

Re-Examined by the board.

38. Q. Were you on the bridge the entire time during which the 3" gun was fired?  
A. Yes, sir.

39. Q. How long a period of time would you say that it took for the firing?  
A. I can't say.

40. Q. What were the circumstances of your obtaining and placing the cotton in your ears.  
A. I saw preparations being made and past experience told me that during that time they usually had firing so I was prepared.

Neither the board, the recorder nor the counsel for the interested party desired further to examine this witness.



(REV)

The board informed the witness that he was privileged to make any further statement concerning anything relating to the subject matter of the investigation which he thought should be a matter of record in connection therewith, which had not been fully brought out by the previous questioning.

The witness said that he had nothing further to state.

The witness was duly warned and withdrew.

George T. Price, Signalman first class was recalled by the board and warned that the oath previously taken was still binding.

Examined by the board.

1. Q. During the afternoon of firing of the 3" gun on 28th of June, who was in the pilot house?

A. Dexter, QM3c, Welch, Scom2c, Beers, Som3c, myself, Mr. Asmann.

2. Q. Do you know a man by the name of McGuire, scundman second class?

A. Yes, sir.

3. Q. Was he in the pilot house during the firing?

A. At the time I hit the bridge I noticed him, sir.

4. Q. Was he in the pilot house during the firing of the 3" gun?

A. I couldn't say, whether he was or not, sir. I didn't turn around and look at the bridge throughout the firing, I kept my eye on the compass.

5. Q. Do you know Ensign Weymouth?

A. Yes, sir.

6. Q. Was he in the pilot house during the firing?

A. I don't know, sir.

7. Q. You have stated that you saw the target that was being fired at. Describe the target?

A. It is a pyramid pattern I guess you would call it.

8. Q. Pyramid what?

A. Pattern. A wooden structure.

9. Q. Did you see any shots hit land that had been fired by this vessel?

A. No, sir.

10. Q. Did you see any shots fall in the vicinity of the target?

A. No, sir.

11. Q. How many shots were fired by the PG 815?

A. Four.

12. Q. Did you discuss with McGuire the results or conduct of the firing?

A. No, sir.



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13. Q. Did you discuss with anybody the conduct of the firing?  
A. No, sir, I didn't.
14. Q. You did not even discuss the fall of shot with McGuire?  
A. No, sir.
15. Q. Did you know what target had been designated?  
A. No, sir, I didn't. There were two of them and I don't know which one they used as a target.
16. Q. Did you wear cotton in your ears at general quarters?  
A. No, sir.
17. Q. What was Mr. Assam doing during the general quarters period.  
A. He was on the sound recorder, I mean the chemical recorder, with Welch. He moved around the bridge between times, but that's where he spent most of his time.
18. Q. What was the speed of the ship when the firing was conducted?  
A. I don't remember, sir.
19. Q. Did you have good steering control or poor steering control?  
A. Well, it was difficult to keep it right on course. I used enough rudder, but as far as steering was concerned, I had good steering.
20. Q. What was Mr. Weymouth doing during general quarters?  
A. I don't know, sir.
21. Q. Where was he standing in the pilot house?  
A. When I came on the bridge he and this McGuire were both standing in about the same position on the bridge. I didn't pay much attention of their actions after that during the firing.
22. Q. What time did you have supper on the evening of the 28th?  
A. I couldn't tell you the exact time, Commander, our supper is usually at 1720.
23. Q. Was McGuire in the mess room while you were having supper?  
A. I don't know, sir, whether he was or not.
24. Q. How far were you from land when the firing was conducted?  
A. Seven or eight miles it seemed to me.
25. Q. Was there a check-sight observer on the gun?  
A. That I don't know, sir.
26. Q. Did you ever at any time discuss the results of the firing under discussion with soundman McGuire?  
A. No, sir.
27. Q. Not having seen the fall of shot did you ask anyone on board how many hits they got?  
A. No, sir, it seemed unimportant to me at the time. I wasn't interested.
28. Q. Was the firing considered good?  
A. No one had said anything to me about it, sir, whether or not it was good.

Gross examined by the counsel for the interested party:



29. Q. Can you hear any fire control orders or directions given in the pilot house without earphones?

A. No, sir.

30. Q. During the firing were the bridge doors open or closed?

A. Open, sir.

31. Q. During the firing, was McGuire standing by your left hand?

A. No, sir.

32. Q. He wasn't?

A. No, sir.

33. Q. Was he someplace behind you?

A. He could easily have been.

Re-examined by the board:

34. Q. Relate to the board any conversation that you had with anyone in the pilot house during the general quarters.

A. I distinctly remember cautioning the man on the annunciator to answer all the orders he got for these bells promptly and be sure and center the pointers on the dial. He made a remark that Beers was looking for some cotton and I told him that he did not need it where he was.

35. Q. Were you concerned about the shock of gun fire?

A. No, sir. This I remember, once the gun was trained forward they were coming around and I remarked if they fired and ever ejected a shell from that position it would probably hit me in the face.

36. Q. What else would it have done?

A. Probably come through the porthole.

37. Q. Did you make any statement concerning the probability of replacing either the port or yourself?

A. Yes, sir. I said, "they could replace me anytime due to the fact that they got a lot of man power, but it took a lot of work to get a damaged port fixed".

38. Q. Continue on with whatever conversation you took part in or statements that you made.

A. That's about all that I can remember, sir.

39. Q. Did you enter into discussion with anyone concerning the location of the fall of shot?

A. No, sir.

40. Q. While you were on the bridge?

A. No, sir.

41. Q. Were you in agreement with McGuire as to the location of the fall of shot?

A. I didn't even say anything about it, sir, to McGuire.

42. Q. Did McGuire say anything to you about the location of the fall of shot?

A. No, sir.

Neither the board, the recorder nor the counsel for the interested party desired further to examine this witness.

The board informed the witness that he was privileged to make any further statement covering anything relating to the subject matter of the investigation which he thought should be a matter of record in connection therewith, which had not been fully brought out by the previous questioning.

The witness said that he had nothing further to state.

The witness was duly warned and withdrew.



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The board then, at 4:53 p.m., took a recess until 8:37 p.m., at which time it reassembled.

Present: All the members, the recorder, the interested party and his counsel.

No witnesses not otherwise connected with the investigation were present.

George Arthur Moran, GM3c, was recalled by the board and warned that the oath previously taken was still binding.

Examined by the board.

1. Q. Upon conclusion of the firing of the 3" 50 cal. gun on 28 June what statements did you make regarding the effectiveness and accuracy of the fire?

A. I don't recall that I even made any statement.

2. Q. Did you make any statement concerning the firing at all.

A. Not that I recall, only I told my crew they done a good job as far as loading and everything else was considered.

3. Q. After your gun was manned and ready for general quarters describe the events or drills taking place up to the time of fire.

A. Well, I was giving my first loader, second loader, and third loader instructions on how to pass the ammunition--make it snappy as possible.

4. Q. You were instructing your crew to handle ammunition?

A. I was instructing the rest of my crew in general routine gun firing that my gun captain or gun pointer never did instruct them in.

5. Q. What orders did you receive as to the target designated?

A. All I know was to train out on the port side, other orders to train on the target. I didn't see any target myself.

6. Q. You are the gun captain?

A. Yes, sir.

7. Q. Was there a check sight observer on the gun?

A. No, sir, we don't have any.

8. Q. Was there a safety officer at the gun?

A. No, sir.

9. Q. Did you hear anybody during the firing question or speak of the fall of shot?

A. No, sir, I didn't that I recall.

10. Q. Were any spots made during the firing?

A. No, sir.

11. Q. What was the range set on the gun?

A. I don't know what the range was set on the gun, sir.

12. Q. Who else in the gun crew might shed some light on what the target was?

A. The pointer or trainer, sir.

13. Q. Was there anybody else?

A. The sight setter was all I know of.

14. Q. Was there anybody on the fore-castle watching the shooting?

A. No, sir.



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15. Q. How did the word reach the gun crew to train to port?  
A. Comes through the phones.
16. Q. What speed was the ship making when you fired?  
A. I don't know, sir.
17. Q. High speed or low speed?  
A. I couldn't say very well what it was making.
18. Q. Were you making 25 knots?  
A. No, sir.
19. Q. Were you making 10 knots?  
A. I couldn't say on the average what the knots were. I wasn't paying any attention.
20. Q. Were you making zero knots?  
A. Not that I recall.
21. Q. If you did not see the shots land, did you have enough curiosity about the success of the maneuver to inquire where the shots landed?  
A. Not that I recollect of it, sir. I wasn't interested in the time. I was interested in cleaning the gun, getting the gun crew up there to clean the gun.
22. Q. Did you hear at any time thereafter discussion concerning the accuracy of the firing?  
A. No, sir, I didn't hear any.
23. Q. Has the firing not been mentioned within the ship within your hearing?  
A. Not that I recall, sir.
24. Q. Not that you recall?  
A. No, sir.
25. Q. Have you talked to anybody about the firing?  
A. No, sir. I am sure not.
26. Q. Have you heard anybody else speak of the firing?  
A. No, sir, I haven't.
27. Q. Does the ship regularly conduct exercises and practices without criticizing the errors or mistakes that are made?  
A. I don't. I never heard of any.
28. Q. Have you ever given instruction, have you ever corrected any of your gun's crew concerning their errors?  
A. Usually I try to pick out immediately mistakes that men make right around the gun. First loader, or the signalmen, second loader, and third loader.
29. Q. How many times have you participated in the firing of the 3" 50 on the PG 815?  
A. Several times, sir.
30. Q. Approximately how many?  
A. About two or three.
31. Q. During those occasions, did you ever observe the fall of shot?  
A. No, sir. I have never. I am sure too busy.



32. Q. At any time have you ever discussed the fall of shot with members of the crew?

A. Not that I recall.

The board informed the witness that he was privileged to make any further statement covering anything relating to the subject matter of the investigation which he thought should be a matter of record in connection therewith, which had not been fully brought out by the previous questioning.

The witness stated that he had nothing further to say.

The witness was duly warned and withdrew.

Lieutenant (jg) Asmam was recalled by the board and warned that the oath previously taken was still binding.

Examined by the board.

1. Q. During general quarters on the afternoon of 28 June what persons were in the pilot house?

A. I recall Price; Mr. Weymouth; and Welch, soundman; and the soundman, I am not sure what his name was--Beers; and I am almost positive that I saw the red head boy, McGuire, behind the stack; and myself. That's all I recall.

2. Q. How many men are in the crew of PC 815?

A. It varies from week to week. Close to 60, 61, 62.

3. Q. How many are you allowed?

A. The complement, I believe, is 59 or 60, sir. I am not sure.

4. Q. Relate to the board any discussions that you have entered into with the officers and crew of the ship, outside of this board, concerning the conduct of firing of the 3" 50 cal. on the 28th of June.

A. I don't recall any particular comments I could relate as having said, sir.

5. Q. Tell us in general what discussions have taken place between you and any officers and crew.

A. There are no discussions that I recall that I could relate.

6. Q. You have never mentioned the conduct of the firing of 28 June to anybody on the ship?

A. I might have.

7. Q. I dare say you might have. I said, did you?

A. I probably did, I don't recall, sir.

8. Q. You probably did, but you don't recall.

A. I don't remember any particular conversation.

9. Q. Did you hear comments to the effect that shooting was good?

A. No, sir, I didn't.

10. Q. Did you hear that it was bad?

A. No, sir.

11. Q. Did you hear that it was fair?

A. I don't recall.

12. Q. Did you take any steps to determine what was the accuracy of the battery on that occasion?

A. No, sir. I was tired. I had been working all day in sound operations and was just on the bridge before the general quarters were going on.



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13. Q. What time did you get up on the morning of 28 June?  
A. About 0700, I believe, or quarter of seven.
14. Q. And what time did this practice occur?  
A. Somewhere after 1600, 1630 or somewhere near there.
15. Q. What was the target designated?  
A. The target I heard the captain designate was aircraft target.
16. Q. You heard the captain's voice designate it?  
A. I either heard the captain's voice or heard the talker repeat it.
17. Q. You stated that you heard the captain designate the target?  
A. It was either hearing it from him or hearing from the talker - one of the two, sir.
18. Q. Did you see the target?  
A. Yes, I saw the target and saw the gun point at the target, sir. In the direction the target was in out that way.
19. Q. How many shots did you see hit the water or land?  
A. I didn't see any targets hit the water or land, sir. I wasn't particularly looking at the target at the time. I was talking to Murray in the pilot house and watching the recorder and watching the men in the pilot house. Wasn't particularly watching what was going on about the time. I was talking to Mr. Weymouth.
20. Q. Why did you think we would be interested in what you were talking about?  
A. I haven't any particular reason for knowing that you would ask that type of question because you have asked so many other types of questions.
21. Q. Was there headway on the ship when the firing was conducted?  
A. Was the ship you mean underway?
22. Q. Headway!  
A. There was quite a bit of spray and water carrying over the bow coming back over the pilot house. We were heading more or less into the weather. It was wet, or I will say, on the wings of the bridge the spray was coming back.
23. Q. Did you ever go out on the wing of the bridge during the conduct of the firing?  
A. I might have. Yes, sir.
24. Q. For what purpose?  
A. I might add looking at the gun crew. It isn't very nice standing in the pilot house or near where guns are firing. You get a terrific concussion from the fire of the gun.
25. Q. Was it uncomfortable on the wing of the bridge at the time of firing?  
A. I wasn't on the wing of the bridge. It has been uncomfortable, yes.
26. Q. Did you notice McGuire, the visiting sound instructor, go out on the wing of the bridge?  
A. No, sir, I didn't.