

- D-13
27. Q. Did you notice him on the port side of the pilot house?  
A. No, sir. The only place I did notice him, I might add, if you want it in the record, was behind the stack operator in the step off place.
28. Q. What remark did McGuire make concerning the fire?  
A. I heard him make no remarks, sir.
29. Q. What remarks did Price make concerning the fire?  
A. If any remarks were made, I can't remember any exact words of particular subjects they were talking about.
30. Q. Have you ever been to sound school, Mr. Asmann?  
A. The only sound school I have been was SCTC, Miami.
31. Q. Did they teach you to run the chemical recorder?  
A. We had a total of four or five minutes, I believe, on it for each student.
32. Q. Did you receive any training in the use of the recorder while here?  
A. The school?
33. Q. Operating with the sound school?  
A. I tried to learn as much as I could during the day.
34. Q. It was contemplated that your main general quarters station would be the chemical recorder?  
A. It had been prior to that.
35. Q. As executive officer did you not understand that you had an interest in the efficiency of the ship's main battery?  
A. I appreciate the fact that as executive officer I had interest in every part of the ship.
36. Q. Where were you standing at the time you heard the order passed to the gun to train on said target?  
A. I can't remember whether I was in the pilot house or on the wings of the bridge, but it was one of those two places.
37. Q. Where was the captain at that time?  
A. When it was used?
38. Q. When the order was passed.  
A. He must have been on the flying bridge, not below.
39. Q. Did you give the order, did you receive the order commence fire while in the pilot house?  
A. I don't recall receiving any orders to commence firing.
40. Q. Were you informed that the order to commence fire had been given?  
A. Not that I recall, sir.
41. Q. As officer of the deck would it be of any interest to you to receive information that the ship had been ordered to commence fire?  
A. It certainly should be. I suppose it should be in real battle.
42. Q. How do you explain the statement that you made that you did not observe the target at which the gun was firing nor did you observe any of the fall of shot from the gun?  
A. For this reason. As I mentioned earlier, we had school instruction all day and there were other officers aboard who were taking care of firing, their immediate responsibility, were at their stations apparently. Apparently they must have been, therefore, I had no direct responsibility in observing and being about everything going on about gun firing.

43. Q. On the first day of this investigation while you were testifying, you made a remark which I believe was off the record to the effect that one reason you were in the pilot house during the firing was because it was cold and wet outside and that you wanted to be warm and dry. Am I correct in quoting your off the record statement?

A. I wouldn't say if that was my exact words. It might have been my feeling, it's a perfectly human feeling.

44. Q. Was that one of the reasons why you were in the pilot house during the firing?

A. I wouldn't say that was one of the reasons particularly. The main reason was that that was my battle station to be in the pilot house.

Cross examined by the counsel for the interested party:

45. Q. Mr. Asmann, is it not a fact that at the end of firing that the ship was headed into seas that were heavy and wind was blowing a large amount of spray over the forecandle?

A. Some to the gun crew and bridge. The pilot house and wings of the bridge. Every thing sort or broke and sprayed over us.

46. Q. Do you know whether or not any maneuver was made to ease the ship out of the sea and relieve the wind and spray condition?

A. No, sir, I think the captain likes to see the crew get wet.

47. Q. When did you last see the target described as the aircraft bombing target in relation to the firing?

A. I last saw it surely, before the first shot was fired. I looked to see what the target was.

48. Q. And by that, you could see it before the firing, what elapsed time do you mean?

A. A minute or a minute or two or three I thought.

49. Q. Did you see the target after general quarters?

A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir, after general quarters was sounded.

50. Q. And did you see it after the firing?

A. Yes, sir. At the time we slowed down the speed and spray stopped coming over it.

51. Q. And when you last saw it, was it forward the port beam or abaft the port beam?

A. When I last saw it - when I first saw it it was forward - it was on the port side forward.

52. Q. And where was it when you last saw it?

A. It was forward, but I wouldn't swear whether it was starboard or port side.

53. Q. Had it reached a position abeam?

A. Well, it might have been abaft the beam when I saw it. Having stopped the operation and turning.

54. Q. Well, had there been a turn?

A. There was a turn shortly after the firing had finished. We had turned back toward the islands after the firing.

55. Q. Did the ship keep a straight course during the entire firing?

A. As I recall it did. Yes, sir.

56. Q. Did you observe the course. The compass course she had?

A. No, sir, I just know I could tell approximately what direction we were going. The captain was conning the ship.

57. Q. During the time you were on a straight course, to the best of your recollection, the target passed from a point off the port bow to a position abaft the beam?

A. That's roughly the way the target had been.

58. Q. Did you hear anyone make a remark to the effect that the shot had hit land or rocks?

A. I don't recall.

59. Q. Did anything occur while you were on the bridge during this period to indicate to you that the shot had fallen near the target - the floating target?

A. Not on the bridge, sir.

60. Q. By that, do you mean something happened elsewhere to so indicate to you?

A. It might have. I don't recall specifically any direct statement or statements to that effect.

61. Q. Then there was no indication to you by word, act, or conduct of any person whatsoever as to the fall of shot. Is that correct?

A. I couldn't swear that its correct. I may have heard comment. I don't recall specific comment.

62. Q. Would you have reacted to information that rocks on the island had been struck by shot?

A. I probably would have.

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 stated that he had nothing further to say.

The witness was duly warned and withdrew.

A witness called by the recorder entered, was duly sworn, and informed of the subject matter of the investigation.

Examined by the recorder:

1. Q. State to the board your name.

A. Lounie Warren Welch, Jr.

2. Q. Your rate?

A. Soundman second class.

3. Q. Your present station?

A. U.S.S. PC 815, sir.

4. Q. Were you on board the PC 815 on 28 June, 1943?

A. Yes, sir.

5. Q. What was your battle station on that day?

A. Chemical recorder, sir.

6. Q. Is it correct to say that you were stationed in the pilot house during the firing of the 3"/50 gun?

A. Yes, sir.

- (100,50)
7. Q. Do you know soundman McGuire?  
A. I think, sir, that was the soundman who came aboard for the operation.
8. Q. Did you see him in the pilot house of the PC 815 on 28 June during the firing of the 3"/50 gun?  
A. No, sir, not during the firing, sir.
9. Q. Did you see him immediately before or immediately after the firing of the 3"/50 in the pilot house?  
A. I saw him before the firing, sir.
10. Q. Did you see him go out of the pilot house before the firing of the 3"/50?  
A. No, sir.
11. Q. Where was he standing in the pilot house before the firing of the 3"/50?  
A. When I went on general quarters, he was standing behind the soundman, sir.
12. Q. Behind what?  
A. The soundman, sir.
13. Q. In what position?  
A. In the pilot house on the starboard side near the after bulkhead.
14. Q. Did you see Lieutenant Asmann in the pilot house at that time?  
A. Yes, sir.
15. Q. Where was he standing in relation to soundman McGuire?  
A. I don't know, sir, I didn't notice.
16. Q. Did you see Ensign Weymouth in the pilot house at that time?  
A. I didn't notice him, sir.
17. Q. Is it your testimony that at no time during the firing of the 3"/50 did you see Ensign Weymouth in the pilot house?  
A. I don't remember seeing him, sir.
18. Q. How long was it before the firing of the 3"/50 that you saw soundman McGuire in the pilot house?  
A. I couldn't say exactly. A few minutes is all I remember.
19. Q. From where McGuire was standing, would it have been possible for him to see the fall of shot from the 3"/50?  
A. I don't think so, sir.
20. Q. What do you base that opinion upon?  
A. Standing behind the soundman, you are standing on the ladder below the wings of the bridge, sir. That's below.
21. Q. Did anything obstruct McGuire's view of the 3"/50 gun?  
A. I don't think so, sir. I didn't see him, sir.

Examined by the board:

22. Q. Did soundman McGuire continue to stand behind the soundman during the firing of the gun?  
A. I don't know, sir. I was reading the chemical recorder, sir. I didn't notice him.
23. Q. You don't know whether he was there or whether he wasn't. That's your answer?  
A. Yes, sir.

- (20.13)
24. Q. What were the readings on the chemical recorder?  
A. There were none at the approximate time, sir.
25. Q. You stated you were reading the chemical recorder. Did you have a contact?  
A. No, sir.
26. Q. Then you were not reading the chemical recorder?  
A. Well, sir, we were trying to pick up a contact.
27. Q. You state that you had no contact, is that correct?  
A. No definite contact, sir.
28. Q. Did you see the 3"/50 caliber gun firing?  
A. No, sir.
29. Q. Did you see the fall of shot from the gun?  
A. No, sir.
30. Q. Were you looking in the direction in which the gun was pointed?  
A. No, sir.
31. Q. Did you hear any conversation in the pilot house concerning the accuracy of firing or the location of the fall of shot from the gun?  
A. No, sir.
32. Q. How many shots were fired on this occasion?  
A. Four rounds, sir.
33. Q. How long did it take to fire the four rounds?  
A. I couldn't say, sir. I didn't pay any attention.
34. Q. Did it take all afternoon?  
A. No, sir.
35. Q. Then you must have some opinion as to how long it took.  
A. I don't think it took over ten to fifteen minutes.
36. Q. To fire four shots?  
A. Yes, sir.
37. Q. Then you are of the opinion that the time between the first shot and the last shot was not over ten or fifteen minutes?  
A. I don't think so, sir.
38. Q. What was the target at which the gun was firing?  
A. I don't know, sir.
39. Q. Could you see land in the direction in which the gun was firing?  
A. I didn't pay any attention to it, sir. I didn't notice any, sir.
40. Q. What speed was the ship making?  
A. I don't remember that, sir.
41. Q. Which side of the ship did the gun fire?  
A. I don't know, sir.

42. Q. Did you hear any discussion as to the location of the fall of shot in this particular fire?

A. No, sir.

43. Q. Have you at any time heard any discussion concerning the firing either before, during or after the conduct of the firing conducted by the PG 815 on the occasion under discussion?

A. Nothing, sir, except it was said that it was off the port bow.

44. Q. Who told you that it was on the port bow?

A. I don't remember, sir. Just general discussion.

45. Q. What else was mentioned in that general discussion?

A. That is all I can remember, sir.

46. Q. Did the ship anchor off Coronados on the night of the 28th?

A. I don't remember the exact date, sir. But we were out there one night, sir.

47. Q. Did you anchor one night or two nights?

A. Two, sir, I think.

48. Q. You were standing at the chemical recorder?

A. Yes, sir.

49. Q. Where was Mr. Assam?

A. I didn't notice, sir.

50. Q. Did you hear any target designated?

A. No, sir.

51. Q. Have you heard any discussion among the members of the crew concerning the firing we have been discussing and the fact that it was under investigation since last Wednesday?

A. A little, sir.

52. Q. Where did this discussion take place?

A. Aboard the ship, sir.

53. Q. Who took part in the discussion?

A. I don't remember anyone in particular, sir.

54. Q. Was it a member of the crew?

A. One or two, sir.

55. Q. Anyone other than members of the crew?

A. Not that I know of, sir.

56. Q. Then where did it take place on the ship?

A. I don't remember that, sir.

57. Q. Tell the board what the substance of this discussion was.

Objected to by the counsel for the interested party. The objection was overruled.

A. Someone was wondering why we were being investigated and that's all, sir.

58. Q. Is that all that was said about it?

A. Yes, sir.

59. Q. No one gave any answer as to why it was being investigated?

A. I don't remember any in particular, 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 stated that he had nothing further to say.

The witness was duly warned and withdrew.

A witness called by the recorder entered, was duly sworn, and was informed of the subject matter of the investigation.

Examined by the recorder:

1. Q. State to the board your name.

A. Jack Seymour Dexter.

2. Q. Your rate.

A. Quartermaster third class.

3. Q. Your present station.

A. U.S.S. PC 815.

4. Q. Were you aboard the PC 815 on 28 June, 1943?

A. Yes, sir.

5. Q. What was your battle station on that day?

A. Annunciator and bridge phone.

6. Q. Was your station on the bridge?

A. In the pilot house, sir.

7. Q. Do you know McGuire, soundman second class?

A. I don't know him personally.

8. Q. Would you recognize him if you saw him?

A. I think so.

9. Q. Did you see him in the pilot house on 28 June, 1943, during the firing of the 3<sup>rd</sup>/50?

A. Yes, sir.

10. Q. Was he there at all times during the firing of the 3<sup>rd</sup>/50?

A. I wouldn't say yes or no on that. I am not sure.

11. Q. Did you see him leave the pilot house before the firing of the 3<sup>rd</sup>/50 was concluded?

A. Before it was finished, no, sir.

12. Q. Where was he standing in the pilot house at that time?

A. Standing behind the sound stack.

13. Q. Did you see Ensign Weymouth in the pilot house at that time?

A. Yes, sir.

14. Q. Were you able to observe the fall of shot from the 3" 50?

A. No, sir.

15. Q. Who passed the word to fire the 3" 50?

A. It came from topside.

16. Q. Did you pass the word through your phone?

A. No, I didn't pass any word at all.

17. Q. Did you discuss the firing of the 3" 50 with any of the members of the crew on the 28th of June, 1943?

A. No, sir.

18. Q. At any time did you discuss the firing of that gun on that date?

A. No, sir.

19. Q. Have you ever heard any of the members of the crew discuss the firing of the 3" 50 on 28 June?

A. Yes, sir.

20. Q. What did you hear?

A. They fired the 3" 50 four rounds.

21. Q. What else did you hear?

A. They were firing at targets.

22. Q. Did you hear what kind of targets they were firing at?

A. Yes, sir.

23. Q. What kind of targets did they say they were?

A. Floating pyramid targets.

24. Q. Did they say that the shells fell near the target?

A. They fell near it. I'm not sure.

25. Q. Did they say that the firing was good?

A. I don't know whether it was good or bad.

26. Q. Do you recall who took part in that conversation that you heard?

A. I don't remember.

27. Q. At about the time of the firing of that gun on that day were you able to see land?

A. No, sir.

Examined by the board.

28. Q. Were you looking out through any of the ports or openings in the pilot house during the firing?

A. Yes, sir.

29. Q. What were you looking at?

A. Looking at the 3" gun.

30. Q. You were watching them firing?

A. I was watching them operate the gun itself.



31. Q. In what direction was the gun pointed when it was fired?  
A. Off the port bow.

32. Q. How many shots were fired?  
A. Four rounds.

33. Q. Can you give us an approximate idea of the length of time it took to fire those four shots?  
A. No, sir.

34. Q. Would you say that the gun was fired rapidly or slowly?  
A. It might have been anything. I don't know. I didn't have a stop watch.

35. Q. You stated that you were watching the gun at the time it fired. Did you make any attempt to follow the projectile after it left the gun, to see where it went?  
A. No, sir.

36. Q. Did you see at any time the target they were firing at?  
A. No, sir.

Gross examined by the counsel for the interested party.

37. Q. During the time you were in the pilot house during this general quarters period, did McGuire, soundman second class, appear to you to be interested in the sound gear?  
A. Yes, sir. He was leaning over it.

38. Q. By leaning over it, you mean he was leaning over the operator's back?  
A. Over his shoulder.

39. Q. The soundman on watch was manipulating the hand control and observing the band of the machine?  
A. Yes, sir.

40. Q. And you did definitely see McGuire watching this work?  
A. Yes, sir.

41. Q. Did you notice that more than once?  
A. No, sir.

42. Q. During the time that the firing took place did you casually observe everything that was going on in the bridge?  
A. No, sir.

43. Q. Did you notice the executive officer around?  
A. I noticed them all around there. Everybody that was on the bridge at the time.

44. Q. You know your executive officer was present?  
A. Yes, sir.

45. Q. You know that the helmsman was carrying out his duty?  
Yes, sir.

46. Q. Did you notice whether the chemical recorder operator was at the station?  
A. Yes, sir, he was.

47. Q. Now when the first shot was fired did anyone speak up and say that it was a hit or was it a hit or words to that effect?  
A. Not that I recall, sir.

48. Q. As soon as the concussion of the gun had passed did you look around or look out the ports to seaward?

A. I'm sorry, sir, I don't recall at all.

49. Q. You did behave in a thoroughly natural manner, didn't you?

A. Yes, sir.

50. Q. You didn't see McGuire come or go after you noticed him there at the sound gear?

A. No, sir, I didn't.

51. Q. Did you at any time see McGuire at any of the pilot house ports along the port side of the structure?

A. No, sir.

52. Q. Do you think you would have noticed him if he had gone there?

A. Yes, sir.

53. Q. Do you feel that you can safely say that he wasn't there?

A. Yes, sir.

54. Q. About how much space is there between the chemical recorder gear and the gyrocompass for standing room purposes?

A. A foot and one-half maybe.

55. Q. Did you notice any person standing around in the open area in the deck behind the helmsman?

A. Yes, sir.

56. Q. And who was that?

A. The executive officer.

57. Q. Do you now recall where Mr. Weymouth was at any time during the firing?

A. Leaning up against the chart table.

58. Q. And where is the chart table?

A. It is on the port side of the bridge by the wing of the bridge the bucket and the ladder that comes up from the radiroom, sir.

Re-examined by the board:

59. Q. While you were watching the gun in action, did you observe whether it was promptly reloaded after the previous shot had been fired?

A. I think so, I'm not sure.

Re-cross-examined by the counsel for the interested party:

60. Q. Who, if anybody, did you see go on the port wing of the Bridge?

A. None that I can recall.

61. Q. Could McGuire have been on the wing?

A. I don't think so.

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.