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**LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
FROM OFFICERS BELOW THE RANK OF COMMANDER
1802 - 1884**

Roll 241

January 1-March 31, 1857



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NOTES ON ROLL 241

The three volumes reproduced on this roll have the following back-strip titles: (1) "Officers' / Letters / January / 1857. / Navy / Department," (2) "Officers' / Letters / February / 1857. / Navy / Department," and (3) "Officers' / Letters / March / 1857. / Navy / Department."

They contain letters, with their enclosures, addressed to the Secretary of the Navy from January 1 to March 31, 1857, by officers below the rank of commander. The letters in the first two volumes are arranged in chronological order; those in the third volume in rough chronological order. A name index is at the front of each volume. One letter dated January 22, 1857, is reproduced on Roll 173 of this microcopy.

These volumes are part of a body of records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 45, Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library.

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Washington, January 29th 1857

Sir; -

I would respectfully call your attention to the pay allowed the officers of the U. S. Ship "St. Marys" on their return to the United States from Panama.

Two officers only, Lieut. A. C. W. Penham and Master W. C. Fitzhugh returned in the "Wabash", the remainder having come home in the mail steamers.

These officers were allowed their full sea pay up to the time the crew were paid off and discharged; - the account of the former however, was closed five days previous.

My reasons for this, is, that I considered the Lieutenant as being in charge of the men, while the Master was performing the same duties on his passage home, that he would have done, on board his own ship, and this by order of Captain Engle.

The other officers were paid at rate of "other duty pay", respectively.

In my own case, I drew full pay up to the time of discharging the crew, as I performed the same service on board the "Wabash", that I did in the "St. Marys", as there was no connection whatever between the Prizes of that vessel and myself.

I made requisitions^{tr} and issued to our men, "Clothing", "Small Stores", and Money

for which I receipted, and have to account
for in my ^{settlement} account with the 4th Auditor.

I think also, that my two months duty pay,
whilst settling accounts, should not commence
until the crew were discharged at New
York, which has always been the case,
the time occupied in coming home not being
considered.

This being a novel and unprecedented
mode of relieving vessels abroad, and
fearing some objections may be urged at
the 4th Auditors office, I have taken the
liberty of bringing this matter to you Sir,
as Head of the Department for your
decision.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servant,
Geos^g Ritchie
Surmer

Hon.
J. C. Lobbin,
Secretary of the Navy
Washington D.C. }

3
U.S. Ship *Saratoga*
Spirits N. G.

1st March 1857

Sir, I have the honor to inform you that
Commander E. G. Tilton of this ship has
a credit on the Purser's books thereof for
the sum of Three hundred dollars. I
~~have therefore submitted a request, given him one~~
set Bills of Exchange (N. G.) at ten days
sight upon the Honorable Secretary of the
Navy for the aforesaid Three hundred dollars,
which please honor and charge to me on
account of Pay of the Navy.

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Yours
A. A. Belknap,
Purser U.S. Navy

To
Honorable J. C. Dobbin
Secretary of the Navy
Washington

J. C.

204
U.S. Ship Saratoga
Wm. of Aspinwall
24th March 1857

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day drawn one set Bills of Exchange in duplicate, in favor of Commander E. G. Gillet U.S. Navy, for the sum of Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3500) Two and one half discount - Net proceeds Three thousand four hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$3412⁵⁰) which please pay and charge to me on account of 'Pay of the Navy'; and oblige.

Yours most obedient Servant

A. A. Belknap,

Purser U.S. Navy

201
The Honorable Secretary of the Navy
Washington

D. C.

205
U.S. Ship Saratoga
Master of Newhall N.E.
24th March 1857

Sir,
I have the honor to inform you that I have
this day drawn one set Bills of Exchange in duplicate
in favor of E. S. Tilton Esq. Commandr U.S. Navy, for
the sum of Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3500-)
Two and one half (2½) per cent discount - Nett proceeds
Three thousand four hundred and twelve dollars and fifty
cents (\$3412.50) which please pay and charge to me
on account of "Pay of the Navy."

I am Sir

Very Respectfully
Your Most Obedient Servt
A. A. Belknap.
Pursiv U.S. Navy

To
The Honorable Secretary of the Navy
Washington

of