

ITEM No. 12832

AH  
14 December 1951  
NL/117/1055/B

POLAND

COMMUNICATIONS  
Waterways

Two sailors who recently jumped the Polish ship Stalowa Wola in Sweden, give the following information:

M/S Stalowa Wola is of 3,300 tons, with a crew of 35. The captain, MILOBEDZKI Jozef, 30, was appointed on 5 May 1951, replacing the former captain SZEMIOT, about 50, a prewar officer.

There is a great shortage of experienced ship captains in Poland; accordingly, captains are well paid, 2,500 Zloty per month plus 3,00 Dollars daily while on foreign voyage.

The first mate was MILENUSZKIN, 35, who had returned from England after the war; 2nd mate was TSAVAROS Spiros, a Greek who had lived in Czechoslovakia most of his life and knew Polish. Both were decent men. The 3rd mate and radio-operator LEWICKI was strongly pro-Communist and often did the work of the political officer.

The "politruk" was SZATKOWSKI Stanislaw, age 30 to 35, originally from Silesia, later from WROCLAW. Before 1949, he had been an engineering worker in GDYNIA and member of the Communist Party. Having finished the "Cultural Educational Course" (Kulturalno Osiatowy) in WARSAW, he came on board Stalowa Wola in 1950 as a "cultural-educational officer" (official name for a "politruk".) The crew usually calls such an officer "Kaoszczak" which offends him very much.

The first engineer OSTROWSKI, 49, 2nd engineer GRABOSWIKI, 30, and 3rd engineer MALISZEWSKI came from USSR and did not speak good Polish; they were all decent men. But they had a "machinist assistant" (Asystent Maszynowy) called BEGIER, about 30, a hateful person, opportunist if not Communist by conviction, who used to inform on people. For instance there was a Bulgarian donkeyman on board who had lived in Poland a long time and was great friends with BEGIER. But one day they quarrelled; and after the ship's return to GDYNIA, BEGIER denounced the Bulgarian as a former Fascist. The man was demoted to junior seaman, and instead of getting 600 Zloty a month plus \$ 40 as before, he got 100 Zloty plus \$ 30.

Among the crew of 35, some 21 were Communist Party members and seven in the ZMP. This however did not mean that they were Communists; simply, they would have no possibility of getting better jobs if they did not belong to one of these organizations.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: recent

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : fairly reliable  
Information : probably true.