'26 JUL 14 AM10:14:31

REFERENCE SERVICE SLIP
Archival Research Room Record Request
National Archives at St. Louis

Date: 07/24/2026

REQUESTER INFORMATION

Name (Please Print – Last, First, Middle)	Researcher ID Card Number
Burns, Andrew	4563213
E-Mail Address:	**Phone Number:**
afbfg4@umsl.edu	636-415-7353

INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE RECORDS (Furnish as much as possible)

Name used in Service (Please Print – Last, First, Middle)	Service Number/SSN	Date & Place of Birth
Colbert, Louis, E.		1909 RI

MILITARY SERVICE

Branch of Service:
- ☐ Air Force
- ☐ Army Air Corps
- ☐ Army Air Force
- ☐ Army
- ☐ Marine Corps
- ☐ Navy
- ☐ Coast Guard
- ☐ Unknown

Type of Rank:
- ☐ Enlisted
- ☐ Officer
- ☐ Unknown

Service Period (Check all that apply):
- ☐ 1939 & Prior
- ☐ 1940 - 1950
- ☐ 1950 & After

Date & Place of Death: 1991

State of Residence (upon entry into service):

Other Identifying Information (Parent's Names, CSC Number, etc.)

Researcher Signature: Andrew Burns

CIVILIAN SERVICE

(Agency & Location)		
Lighthouse Service (CT/NJ/NY) 3rd District	From: 1931	To: 1935
(Agency & Location)	From:	To:
(Agency & Location)	From:	To:

Other Identifying Information (Maiden Name, Job Title, etc.)

This Space Intentionally Left Blank

STAFF USE ONLY

Appointment Time and Date:

Additional Researchers: ☐ Yes ☐ No

CMRS Service Request Number: C-000779058 3

Attendant Signature:

CMRS Search Request Number(s): Rqst Sent 5/17/26 mx

Remarks: '26 JUL 23 PM 1:21

C416

SCREENING NOTES

☐ Reviewed and Nothing Removed JMH ☐ Items Removed and User Informed

Hold Requested: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Total Requests:

Screened Items:

☐ Additional charge outs and signatures on reverse side

Time Out:

Final Return:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

APPOINTMENT DIVISION

Colbert, Louis E. (Name)

N.J. (Legal Residence)

STATUS

DESIGNATION	SERVICE AND GRADE	SALARY	ACTION	BUREAU	STATION—DISTRICT 3d Dist.	DATE OF EFFECT
Keeper	—	1440	Prob.	L. H.	Romer Shoals LS	7/18/30
"	—	1440	Transfer	"	Stamford Harbor LS.	Aug. 22, 1931
"	—	1320	"	"	Falkner Island LS	10-4-34
			Dismissed at the close of July 28, 1935			

LOUIS E. COLBERT

LOUIS E. COLBERT

Form 73

LIGHTHOUSES 1930 JUN 28 AM 8:40 FHO-JHG

IF TELEGRAPHIC REPLY IS DESIRED

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 3rd DISTRICT,

Staten Island, N. Y., June 26, 1930, 19
(City) (Date)

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, (Thr. Sec'y 2nd C.S.Dist.) Probationary Appointment.

Name, Louis E. Colbert

Position, Keeper

Location, Romer Shoal Lt.Sta., N.Y.

Effective, July 1, 1930

[1] the actual date of entrance on duty, or
as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Legal residence, Rhode Island

Proposed salary, $1440 p.a.

Proposed range, $1440-$1740 p.a.

Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses

Former position,

Location,

Former salary,

Former range,

Rank on eligible list, 3 Rating, Keeper Percentage, 86.1, Other eligibles considered:

Joseph B. Hearon---C. John J. Walsh---C. Harry E. Freeman---FR*

*Name removed from register.

Previous incumbent and his pay, Laureat Leclerc - (LT. #1646) Services terminated, June 30, 1930

Reason, Transferred (Salary $1440 p.a.)

No employee of District desired transfer to this position. There are no family quarters provided at this station.

Members of family in Government service, None.

Date of birth, Sept. 15, 1905

Remarks: Mr. Colbert has had no previous service in the Lighthouse Service.

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, JUN 27 1930, 19

For and in the absence of the Superintendent.

E. A. Parker
Secretary, Second Civil Service District.

F. W. Ockenfels
Asst. Supt.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

JUL 1 1930

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

Form 84

LIGHTHOUSES
FWO-JHG 1930 JUL 10 AM 9:13

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES Third DISTRICT

Staten Island, N. Y., July 9,1930

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES,
Washington, D. C.

No reply has been received from the Bureau to communication (Nomination,Form 7$ from this office dated June 26,1930 on the subject of recommending probationary appointment of Louis E. Colbert as Keeper of Romer Shoal Lt.Sta.

For and in the a bsence of the Superintendent.

F. W. Ockenfels
Asst.Supt.

Airways
Hydro
Radio M
Engr. Constrn
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Finance
Law & Prop.
Chief Clerk
Adm. Assist.
Dep. Commr.
Commissioner

To be forwarded in duplicate. Indicate in blank space inclosed in parentheses character of the communication; that is, whether letter, indorsement, Form 80, Form 97, etc.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE. 1928

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

9/25 1952

Attention: Records Management Officer or Personnel Officer

☑ The enclosed material (data) is transmitted in accordance with your recent request. 9/17/52

☐ Reply to that portion of your communication pertaining to other listed names is forthcoming, since those records are serviced by another section of the Center maintaining those record groups.

☐ The enclosed Official Personnel Folder is transmitted for your use, in lieu of the information requested on your recent communication, since it is indicated that the employee is currently employed or is being considered for employment by your agency. If the individual concerned is employed or rehired, the folder should be retained and consolidated with the folder covering current service; otherwise, folder should be returned to the Federal Records Center at the address shown below.

☐ Records (data) for the following listed names could not be located, however an exhaustive search is being made, and when located, will be transmitted.

☑ Remarks: OPF is forwarded you on a loan basis. When it has served its purpose, request it be returned to

J. J. McLAUGHLIN
Chief, Reference Service Branch
Federal Records Center
General Services Administration
1724 Locust Street
St. Louis 3, Missouri

FRC-2 (Revised Feb 14, 1952) TRANSMITTAL SLIP 62

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

PC
17 Sep

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
COMMANDANT
U. S. COAST GUARD
HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Civilian Personnel Records Branch
Records Administration Center
1724 Locust Street
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Sir:

It is requested that this office be granted temporary withdrawal of the Official Personnel Folder for the following former employee of the U. S. Lighthouse or U. S. Coast Guard:

Louis E. Colbert

The above folder was sent to your office from the National Archives, Washington, D. C., Record Group 26 or 56, on January 21, 1952.

Sincerely yours,

H. L. Morgan

H. L. MORGAN
Chief, Civilian Personnel Division
By direction of the Commandant

Form 84

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES 1930 JUL 10 AM 9:13

FWO-JHG

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES Third DISTRICT

Staten Island, N. Y., July 9,1930

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES,
Washington, D. C.

No reply has been received from the Bureau to communication (Nomination,Form 73 from this office dated June 26,1930 on the subject of recommending probationary appointment of Louis E. Colbert as Keeper of Romer Shoal Lt.Sta.

For and in the a bsence of ~~the~~ Superintendent.

Asst.Supt.

To be forwarded in duplicate. Indicate in blank space inclosed in parentheses character of the communication; that is, whether letter, indorsement, Form 80, Form 97, etc.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE. 1928

Form 73a

REPORT OF TRANSFER OF APPOINTEE

FWO-JHG

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 3rd DISTRICT,

Staten Island, N. Y., Aug.18,1931, 19

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

The following-named employee will be transferred as indicated, and will enter upon duty at his new station on August 22,1931.

Name, Louis E. Colbert

Position, Keeper

From Romer Shoal Lt.Sta.,N.Y.

To Stamford Hbr.Lt.Sta.,Stamford Hbr. Range Lts.1 & 2,Stamford Hbr.Lts. 2 & 3, and Flint Rock Lt.Conn.

Salary and range, $1440 ($1440-$1800) Lt #1667)

Salary and range, $1440 ($1440-$1800)

Previous incumbent and pay, Raymond F. Bliven (Salary $1440 p.a.)

Services terminated, Aug.12,1931

Reason, Died.

Letter from Mr. Colbert requesting this transfer attached hereto.

File
Orig of this form, which gave
actual date as Aug 22, was
furnished Supt + not necessary
for the copy
Rec
8/26

J. T. YATES

Superintendent

Staten Island,N.Y., Aug. 25,1931 19

The above-referred-to transfer became effective beginning with Aug. 22,1931

J. T. Yates

Superintendent

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for his information.

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

11—4598 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1930

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

FWO-JHG

1931 AUG 19 AM 9:18

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
3D DISTRICT, STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

Aug. 18,1931

Commissioner of Lighthouses;

SUBJECT: Louis E. Colbert, Keeper, transfer, Romer Shoal to Stamford Hbr.Lt.Sta.
REFERENCE: Form 73a of this date.

1. The Bureau is advised that deferment of transfer in this case would clearly be detrimental to the public service, for the reason that there is but one position of Keeper authorized for this station, and in order to maintain the station it is necessary that the position be filled at the earliest possible moment.

J. I. YATES

Superintendent

Form 73

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

FWO-JHG

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 3rd DISTRICT,

Staten Island, N. Y. (City) Aug.11,1934 (Date), 19

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Transfer

Name, Louis E. Colbert

Position, Keeper (Asst)

Location, Falkner Island Lt.Sta.,Ct.

Effective, Aug.18,1934

Legal residence, Rhode Is.

Proposed salary, $1320 p.a.
$240 quarters

Proposed range, $1320-1680

Appropriation, Salaries,Keepers of Lighthouses.

[1] the ~~actual date of entrance on duty~~, or
as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, Keeper

Location, Stamford Hbr. Lt.Sta. &c Lts.,Ct.

Former salary, $1440 p.a.

Former range, $1440-1800
$240 quarters

Rank on eligible list, Rating, Percentage, , Other eligibles considered:

(Lt.#1565)

Previous incumbent and his pay, Dana L. Burt Services terminated, Aug.17,1934

Reason, Transferred (Salary $1320 p.a.)

Members of family in Government service,

Date of birth,

Remarks: Letter from Mr.Colbert requesting this transfer attached hereto.

Selection regular, subject to the action of the
U. S. Civil Service Commission, , 19

Secretary, Civil Service District.

J. T. YATES
Superintendent

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

August 17, 1934

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved. attention being invited to the attached letter from the nominee requesting this transfer.

W. P. HARMAN

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

Form A-38

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

APPOINTMENT DIVISION

WASHINGTON

LIGHTHOUSES

1934 AUG 27 PM

August 21, 1934.1

Mr. Louis E. Colbert,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You are advised that your compensation has been changed as indicated below, effective upon entrance on duty (change in station).

No new appointment will be issued to you as a result of this change, and an oath of office is not required.

By direction of the Secretary.

Respectfully,

EDW. J. GARDNER

Chief of Appointment Division.

From: $1440 per annum.

To: $1320 per annum.

Service and grade:

Appropriation (unit): Field.

S
G

AUG 27 1934

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 11—9051

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

FWO:JHG

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1934 OCT - 10 - AM 8 : 55

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
3D DISTRICT, STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

Oct. 9,1934

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

SUBJECT: Transfer of personnel, effective date.

REFERENCE: Bureau Circular Letter No. 454, dated May 8th, 1934.

1. The Bureau is advised that the effective date of a recent transfer of personnel in the Third Lighthouse District, is as follows:-

Name:	Louis E. Colbert
Effective Date:	Oct. 4,1934
Former Designation:	Keeper
Former Station:	Stamford Hbr.Lt.Sta.,Ct.
Former Pay:	$1440 p.a.
Present Designation:	Keeper (Asst)
Present Station:	Falkner Island Lt.Sta.,Ct.
Present Pay:	$1320 p.a.
Date of Department Notice:	Aug.21,1934

For and in the absence of the Supt.
F. W. Ockenfels
Asst.Supt.

OCT 10 1934

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information

For the Commissioner,

Chief, Personnel Division

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1935 SEP 21 AM 8:28
LIGHTHOUSES

FWO-JHG

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
3D DISTRICT, STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

10/8 2nd to Dept.

Commissioner of Lighthouses: Sept.19,1935

SUBJECT: Louis E. Colbert, Asst.Keeper, Falkner Is.Lt.Sta., Conn.

1. The following papers are forwarded herewith for the Bureau's consideration:-

a - Telegram of July 28th from Asst.Kpr.Colbert.
b - Copy of telegram of July 29th to Mr.Colbert.
c - Copy of statement of July 30th by Mr.Colbert.
d - Letter of July 30th from Keeper George Zuius.
e - Letter of Aug. 6th from Mr.Colbert.
f - Copy of letter of Aug.7th to Mr.Colbert.
g - Copy of statement of Sept.11th by Mr.Zuius.
h - Copy of letter of charges of Sept.14th to Mr. Colbert.
i - Letter of Sept.16th from Mr.Colbert.

2. Mr.Colbert's reply to Charge "A" in effect denies the charge. However, according to Mr.Colbert's statement he left his station at 9:45 A.M. on July 28th with instructions from the Keeper to be back in six hours. On July 30th he stated that he was aware of the fact that he was absent from duty without leave, that he had not applied for leave, and that he did not propose to return to Falkner Island Light Station, Conn., and gave his address for mail as Hope Valley, Rhode Island. It is considered that the charge is amply proven. Having filed no charges or complaint that would necessitate or warrant his immediate departure from the station and remaining absent without authority, and without regard for the maintenance and operation of an important aid to navigation, his action, regardless of authority or service regulations, was without justification and entirely upon his own responsibility. It is evident that Mr.Colbert's sense of responsibility is not such as is necessarily expected of all Keepers and Assistant Keepers, and it does not appear that Mr.Colbert realizes the seriousness of his action in deserting his station and position without notice to the Keeper whom he left alone to operate the station.

3. In connection with Charge "b", attention is invited to Mr. Colbert's statement of July 30th while at this office. In his letter of Sept.16th he contends that he performed regular station maintenance work on Sundays to equalize for the nonperformance of such work on Saturday, stating that he did more than make up for such work on Sundays and that it is in the book in his own handwriting. The station Journal bears out his contention to a small extent only. Enclosed is a statement quoting upkeep work performed by Keepers on Sundays as recorded in the Station Journal from March 31,1935 to July 28th,1935. It is to be noted that Light Station Journals show the station upkeep work done each day, but do not ordinarily show the details of what each individual man did; however each man ordinarily does the inside cleaning and painting etc.of his own quarters. Mr.Colbert's statement of July 30th and the Journal record fail to show that he was disposed to or did perform any great amount of station maintenance work on Sunday to offset the nonperformance of such work on Saturdays.

4. In reference to Charge "c", Mr.Colbert's statement of July 30th relating to remarks addressed to the Keeper, and the admitted occurrence of his wife slapping the Keeper's face, which occurrence evidently met with Mr. Colbert's approval, is considered to be sufficient proof.

5. Charge "d", in reference to sleeping on watch, which is denied by Mr.Colbert, is based on the report of the Keeper. There is no corroborative evidence or proof of this charge, in fact it is rarely ever possible to obtain positive proof of such an occurrence at any station since it is usually one man's word against another. However, in view of Mr.Colbert's apparent general conception of responsibility it is not unreasonable to believe that the charge is based on fact.

6. Mr.Colbert was transferred Oct.4,1934, at his own request, from the position of Keeper at Stamford Harbor Light Station to the position of Assistant Keeper at Falkner Island Light Station. As Keeper at Stamford Harbor Light Station his services were not entirely satisfactory as evidenced by enclosed copies of inspection reports of Sept.19,1933, June 15th and Sept.10th,1934. His transfer to the position of Asst.Keeper was therefore desirable, and it was expected that under supervision his services as Assistant

Keeper would prove to be satisfactory. The result, however, was not all that was hoped for, and on inspection report of Oct. 31,1934, he, as Assistant Keeper, received ratings of 80, 85 and 75, and on inspection report of May 21,1935, ratings of 80, 80 and 80. When the position of Keeper at Falkner Island Light Station became vacant in March, 1935, Mr.Colbert was not considered suitable for promotion to keeper for the reasons stated, and another Keeper was transferred to fill the vacancy. It appears that Mr.Colbert and his wife felt that he should have been promoted to Keeper, and since that time he has been particularly lacking in interest and inclination to work, and not disposed to be agreeable in his dealings with the new Keeper. As a matter of information there is enclosed the following correspondence:-

j - Letter of April 24,1935 and enclosure of same date, from Keeper Zuius.
k - Copy of letter of Apl.29th to the Keeper.
l - Letter of May 4th from the Keeper.

In this connection it may be noted that Mrs.Colbert is considerably more aggressive than Mr.Colbert.

7. Such charges as Mr.Colbert made against the Keeper in his statement of July 30th, are without corroboration and are denied by Mr.Zuius. The more serious charges were those involving drunkenness and receiving fees, both of which were very positively denied by Mr. Zuius. This office is not inclined to believe that they are based on fact, as the service record of Mr.Zuius at other stations was exceptionally good which was the reason for his transfer to his present position. It is considered however that Keeper Zuius erred in being overly tolerant in deferring action against the Ass t. Keeper, which he apparently did with the hope that Mr.Colbert would in time improve and correct his attitude.

Zuius did probably be criticised for to this for permitting Asst to remain at station W.D. authority (sdg) Supt.

8. It is believed that the facts and circumstances connected with this case sufficiently show that Mr.Colbert is not a proper or suitable person to be retained as Assistant Keeper. The charges referred to herein are considered to be proven to an extent sufficient to justify severe disciplinary action, and it is recommended that Mr.Colbert be dismissed from the position of Assistant Keeper of Falkner Island Light Station, Conn.,effective at the close of July 28th,1935, his last day of service.

9. The approval of this recommendation will not be in violation of Section 2 of Civil Service Rule 1 relative to political or religious opinions or affiliations. Mr. Colbert has not been granted leave in excess of the accrued rate.

J. T. YATES
Superintendent

October 3,1935.

3d's recommendation of Sept. 19 for dismissal of Assistant Keeper Louis Colbert, at Falkner Island.

This is a two-keeper station with family quarters.

Zuius, the keeper, has been at the station since March 28, 1935, and has been in the Lighthouse Service since 1926.

Colbert, the Assistant, has been at the station since August, 1934, and he has been in the Lighthouse Service since 1930.

Zuius is 31, and Colbert is 30.

Both appear fairly intelligent men, Zuius appearing outwardly the more aggressive, and Colbert it being indicated inclined to [redacted] (he celebrates the Sabbath on the conventional Saturday, and apparently reads the Scriptures for inspiration). He signs his letter to the Superintendent "Trusting in your Always". In an inspection report of Sept. 19, 1933 Supt. Yates in a note remarks, of Colbert "This is good inoffensive man, thinks he is doing somethings but lacking. His wife does most of the work which isn't much. He may come around".

As stated, Zuius went to the station in March 28, 1935. Less than a month later, he wrote the Supt. and among other things stated, "Mr. Colbert is the most useless, awkward, careless, incompetent and helpless man I've ever worked with.", In which opinion of Colbert, Zuius of course describes some of himself.

The 3d made a thoro inquiry into the case and personally interviewed both men. His presentation of the case appears clear and systematic, and the only criticism noted is a somewhat sharp interpretation of Colbert's statement on Page 6 of the interview with him, the question and answer being indicated in pencil on the right had margin. At that point, it appears that he could have helped Colbert to understand the mistake he was making, and explained to him that his main business was to get along with the keeper while he was at the station, etc.

Otherwise, the 3d appears to have established Colbert's unsuitability as a keeper and established the charges in a degree warranting dismissal as he recommends. Suggest to Department according as proposed by Supt.

October 8, 1935.

3d Supt's. letter Sept. 19, 1935, dismissal, Assistant Keeper Louis E. Colbert, Falkner Island Light Station.

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce. The Department's particular attention is invited to the fact that Mr. Colbert has been absent without due authority since the morning of July 28th. It is noted also that Mr. Colbert's services as keeper were not altogether satisfactory at his previous station, in connection with which attention is invited to paragraph six of the Superintendent's letter. After careful consideration the Bureau concurs in the views of the Superintendent as stated in paragraph eight and it is accordingly recommended that Keeper Louis E. Colbert be dismissed effective at the close of July 28, 1935, the last day on which he performed duty, on account of absence without due authority and neglect of duty.

In connection with the last part of paragraph seven, the Bureau concurs with the Superintendent that Keeper Zuius was to some degree at fault in deferring action with regard to Keeper Colbert, and it is proposed to bring this matter to Mr. Zuius' attention in a cautionary way, a copy of which will be duly submitted to the Department.

C. A. Park
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

RC-EK

11/6 Mrs B (Dept) said case in Mr. Kelvin's office

Form 84

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

FWO-JHG

11 f 3

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES 3rd DISTRICT

Staten Island, N. Y., Nov. 5, 1935

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES,
Washington, D. C.

11/6/35 ans

No reply has been received from the Bureau to communication (letter)
from this office dated Sept. 19, 1933 on the subject of Louis E. Colbert, Assistant Keeper of Falkner Is. Lt. Sta., Conn., attention being invited to Bureau endorsement of Oct. 11, 1935.

J. T. YATES
Superintendent

- - - -

Bureau of Lighthouses
Washington November 6, 1935

Returned to 3d Superintendent. The proposed dismissal of Colbert from the Service is receiving the attention of the Department, the Bureau is informally advised, but has not as yet been approved.

NOV 8 AM 44

For the Commissioner:

Chief of Personnel Division

H-M

6

To be forwarded in duplicate. Indicate in blank space inclosed in parentheses character of the communication—that is, whether letter, indorsement, Form 80, Form 97, etc.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1931

commissioner of lighthouses

h-m

BY MACKAY RADIO

washington dc november 11 1935

SUPERINTENDENT LIGHTHOUSES SAINT GEORGE NY

DISMISSAL LOUIS E COLBERT APPROVED

KING

copy

confirmation

Formal notice will be forwarded upon receipt from Department.

6

November 14, 1935.

Mr. Louis E. Colbert,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

Charges of neglect of duty and absence without authority having been preferred against you and substantiated in a degree sufficient to warrant such action, the Department, upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Lighthouses, has dismissed you from the position of keeper at $1320 per annum at Falkner Island Lightstation, effective at the close of business on July 28, 1935.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

EDW. J. GARDNER,

Chief of Appointment Division.

B

30

NOV 18 1935

#2 Cove Mill Cottage
Stamford Conn.
Mar 3, 1937

LIGHTHOUSES
MAR 4 11 11 AM '37

Louis Colbert

Commissioner Of Lighthouses
Washington D.C.

Subject: Reinstatement

3/8/37 wrote Colbert
copy & 3rd.

Dear Sir:

I have wrote several littes to Mr. Yater the Supt. Of the 3rd dist about reinstatement to appointment without much success.

However my name is on file, but I understand that I won't be given the same consideration as anybody else.

I don't think that is a fair thing to do, after all I worked for the government for about six years, four years and some in the Lighthouse Service.

Due to the fact that I was dismissed under recomendation of the Commissioner Of Lighthouses I ful I should write to you and explain how I ful about it.

What would you have done if you were in my shoes? there was no choice. Something had to be done, so I left, as I could it possibly get along isolated five miles from shore with some body constantly trying to show his athority and making life miserable by his drunken nagging & jibbing.

One night he kept me awake until it was time for me to go on watch by a drunken party down stairs in his quarters.

Then when he came up to call the watch he walked right into my quarters and would not leave until he got ready. Would you stand for that?

He also informed me that he'd give me a break if I wanted a transfer with a fellow by the name of Gus Evelson on Tiny Island or some where. Just because he saw that I liked the place and did'nt care to transfer he made life unbearable by his conduct and nagging. I believe there is something in rules & regulations about such actions although he got away with it and I lost my job and am banned, it sums. but at the time I was only trying to get some have I realize I made a mistake by not going back untill I could get on my feet again.

When I ~~say~~ saw that I was'nt going to get any or had to go back to Falkner Is. I just could'nt do it. as I was thoroughly disgusted at that time.

If I had gone back and every thing was ironed out, I would probably be working to day, thats what I should have done.

I have spent most of my life in the service since I left skhool and I am handicaped in a way as I have no other trade except painting and thats not reliable enough to depend on.

I would like very much to be given another chance as I know I have made mistakes and want to make good. I will not neglect my duty in any way and am anxious to get a chance to work.

Sincerly

Louis Colbert

#2 Cove Mill Cottage

Stamford Conn.

Apparently not. This keeper was dismissed in July, 1935. He might apply to the Civil Service to take the next open test as advised.

OK
8/31/34

March 8, 1937.

Mr. Louis Colbert,
#2 Cove Mill Cottage,
Stamford, Conn.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 3 with regard to reinstatement to a position of keeper. You might reestablish your eligibility for consideration by again taking the civil service examination for keeper, and in case you wish to do so, you might file application with the Manager, First U. S. Civil Service District, Customhouse, Boston, Mass.

For the Commissioner:

Respectfully,

W.P.Harman
Administrative Assistant

RG-EK

Bureau of Lighthouses, Wash., Copy to 3d Supt.

May 11, 1937.

Mr. Louis E. Colbert,
#2 Cove Mill Cottage,
Stamford, Conn.

Dear Sir:

In reference to your letter of May 4, regarding reappointment as a keeper:

This matter is under consideration and you will be further advised.

For the Commissioner:

Respectfully,

W.P.Harman
Administrative Assistant

RG-EK

May 11, 1937.

Letter dated May 4 from Louis E. Colbert, #2 Cove Mill Cottage, Stamford, Conn., regarding reinstatement.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Staten Island, N. Y., for report and return, the report of your office to include comment as to whether or not your office would be disposed to consider Mr. Colbert's reinstatement.

For the Commissioner:

W.P.Harman
Administrative Assistant

RC-EK

He was dismissed in 1985.
He could be reinstated thru
the approval of the civ Serv comm.
or he might be appointed again
by selection from a register by
taking an exam again.

Suggest ask the 3rd

TJ 6/17

8/4 OPA 98

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Description of duties of field position

Name: Bureau Lt. #

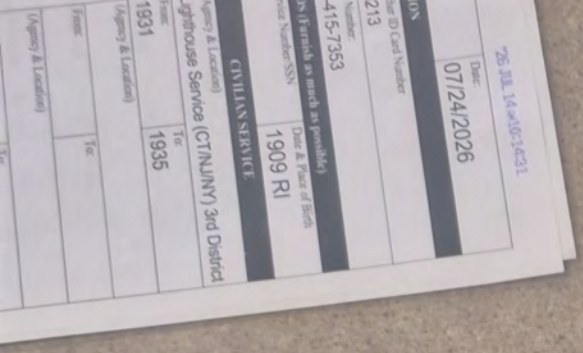
Bureau: Lighthouses

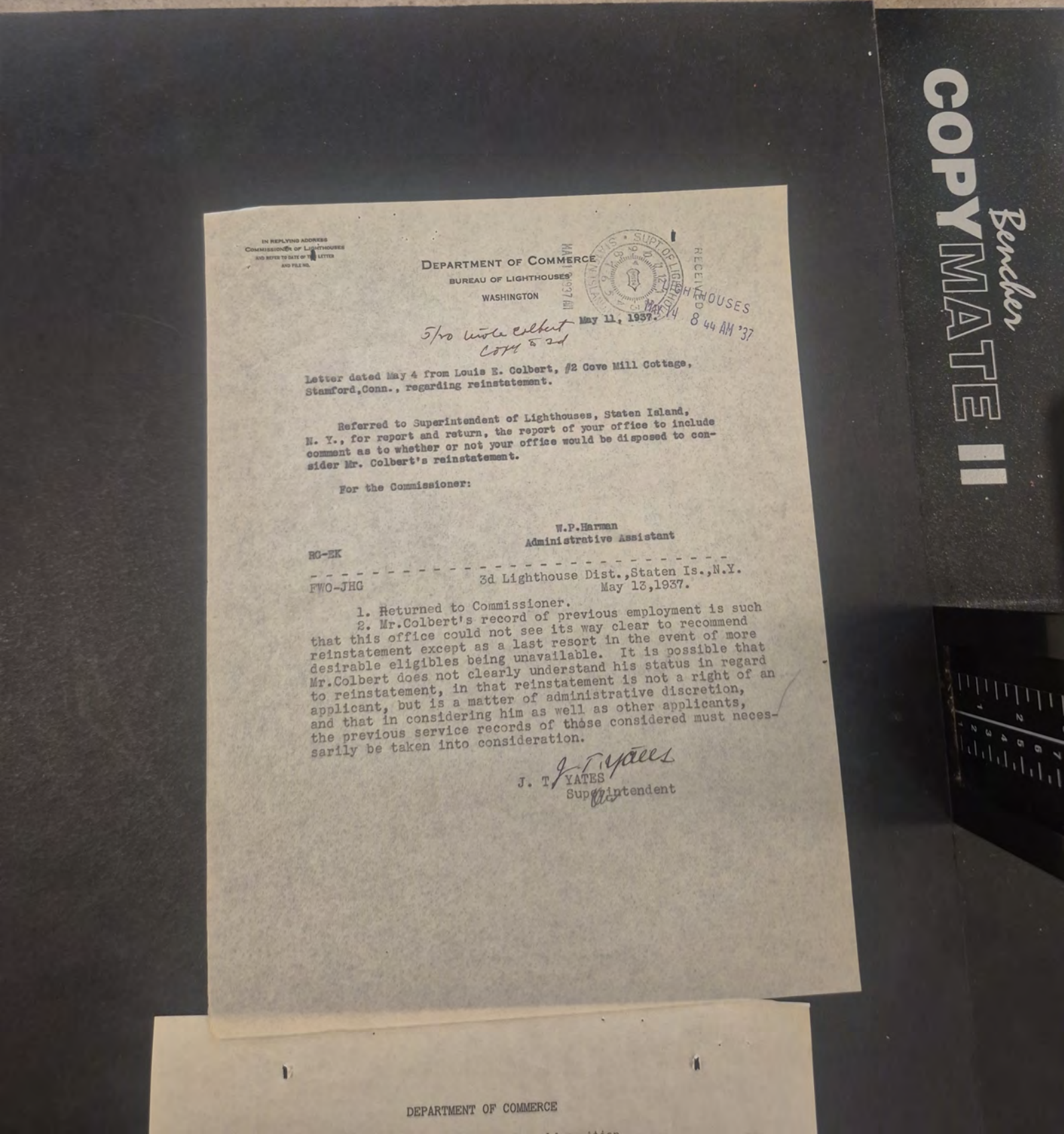
Salary: Salary Range:

Position:

Station:

Description of duties:





IN REPLYING ADDRESS
COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES
AND REFER TO DATE OF THIS LETTER
AND FILE NO.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

RECEIVED
MAY 13 1937 PM
SUPT OF LIGHTHOUSES
MAY 14 1937
8 44 AM '37

May 11, 1937.

5/10 Louis Colbert
Cove & 2d

Letter dated May 4 from Louis E. Colbert, #2 Cove Mill Cottage, Stamford,Conn., regarding reinstatement.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Staten Island, N. Y., for report and return, the report of your office to include comment as to whether or not your office would be disposed to consider Mr. Colbert's reinstatement.

For the Commissioner:

W.P.Harman
Administrative Assistant

RC-EK

- -

FWO-JHG

3d Lighthouse Dist.,Staten Is.,N.Y.
May 13,1937.

1. Returned to Commissioner.
2. Mr.Colbert's record of previous employment is such that this office could not see its way clear to recommend reinstatement except as a last resort in the event of more desirable eligibles being unavailable. It is possible that Mr.Colbert does not clearly understand his status in regard to reinstatement, in that reinstatement is not a right of an applicant, but is a matter of administrative discretion, and that in considering him as well as other applicants, the previous service records of those considered must necessarily be taken into consideration.

J. T. YATES
Superintendent

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

IN REPLYING ADDRESS
COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES
AND REFER TO DATE OF THIS LETTER
AND FILE NO.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

May 11, 1937.

MAY 13 1937 AM
SUPT OF LIGHTHOUSES STATEN ISLAND N.Y. 3 MAY 14 12 M
RECEIVED MAY 14 8 44 AM '37

5/10 Louis Colbert
Copy to 2d

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Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, Staten Island, N. Y., for report and return, the report of your office to include comment as to whether or not your office would be disposed to consider Mr. Colbert's reinstatement.

For the Commissioner:

W.P.Harman
Administrative Assistant

RC-EK

- -

FWO-JHG

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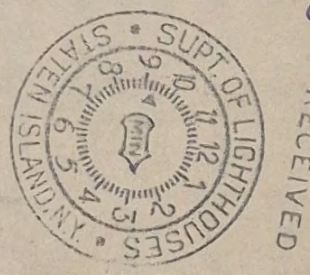
J. T. Yates

J. T. YATES
Superintendent

#2 Cove Mill Cottage
Stamford, Conn
May 4, 1937

LIGHTHOUSES
MAY 6 8 36 AM 37
LIGHTHOUSES
MAY 14 8 44 AM '37

Commissioner Of Lighthouses
Washington, D. C.



5/11 acknd,
3/10 and
copy to 3d

Dear Sir:

In referance to your last letter advising me in order that I might re establish my eligibility for re instatument in the Lighthouse Service by taking a Civil Service Examination at the First Civil Service dist. in Boston, Mass.

However, I have made an application to take the Examination whenever it will be given, which may not be in three years or more, according to the card, and I'd like to be in the Service by then if possible.

I want to thank you very much for the consideration in that respect (mentioned above)

I cannot understand why I must go through all that trouble after I've already been in the Lighthouse Service for aproximatly 4 1/2 years.

If I were inexperienced, not having any ~~previous~~ previous Service or experience, why I would'nt mind but I know the job, I was a Lighthouse Keeper for three years right here in Stamford Conn.

In a letter I recived from Mr Yates sometime ago asking him the same question said the same thing another examination will not be necessary and I am also inclosing a letter from the Federal Employ's Union

Sincerely
Louis E Colbert
#2 Cove Mill Cottage
Stamford Conn.

DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE INTERESTS OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' UNION, NO. 64

MICHAEL C. KEVENEY, PRESIDENT
JAMES H. NICHOLSON, TREASURER

ROOMS 424-5
1472 Broadway, New York City
Phone, Bryant 9-1483
387

Branch "R"

MISS G. P. DICKHART, SECRETARY
HARRY V. DELANEY, FIN. SEC'Y

RECEIVED
JUL 26 1936

19 Florence Place,
Staten Island, N.Y.
July, 25 1936,

Mr. Louis E. Colbert,
77 Strawberry Hill,
Stamford,
Conn.

Dear Mr. Colbert:

This will acknowledge your letter of July 2nd and advise you that the subject matter of your letter was taken up with the local Superintendant and were advised that you will be eligable to re-instatement after a period of one year has elapsed from the date of your seperation from the service, you will not be required to take another examination, simply write in requesting that you be concidered for a position as keeper. There can be no assurance that this willm mean immediate re-instatement for many lights are being discontinued and employees now in the service are being transfered t to lights.

We are returning the money you sent for back dues, it would not be proper for us to accept it inasmuch as you are no longer in the Government Service,

Sincerely,
Harold C. Blair,
Cor-Sec. Branch "R",

May 20, 1937.

Mr. Louis E. Colbert,
No. 2 Cove Mill Cottage,
Stamford, Conn.

Dear Sir:

Further reference is made to your letter of May 4, with regard to reestablishing your eligibility for appointment as a lighthouse keeper:

Reinstatement is one of the civil service methods by which a former employee may be reappointed, but it is a matter of discretion on the part of the Service where such an employee seeks reemployment. Your record shows that you were dismissed from this Service in 1935 in consequence of charges involving neglect of duty and absence without authority, and under such circumstances it could not be expected that the fact that you had prior experience would give you any advantage over other eligibiles in the matter of reappointment.

For the Commissioner:

Respectfully,

W. P. Harman
Administrative Assistant

RG-EK

Bureau of Lighthouses, Wash., Copy to 3d Supt.

#2 Cove Mill Cottage

May 23, 1937

In view this man's record think should not be encouraged. Suggest pass up his references to question fairness, etc and tell him that application for his reinstatement be rejected by Supt. at N.Y. any further requests for hearing statement shaved be addressed to Mr. Yates

OK WAH 6/7

Commissioner Of Lighthouses

Washington

6/8 wrote Colbert copy to Bd.

Reference: Your Letter dated May 20, 1937

Subject: Reinstatement

Dear Sir:

I can plainly see by reading your letter that you have disicied to make it hard for me to get back in the Service.

You seem to take everything for granted, that the charges are correct and ict.

"They are not," I never neglected my duty. However, I did leave the Station because I was sick, on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

So you call that disertion? I went to the Supt's office in Staten Island and told him why I was that way and then he told me because I did'nt go back.

My name and character is blakened by false charges and now you wont even give me a chance. Is this what you call justice, Sir asking?

Furthermore, I was in no condition to be draged through any type of court proceedings then, I was to nervous and my wife was

not even admitted in the so called hearing she could have helped me out ~~but~~ but Yates would not let her in.

If there is any resentment or hard feelings I think I have a perfect right to feel that way under the circumstances, don't you?

I will not hesitate to say I think the whole thing is unjust so far as I can see at present.

Especially the charges, in every respect. The Keeper could not truthfully charge me with anything, and besides he was having a drunken party the night before which you don't seem to recognize. Are you afraid to be fair? I'm not. I belong to the Stamford Seventh Day Adventist Church and I'm no liar.

I sincerly hope you reconsider my request and I am still hopefull of being back in the service again.

Sincerly

Louis E Colbert
#2 Cove Mill Cottage
Stamford, Conn.

June 8, 1937

Mr. Louis E. Colbert,
No. 2 Cove Mill Cottage,
Stamford, Conn.

Dear Sir:

In reference to your letter of May 23, 1937, regarding reinstatement as keeper:

As keepers for the locality in which you reside are selected by the Superintendent of Lighthouses, Staten Island, N. Y., any further question regarding your request for reinstatement should be taken up directly with that office.

For the Commissioner:

Respectfully,

W. P. Harman
Administrative Assistant

HLM-EK

Bureau of Lighthouses, Wash., Copy to 3d Supt.

Commerce

#2 Cove Mill Cottage
Stamford Conn.
Oct 5 1937

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE
OCT 7 2 25 PM '37

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED FOR CONSIDERATION

M S M Gulyle

Mr. Roosevelt.
Prisident of The U.S.A.
Washington. D.C.

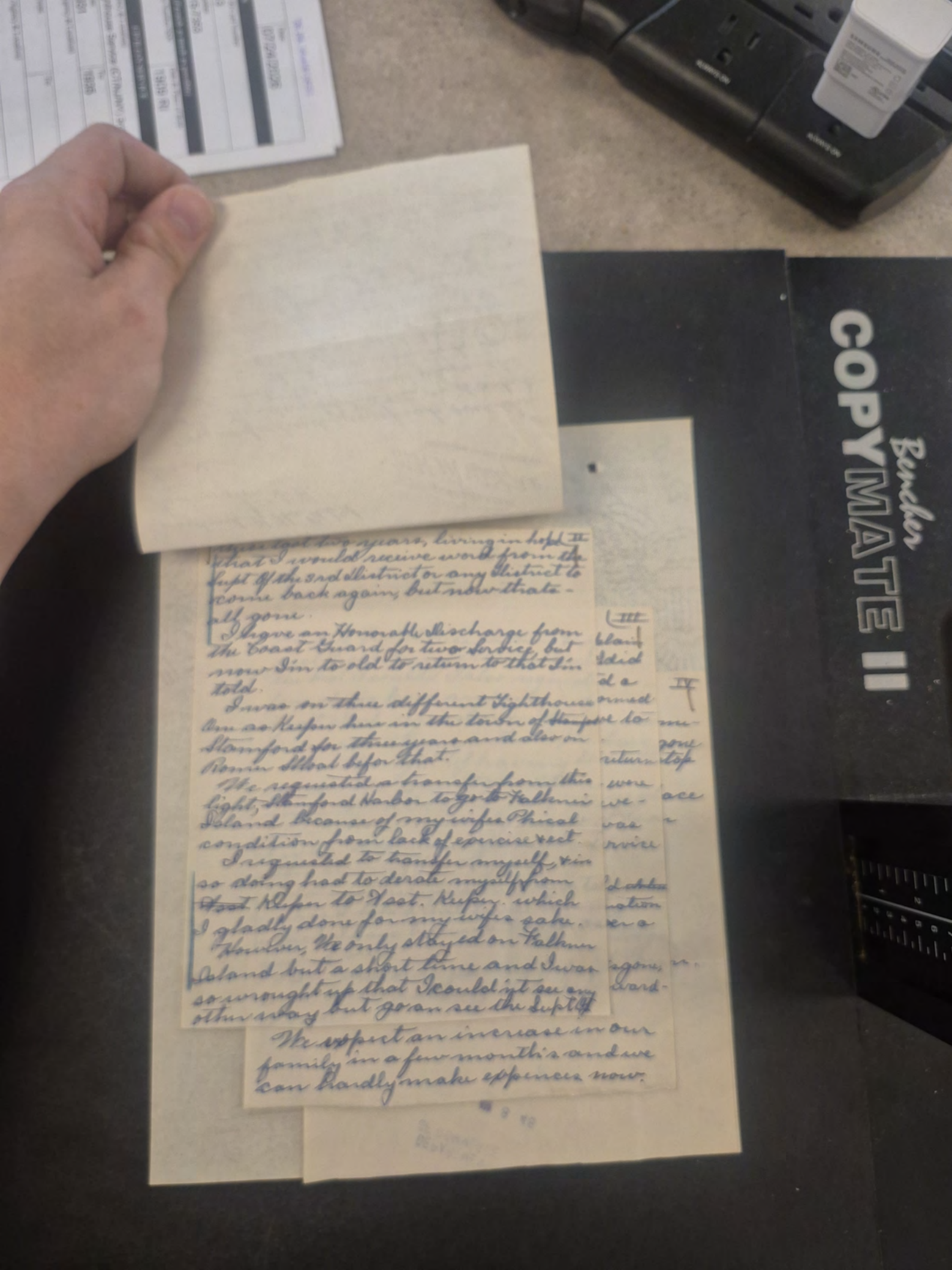
Dear Sir: 10/13/37 ans.

My wife hurd you speak over the Radio Tuesday Sept 27th and asked me to write to you and say's she is certain that you would help me to return back to my old position as Light Keper again and I really think that is the only way I'll ever be able to get back again now if you only know how much it mean's to us.

I have bun out of the Service now two years this last July the 28th words cannot discribe the misry, and hardship we have experienced

Island but a short time and I was so wrought up that I could'nt see any other way but go an see the Supt

We expect an increase in our family in a few month's and we can hardly make eppences now.



...got two years, living in hopes II
that I would receive word from the
Supt of the 3rd District or any District to
come back again, but now that's -
all gone.

I have an Honorable discharge from
the Coast Guard for two terms, but
now I'm to old to return to that I'm
told.

I was on three different lighthouses
Am as Keeper here in the town of Hampton
Stamford for three years and also on
Rams Head before that.

We requested a transfer from this
light, Stamford Harbor to go to Fathmin
Island because of my wifes Phical
condition from lack of exercise etc.

I requested to transfer myself, in
so doing had to decate myself from
West Keeper to Asst. Keeper which
I gladly done for my wifes sake.

However, We only stayed on Fathmin
Island but a short time and I was
so wrought up that I could'nt see any
other way but go an see the Supt of

We expect an increase in our
family in a few months and we
can hardly make eppences now.

these last two years, living in hope that I would receive word from the Supt. Of the 3rd District or any District to come back again, but now that is all gone.

I have an Honorable Discharge from the Coast Guard for two Service, but now I'm to old to return to that I'm told.

I was on three different Lighthouses One as Keeper here in the town of Stamford for three years and also on Rome Shoal befor that.

We requested a transfer from this light, Stamford Harbor to go to Falkner Island because of my wifes Phical condition from lack of exercise & ect.

I requested to transfer myself, & in so doing had to derate myself from ~~Asst.~~ Keeper to Asst. Keeper. which I gladly done for my wifes sake.

However, We only stayed on Falkner Island but a short time and I was so wrought up that I could'nt see any other way but go an see the Supt of

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We expect an increase in our family in a few months and we can hardly make expences now.

III

The 3rd Lighthouse District ~~explain~~ just how things were which I did the best I could. I also requested a few days leave and was informed that such request would have to be made through the Kuper.

The thought of having to return under the present conditions were more than I could take so we went home and the result was I was dismissed from the service after serving for 4½ years.

I cannot return now I am told unless I take a Civil Service Examination which I have been waiting for over a year now.

I am discouraged, my hope is gone, and I have nothing to look forward to now.

We expect an increase in our family in a few months and we can hardly make expences now.

IV

IV

Won't you please hulp me somehow? I know I should have gone back to the Light, but I did'nt stop and consider it then.

I am willing to go any place now in any district, if I can only have another chance.

Respectfully

Louis E Colbert
#2 Cove Mill Cottage
Stamford, Conn.

CHIEF CLERK
1921 OCT 1 AM 8 48
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CHECK GRID, INITIALS, MEMORANDA

ETC., SHOULD GO ON PAPERS

To	For
Commissioner	Information
Deputy Com.	Proper action
~~A.A.~~	Approve if no
C.C.	objection
Chief Engr.	~~Attach papers~~
Mar. Eng.	Rec. & ret. to
Signals	_____ thru _____
Radio	Prepare reply
Elec. & Mech.	for sig. of
Arch. & Str.	_____
Nautical	Forward to _____
~~Personnel~~	Ack. & to _____
Finance	for rec.
L. & P.	To _____ for
Examiner	direct action
Edit clerk	and report
Files	Bulletin
	Call up w.a.r.
	Call up w.f.r.r.
	Call up

Believe there was recent request for reinstatement

Yes, but his case not considered to warrant such action. Appears a letter with sympathetic tone is all that can be given.

HH 10/8

Pers

Concur, but seems likely to develop into another Leavitt case. At your convenience try your hand at letter

APK 10/9

October 14, 1937

Mr. Louis E. Colbert
2 Cove Mill Cottage
Stamford, Connecticut

Dear Sir:

Your letter of October 3, addressed to the President, in regard to your dismissal from this Service and request for reinstatement as keeper has been referred to this Bureau for acknowledgment and consideration.

It appears that you have heretofore taken this matter up directly with this office and that the Bureau wrote you on May 20 and June 8 in the matter. The important work of operating and maintaining aids to navigation for the safeguarding of life and property requires the employment of reliable personnel who can be depended on to perform duty regularly and in accordance with the established schedule. It appears that when you were employed in this Service and had an opportunity to demonstrate your reliability, you did not fully appreciate the responsibilities of your position and that you not only failed to perform your duties in accordance with the regular working schedule, but that you absented yourself from your station without authority and left your duties to be performed by someone else. Therefore, while the Bureau regrets to learn of your present circumstances, it feels that in view of your record the interests of the Service would not justify your being given consideration for reinstatement over other qualified eligibles.

For the Commissioner:

Respectfully,

W. P. Harman
Administrative Assistant

hlm/see

PC
29 September 1952

Mr. Louis E. Colbert
Fenner Hill Road
RFD #1
Hope Valley, Rhode Island

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated August 17, 1952 in which you requested a statement of your service while employed in the former U. S. Lighthouse Service.

The record of this office shows that you were employed in the former Lighthouse Service as Keeper from July 1, 1930 through July 28, 1935.

Sincerely yours,

R. S. MYERS
Assistant Chief, Civilian Personnel Division
By direction of the Commandant

DTc/jgw

Return to 3-2

DATE MAILED: 9-30-52

3-2

PE-3
8 September, 1952
(117-797)

15 SEP 8 14 09

PEA-A

Mr. Louis N. Colbert
Fenner Hill Road
RFD #1
Hope Valley, Rhode Island

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your request contained in the letter dated 17 August, 1952, there is enclosed a statement of your service in the U. S. Coast Guard as shown by the records at Coast Guard Headquarters.

NOTE { That part of your letter pertaining to your Lighthouse service will be taken care of by another division.

Very truly yours,

W. H. BUXTON
Commander, USCG
Assistant Chief, Enlisted Personnel Division
By direction of the Commandant

Encl: (1) Statement of Service

ORR ans Correspondence return to 3-13

8 September, 1952

COLBERT, Louis Edison 117-797 15 Sept., 1905 Hope Valley, R. I.

5-6-27		Pt. Judith Sta.	*Surf	Orig. Enl. 2 years
		CGC NARRAGANSETT	"	Transferred 3-20-28
	5-5-29 Honorable	"	"	Expiration of Enlistment

5-6-29		CG Receiving Unit, New London, Conn.	Sealc	Re-enlisted in Reg. Coast Guard
		CGC TERRY	"	Transferred 6-11-29
	9-14-29 Ordinary (under honorable conditions)	"	"	Own request

---

*Surf Surfman
Sealc Seaman, first class

W. H. BUXTON, By direction

Hope Valley, R.I.

Aug 17, 1937

U.S. Coast Guard
Bureau of Statistics
Washington

Dear Sir:

In order for me to realize the full Benefit of my previous Civil Service and also my Service in the U.S. Coast Guard Life Saving Service & Cutter Service from 1927 to ~~May~~ Sept 14th 1929 by Special Order Discharge, Form 2510-B Ed. 5000 May. 27

My Service and Appointment as 2nd Asst. Light Keper of Romer Shoal Light Station in the 3rd District Staten Is. N.Y. begin about June 1930 then after a year or so I was Transferd to Stamford Harbor Lt. Station as Keeper:

Then ~~in~~ I was Transferad to Falkern Is Lt Station when I remained until July 28, 1935 when I left the Service. These documents letters are missing or distroyed and I need an Official Statement to substanciate my claim for this Service, which I hope is possible to provide, this is my Request.

Respectfully
Louis E Colbert
Fenner Hill Road
Hope Valley, R.I.
R F D #1

117-197

November 14, 1935.

Mr. Louis E. Colbert,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

Charges of neglect of duty and absence without authority having been preferred against you and substantiated in a degree sufficient to warrant such action, the Department, upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Lighthouses, has dismissed you from the position of keeper at $1320 per annum at Falkner Island Lightstation, effective at the close of business on July 28, 1935.

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

[illegible] NOV 16 1935

Chief of Appointment Division.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
NOV 8 1935
SHEET NO. 4907
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CARDED

B

APPOINTMENT DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NOV 14 1935
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

October 22, 1935.

Memorandum for Mr. Kerlin

The accompanying recommendation from the Bureau of Lighthouses for the dismissal of Louis E. Colbert, assistant keeper of Falkner Island Lightstation, is the result of charges preferred against him on September 14 for neglect of duty, sleeping on watch, and deserting his post.

The charge of neglect of duty arose from the fact that Mr. Colbert insisted upon observing Saturday as his Sabbath, but failed to perform regular station maintenance work on Sunday in lieu of doing such work on Saturday.

The charge of sleeping on duty has not been corroborated, although that offense is alleged by the keeper to have been committed on 13 occasions from March 28 to July 24, 1935. The keeper stated at the hearing in the office of the Superintendent that he did not previously file charges against Mr. Colbert because of the latter's promise to stop sleeping on watch and his (the keeper's) expectation that Mr. Colbert would change for the better. The Bureau proposes to caution the keeper for his overly tolerant attitude toward Colbert.

While Mr. Colbert denies that he deserted his post, he admits that he left the station on July 28 under instructions from the keeper to return in six hours. However, on July 30 he called at the office of the Superintendent at which time he stated he was aware of the fact that he was absent from duty without leave, that he had not applied for leave, and did not propose to return to the station. In view of all the facts, it is believed that his dismissal is justified.

In counter-charges of July 30, Mr. Colbert accuses the keeper of drunkenness and accepting fees from visitors to the station. These charges have not been corroborated and are denied by the keeper. In the opinion of the Bureau they are not founded upon fact. The service record of the keeper at other stations is stated by the Superintendent to have been exceptionally good.

Enclosure
D:B

IN REPLYING ADDRESS
COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES
REFER TO DATE OF THIS LETTER
AND FILE NO.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES

WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OCT 10 1935
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
1935 OCT 10 AM 10:15

October 8, 1935.

5

3d Supt's. letter Sept. 19, 1935, dismissal, Assistant Keeper Louis E. Colbert, Falkner Island Light Station. Salary $1320 (Range 1320-1650) Eod 7/18/30 - Reg Ind Pers.

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce. The Department's particular attention is invited to the fact that Mr. Colbert has been absent without due authority since the morning of July 28th. It is noted also that Mr. Colbert's services as keeper were not altogether satisfactory at his previous station, in connection with which attention is invited to paragraph six of the Superintendent's letter. After careful consideration the Bureau concurs in the views of the Superintendent as stated in paragraph eight and it is accordingly recommended that Keeper Louis E. Colbert be dismissed effective at the close of July 28, 1935, the last day on which he performed duty, on account of absence without due authority and neglect of duty.

In connection with the last part of paragraph seven, the Bureau concurs with the Superintendent that Keeper Zuius was to some degree at fault in deferring action with regard to Keeper Colbert, and it is proposed to bring this matter to Mr. Zuius' attention in a cautionary way, a copy of which will be duly submitted to the Department.

C. A. Park
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

RG-EK

THIS IS A CIVIL SERVICE POSITION

Action O. K.

Kerlin
Adm. Asst. to Secy.

Approves
Nov 9-1935

October 8, 1935.

3d Supt's. letter Sept. 19, 1935, dismissal, Assistant Keeper Louis E. Colbert, Falkner Island Light Station.

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce. The Department's particular attention is invited to the fact that Mr. Colbert has been absent without due authority since the morning of July 28th. It is noted also that Mr. Colbert's services as keeper were not altogether satisfactory at his previous station, in connection with which attention is invited to paragraph six of the Superintendent's letter. After careful consideration the Bureau concurs in the views of the Superintendent as stated in paragraph eight and it is accordingly recommended that Keeper Louis E. Colbert be dismissed effective at the close of July 28, 1935, the last day on which he performed duty, on account of absence without due authority and neglect of duty.

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C. A. Park
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

RG-EK

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

RECEIVED
SEP 17 1935
8.888

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
3D DISTRICT, STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

FWO-JHG

Commissioner of Lighthouses: Sept.19,1935

SUBJECT: Louis E. Colbert, Asst.Keeper, Falkner Is.Lt.Sta., Conn.

1. The following papers are forwarded herewith for the Bureau's consideration:-

a - Telegram of July 28th from Asst.Kpr.Colbert.
b - Copy of telegram of July 29th to Mr.Colbert.
c - Copy of statement of July 30th by Mr.Colbert.
d - Letter of July 30th from Keeper George Zuius.
e - Letter of Aug. 6th from Mr.Colbert.
f - Copy of letter of Aug.7th to Mr.Colbert.
g - Copy of statement of Sept.11th by Mr.Zuius.
h - Copy of letter of charges of Sept.14th to Mr. Colbert.
i - Letter of Sept.16th from Mr.Colbert.

2. Mr.Colbert's reply to Charge "A" in effect denies the charge. However, according to Mr.Colbert's statement he left his station at 9:45 A.M. on July 28th with instructions from the Keeper to be back in six hours. On July 30th he stated that he was aware of the fact that he was absent from duty without leave, that he had not applied for leave, and that he did not propose to return to Falkner Island Light Station, Conn., and gave his address for mail as Hope Valley, Rhode Island. It is considered that the charge is amply proven. Having filed no charges or complaint that would necessitate or warrant his immediate departure from the station and remaining absent without authority, and without regard for the maintenance and operation of an important aid to navigation, his action, regardless of authority or service regulations, was without justification and entirely upon his own responsibility. It is evident that Mr.Colbert's sense of responsibility is not such as is necessarily expected of all Keepers and Assistant Keepers, and it does not appear that Mr.Colbert realizes the seriousness of his action in deserting his station and position without notice to the Keeper whom he left alone to operate the station.

3. In connection with Charge "b", attention is invited to Mr. Colbert's statement of July 30th while at this office. In his letter of Sept.16th he contends that he performed regular station maintenance work on Sundays to equalize for the nonperformance of such work on Saturday, stating that he did more than make up for such work on Sundays and that it is in the book in his own handwriting. The station Journal bears out his contention to a small extent only. Enclosed is a statement quoting upkeep work performed by Keepers on Sundays as recorded in the Station Journal from March 31,1935 to July 28th,1935. It is to be noted that Light Station Journals show the station upkeep work done each day, but do not ordinarily show the details of what each individual man did; however each man ordinarily does the inside cleaning and painting etc.of his own quarters. Mr.Colbert's statement of July 30th and the Journal record fail to show that he was disposed to or did perform any great amount of station maintenance work on Sunday to offset the nonperformance of such work on Saturdays.

4. In reference to Charge "c", Mr.Colbert's statement of July 30th relating to remarks addressed to the Keeper, and the admitted occurrence of his wife slapping the Keeper's face, which occurrence evidently met with Mr. Colbert's approval, is considered to be sufficient proof.

5. Charge "d", in reference to sleeping on watch, which is denied by Mr.Colbert, is based on the report of the Keeper. There is no corroborative evidence or proof of this charge, in fact it is rarely ever possible to obtain positive proof of such an occurrence at any station since it is usually one man's word against another. However, in view of Mr.Colbert's apparent general conception of responsibility it is not unreasonable to believe that the charge is based on fact.

6. Mr.Colbert was transferred Oct.4,1934, at his own request, from the position of Keeper at Stamford Harbor Light Station to the position of Assistant Keeper at Falkner Island Light Station. As Keeper at Stamford Harbor Light Station his services were not entirely satisfactory as evidenced by enclosed copies of inspection reports of Sept.19,1933, June 15th and Sept.10th,1934. His transfer to the position of Asst.Keeper was therefore desirable, and it was expected that under supervision his services as Assistant

Keeper would prove to be satisfactory. The result, however, was not all that was hoped for, and on inspection report of Oct. 31,1934, he, as Assistant Keeper, received ratings of 80, 85 and 75, and on inspection report of May 21,1935, ratings of 80, 80 and 80. When the position of Keeper at Falkner Island Light Station became vacant in March, 1935, Mr.Colbert was not considered suitable for promotion to keeper for the reasons stated, and another Keeper was transferred to fill the vacancy. It appears that Mr.Colbert and his wife felt that he should have been promoted to Keeper, and since that time he has been particularly lacking in interest and inclination to work, and not disposed to be agreeable in his dealings with the new Keeper. As a matter of information there is enclosed the following correspondence:-

j - Letter of April 24,1935 and enclosure of same date, from Keeper Zuius.
k - Copy of letter of Apl.29th to the Keeper.
l - Letter of May 4th from the Keeper.

In this connection it may be noted that Mrs.Colbert is considerably more aggressive than Mr.Colbert.

7. Such charges as Mr.Colbert made against the Keeper in his statement of July 30th, are without corroboration and are denied by Mr.Zuius. The more serious charges were those involving drunkenness and receiving fees, both of which were very positively denied by Mr. Zuius. This office is not inclined to believe that they are based on fact, as the service record of Mr.Zuius at other stations was exceptionally good which was the reason for his transfer to his present position. It is considered however that Keeper Zuius erred in being overly tolerant in deferring action against the Ass t. Keeper, which he apparently did with the hope that Mr.Colbert would in time improve and correct his attitude.

8. It is believed that the facts and circumstances connected with this case sufficiently show that Mr.Colbert is not a proper or suitable person to be retained as Assistant Keeper. The charges referred to herein are considered to be proven to an extent sufficient to justify severe disciplinary action, and it is recommended that Mr.Colbert be dismissed from the position of Assistant Keeper of Falkner Island Light Station, Conn.,effective at the close of July 28th,1935, his last day of service.

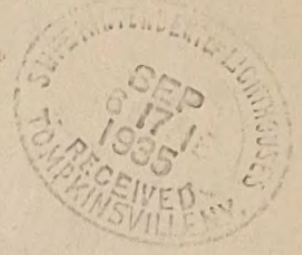
9. The approval of this recommendation will not be in violation of Section 2 of Civil Service Rule 1 relative to political or religious opinions or affiliations. Mr. Colbert has not been granted leave in excess of the accrued rate.

J. T. Yates

J. T. YATES
Superintendent

Hope Valley, R. I.

Sept 16, 1935



Supt. Of Lighthouses
Staten Island, N.Y.

Subject- Letter Of Sept 14/35 (Charges)

a) I don't consider it desertion when you notify the office by telegram and ask for an appointment and later go there and give reason why you don't want to return. I don't see how I could be ~~consider~~ considered irresponsible when I went to the office with a photest against unfairness and drunkness, and give reasons why I wasn't going back under those same conditions.

b) I don't see how it can be considered Neglect of duty to observe your own Sabbath when the Keeper himself granted the request. It cannot be truthfully denied that I did not do more then make up for it on Sunday as it is in the book in my own hand writing

b) Maybe I could'nt state my Num of Labor at that time but I can now.
I could'nt be for because I was so nervous and upset.

c) How could anybody conduct themselves in an orderly manner under the prevailing circumstances. I believe in fairness and honesty no matter on whose part it falls, I have no use for drunkness.
I always respect any man that is honest and upright and sober.
I could'nt blame my wife as the keper did not mind his on business and was'nt sober, when he called the watch at Mid. These are facts which shows why we did'nt show proper respect for such a person.

d) Theres no trueth in the charges of sleping on watch from biginning to end except I always set my alarm clock in case the Keper for got to call me for watch which he did two or three times and I'd be sure to be awakened.

Respectfully
Louis E Colbert

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

FWO:HR

REGISTERED MAIL
RECEIPT REQUESTED

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
3D DISTRICT, STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

September 14, 1935

Louis E. Colbert,
Hope Valley, R. I.

SUBJECT: Charges.

1. You are hereby charged with:

(a) Deserting your position, absence from duty without leave or authority, and irresponsibility as Asst.Lighthouse Keeper, in that you left Falkner Island Light Station at about 9:45 a.m. on July 28, 1935, and according to your verbal statement the keeper instructed you to return to the station within six hours, whereas you failed to return to your station, as evidenced by the fact that you called at this office on July 30th, 1935 and at that time conceded that you were absent from duty without leave, and stated that you did not propose to return to Falkner Island Light Station, this in violation of paragraph 2 of Instructions to Employees.

(b) Neglect of duty, in that while you admittedly, for personal reasons, refused to perform duty, other than standing watch and lighting up, on Saturdays, you failed to perform regular station maintenance work on Sundays to equalize for the non-performance of such work on Saturdays, you having admitted on July 30, 1935, that you did not do any scraping or painting or that kind of work on Sunday, and could not state any item of laborious work that you had done on Sunday.

(c) Failure on your part to conduct yourself and your personal affairs in such a manner as to be conducive to a harmonious condition among the keepers and their families on Falkner Island Light Station, and failing to show to your superior, the keeper of the station, proper deference and respect, which is necessarily detrimental to the proper, efficient, and orderly maintenance of the station, this charge having reference to such instances as your admitted remark to the keeper that "Maybe if I was a Pollack or a Catholic we could get along all right", permitting your wife to inject herself into conversations and discussions between yourself and the keeper, and permitting your wife to slap the keeper's face, this in violation of paragraph 5 of Instructions to Employees.

(d) Sleeping on watch, in violation of paragraph 7 of Instructions to Employees, in that it appears that you have on numerous occasions slept during periods that you were officially on watch, including the following instances:

March	28,	1935,	from	1:15 a.m.	to	6:00 a.m.
"	31,	"	"	9:00 p.m.	"	12:45 a.m.
April	1,	"	"	1:00 p.m.	"	3:45 p.m.
"	2,	"	"	12:30 a.m.	"	6:00 a.m.
"	4,	"	"	9:00 a.m.	"	11:45 a.m.
"	5,	"	"	8:30 p.m.	"	12:30 a.m.
"	8,	"	"	10:00 a.m.	"	noon, and 1:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.
"	22,	"	for	some time	prior	to midnight.
"	26,	"	"	"	"	4:30 p.m.
May	5,	"	"	"	"	midnight.
June	30,	"	"	"	"	and after midnight.
July	9,	"	"	"	"	after midnight.
"	24,	"	"	"	"	5:00 a.m., at which time you extinguished the light instead of at 4:35 a.m.

2. It appears that some of the instances shown above you have admitted, also that it was your practice on many occasions to set your alarm clock to ring at the termination of your watch, and to then retire and sleep until the alarm clock awakened you.

3. You are directed to submit any statement you may desire to make, within three days from the receipt of this letter. Any statement made must be couched in temperate language, free from countercharges, and confined to the point at issue. If you desire to make no statement, you will so state in writing.

J. T. YATES,
Superintendent.

F

HR

Office, Superintendent of Lighthouses,
3rd District, Staten Island, N. Y.
September 11, 1935 at 4:30 p.m.

HEARING IN REFERENCE TO COMPLAINT OF ASSISTANT KEEPER COLBERT AND CHARGES FILED BY KEEPER ZUIUS, FALKNER ISLAND LIGHT STATION

Present: F. W. OCKENFELS,
Asst. Superintendent.

Testimony by: H. Rosenstein,
Clerk.

George Zuius, Keeper, Falkner Island Light Station, testified as follows:

BY F. W. OCKENFELS.

Q. Mr. Zuius, I have your charges against Asst.Keeper Colbert, and I also have a statement of Mr. Colbert's in reference to station affairs, and it is concerning these two that I wish to ask you a number of questions. What has been Mr. Colbert's attitude in reference to working on Saturdays from the time you first took charge of the station?

A. He absolutely refused to do any work on Saturday.

Q. And the reason is his religious belief?

A. Yes.

Q. Since he wouldn't work on Saturdays, did he do on Sunday work such as would normally be done on Saturday?

A. No, he did not.

Q. What work did he do on Sundays?

A. When I came there he worked Sundays, and every day he would come down and ask me what I wanted him to do. He would start to work and would be missing the rest of the day. He would make an attempt but wouldn't finish the work I'd ask him to do. He would do on Sunday routine work only.

Q. When did you enter on duty at Falkner Island?

A. The 28th of March.

Q. Do you enter in your books the work that is done each day?

A. Yes, I do, outside of routine work.

Q. What do your books show as to work done by Mr. Colbert on Sundays? You may consult your books.

A. March 31st - No work.
April 7th - " "
" 14th - On leave.
" 21st - He has on the books "Repaired and set up reflector" which work he did on Friday, and he has it down for Sunday.

Q. Did you say you were not there on the 21st?

A. I was on leave on the 21st.

Q. Do I understand he has an entry putting up a looking glass, and it was put up on Sunday?

A. No, it was put up on Friday.

Q. How big was the looking glass?

A. About 18" square, 2 feet long.

Q. Is that the only work that is accounted for?

A. Yes. (continues consulting books as to work done by Mr. Colbert on Sundays).

April 28th - Washed engine room floor and packed vaporizer.
May 5th - No work.
" 12th - Packed vaporizer and cleaned up yard.
" 19th - No work.
" 26th - This work was done by Mr. Wingood. He recorded it as work done by himself. The book is wrong.

Q. What do you mean your book is wrong?

A. He recorded it in the book.

Q. Why is he making records in the books?

A. I was on leave. I got back in the afternoon about 3:50 p.m.

June 2nd - Cleaning and packing vaporizer, painting walls in front room, Assistant's quarters. This is work done by Mr. Wingood.

Q. Do you know it to be a fact?

A. I know it to be a fact.

Q. Did you see him do it?

A. No.

Q. How do you know it was done by Mr. Wingood?

A. He didn't deny it.

Q. But you didn't see Mr. Wingood do it?

A. No.

June 9th - Scraping floors in Assistant's quarters.
" 16th- Cleaned and oiled tools in tool chest. About these tools, I told him to clean them off. He cleaned the wrench and screw driver, and he considered it cleaning tools.

Q. But you have it in your record?

A. He wrote that in. I came back that day and it was written in the books. I was on leave from the 14th to 16th.

June 23rd - No work.
" 30th - Scrubbing and painting closet floors around sink, and packed vaporizers.
July 7th - No work.
" 14th - Shellaced linoleum in kitchen and closet floor around sink.
" 21st - No work.
" 28th - He went ashore without permission.

Q. Did he do any work at all on July 28th?

A. No, he did not.

Q. Do I understand that on Saturday, July 27th, he refused to do any work, although you ordered him to do so?

A. Yes, that's the truth.

Q. What were the circumstances that resulted in your ordering him to work on Saturday, when it seems he had not been in the practice of doing work on Saturday?

A. When I first came there he said he would work on Sunday if he didn't have to work on Saturday, but he didn't work on Sundays. I said to him "You have got to do your work as well as I do my work." On Friday he started to wash the engine room windows and then quit. On Saturday morning I told him to finish the windows and then help me finish cutting the grass, and he said "I will not work on Saturday. This is my Sabath." If the office wants to fire me for that, they are perfectly welcome to do it."

Q. Do you recall that you had visitors at the station on July 27th?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. It is said that it was a fire department boat from Madison. Do you recall that?

A. No, there was no fire department boat from Madison, and I was there all day. One boat came from New Haven with three Swedish fellows.

Q. Did you ever hear of a fire department boat from Madison?

A. No, I did not.

Q. What visitors were there on the 27th?

A. Three Swedish fellows from New Haven, Olsen, Nelson and Johnson.

Q. Were they the only visitors on that day, July 27th?

A. I don't recall that now. It was the only big boat that came in, I remember that.

Q. And the party consisted of three men?

A. Yes.

Q. What time of day did they arrive at the station?

A. About 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

Q. What time did they leave?

A. They left about 6:00 o'clock in the morning the following day.

Q. In other words, they stayed on the island from 4:00 p.m. on the 27th to 6:00 a.m. on the 28th. Is that correct?

A. That's right.

Q. Where were they during all that time?

A. At the dock.

Q. They didn't come up to the station?

A. They came up to the station at about 7:30 or 8:00 o'clock and we made coffee for them, that's all.

Q. How much time did they spend up at the station?

A. About a half hour.

Q. Does the boat that those men came in have a number on it?

A. Yes, I think it has.

Q. Do you know the number?

A. No, I don't.

Q. Do you recall whether it was J-543?

A. No, I don't, but there is a'J'there.

Q. And when that party came they stayed from 4:00 p.m. on the 27th to 6:00 a.m. the next morning? They didn't leave during the day and come back on another trip?

A. No, all they did was go outside of the breakwater and come back again after they fished until sundown.

Q. Who was on watch that afternoon and evening on the 27th?

A. Colbert was supposed to be on watch to 4:00 o'clock, and I went on from 4:00 o'clock to midnight.

Q. Then you had these men up at the light during the time you were on watch?

A. Yes.

Q. Don't you have hours for visiting at your station?

A. No, there are no set hours. I asked Mr. Minzner when I relieved him, and he said he didn't know what the hours were.

Q. You have mentioned the names of the three men, that is, their last names. Do you know their first names?

A. No, I don't.

Q. Do you know their addresses?

A. No, but I could easily find out.

Q. Had you ever seen them before this day of July 27th?

A. Only once when I came back from shore they were in the basin and Colbert had them in there.

Q. That was on some previous date?

A. About a week previous.

Q. Will you get their names and addresses and send them here to the office?

A. I will try to do that as soon as I possibly can.

Q. You are not sure whether or not there were other visitors on the light on Saturday, July 27th, is that correct?

A. That's correct.

Q. There may have been others?

A. I believe there were in the morning. There was a family who came out there.

Q. Men and women?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you show them around the light?

A. Yes.

Q. Did they offer you any money for showing them around the light?

A. No, they did not.

Q. Did any of the other visitors to the light offer you money?

A. No. I have never received or had any offers of money since I have been there.

Q. You are sure that none of those visitors on the date I mentioned gave you any money?

A. I am positive.

Q. These three men from New Haven who were there during the night of July 27th and the morning of the 28th, were they men who had been drinking, or were they sober? What was their general condition?

A. They were sober.

Q. They showed no evidence of drinking?

A. No.

Q. Did they show any evidence of having been drinking at any time up to the time they left on the morning of July 28th? In other words, did they have a drinking as well as a fishing party?

A. Not while I was with them. When they left in the morning they were all sober.

Q. In other words, there was no drinking at any time that you know of?

A. No drinking at any time, in my presence.

Q. You stated they were up to your quarters in the early evening. During the evening, did you go down to the dock to visit with them?

A. I walked down with them when they left the quarters.

Q. What time was that?

A. Around 7:00 or 7:30.

Q. How long did you stay at the dock when you walked down there with them?

A. I was there about 15 or 20 minutes and then came back to the tower.

Q. Did you go down to the dock again during the evening?

A. Yes, about 10:30 or 11:00 o'clock.

Q. How long did you stay down at the dock with them on that trip?

A. About 15 minutes.

Q. Had you yourself been drinking on Saturday, July 27th?

A. No, I had not.

Q. At no time during the night?

A. At no time.

Q. Where was the Assistant Keeper during the evening of July 27th?

A. He went to bed about 8:00 o'clock. He was down to the dock the early part of the evening.

Q. Where was the assistant keeper during the rest of the evening?

A. In his quarters. He went to bed.

Q. When did you last see him?

A. At 12:00 o'clock when I went up to call him.

Q. Did you have any argument with the assistant keeper at that time?

A. We had an argument when I went up to call him.

Q. About what?

A. The argument began when I called Colbert to go on watch. Mrs. Colbert got hold of my wife and said "You little devil, I'll throw you down the stairs." Then she slapped me in the face.

Q. Who slapped you in the face?

A. Mrs. Colbert.

Q. What argument did you have with the assistant keeper?

A. Mr. Colbert came out and said "I am getting tired of this. You try to make me work on my Sabath. Nobody can make me work on my Sabath. To hell with the God damn Service."

Q. What started the argument or discussion, whatever it may have been?

A. The argument had been brewing previous to that. All day he had been sulky because I made him work.

Q. When you were having this argument with the keeper and his wife, just where were you at that time?

A. In the hall right at the foot of my stairs.

Q. Did the assistant keeper's wife, while that discussion was going on, or shortly afterward, tell you to got to bed?

A. No, she did not.

Q. After this argument ceased, then what happened?

A. I went downstairs and they kept hollering but I wouldn't listen to them. I told them I didn't want to argue with them.

Q. Did the assistant keeper's wife faint after this argument?

A. She didn't faint in my presence. About 20 minutes afterwards, Mr. Colbert came downstairs and said his wife had a heart attack.

Q. During this discussion or argument with the assistant keeper, did you tell him or challenge him to fight?

A. No, I just told him we were going to have a showdown.

Q. Just what did you mean?

A. I was through and was turning him in.

Q. The following morning, July 28th, the assistant keeper left the station, did he not?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he have your permission to leave the station?

A. No, he did not.

Q. Did he tell you he was going?

A. No, he did not.

Q. You had no information that he was going until you knew he had gone?

A. It was the first Sunday he put on his uniform. We had visitors that morning and while we were going up to the tower he asked me, while the visitors were there, if he could have that medical certificate for physical examination. But he never asked me if he could go ashore.

Q. Did he make entry in the absence book that morning before he left the station?

A. Yes.

(NOTE: Record of Absence book contains entry by Mr. Colbert "Left station July 28th, 9:45 a.m.", with the remark "Going to doctor.")

Q. Was the assistant keeper's wife in the habit of injecting herself in matters that concerned the work of the station?

A. Yes.

Q. Describe some of the instances and state the dates, if you can?

A. I can't answer that offhand, but that has been a continuous affair.

Q. Cite some instances that illustrate the condition?

A. Well, whenever I would tell Mr. Colbert to do a job, she would say "To hell with the keeper, don't do it unless you think it ought to be done."

Q. On more than one occasion?

A. Yes, on more than one occasion. Colbert came down one day and wanted to go ashore but I told him he had to work, so he went upstairs and told Mrs. Colbert that I had refused to let him go ashore whenever he felt like it. Then she hollered out loud "What does he think he is a dictator." She came downstairs and said that he didn't have to take orders from me and that he had been a keeper once himself.

Q. Did Mr. Colbert's wife, other than the one occasion you mentioned, attempt to use physical force in her arguments or statements that she would make in reference to station work?

A. No, that was the first time she slapped me.

Q. Just what was that circumstance that resulted in her slapping you in the face?

A. When my sister-in-law was there to cook for me during my wife's absence in the hospital, Mrs. Colbert wasn't sociable at all to the girl. I don't know what she had against the girl, but the night of July 27th the girl went upstairs and Mrs. Colbert got a hold of her and said "You little devil" and she said to me "I'll slap you in the face", and she did.

Q. You have stated that on the 27th of July you had not been drinking on that day. Have you had any other occasions or dates where you had been drinking on the station that would result in criticism?

A. No. I never drank at the station as long as I have been there.

Q. In reference to your letter of July 30th, with which you forwarded charges against the assistant keeper, who wrote the charges?

A. My sister-in-law. I wrote the charges and she copied them for me.

Q. Why did you have someone else write them for you?

A. That was the day I got the telegram from the Coast Guard that my wife was dying in the hospital, and I was so upset.

Q. You have checked them over and you know they are correct in what you intended to write?

A. Yes.

Q. Your charges state that under date of March 28th Mr. Colbert came on watch at midnight the 27th, but went back to sleep the 28th at 1:15 a.m., and didn't wake up until 6 a.m. when his alarm clock rang. How do you know that he was asleep between the hours that you state?

A. On that occasion my wife was sick and I stayed up with her all night. I heard him go to bed.

Q. You didn't see him asleep?

A. No, I didn't see him asleep, but when the alarm clock rang he jumped out of bed.

Q. You only know that he went to his quarters, put his light out, and he wasn't up and around during the night?

A. No, he wasn't up once.

Q. Does that incident appear in your station records, that he was asleep while on watch from 1:15 a.m. until 6:00 a.m.?

A. No.

Q. Why doesn't it appear in your records?

A. I can't answer that very well. He promised to cut out his sleeping on watch if I didn't turn him in. I let it go at that.

Q. Between what hours was he on watch on that date?

A. Midnight March 27th to 8:00 a.m. March 28th.

Q. Another item states that on March 31st Mr. Colbert was asleep on his parlor couch from 9:00 p.m. to 12:45 a.m. What were the hours of his watch on that day?

A. From 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.

Q. How do you know that he was asleep on his parlor couch?

A. He admitted that himself.

Q. Did you see him asleep?

A. No.

Q. What led you to believe he was asleep between those hours?

A. He didn't report at 12:00 o'clock. He came down at 12:45.

Q. In conversation about it, he admitted he had been asleep?

A. Yes.

Q. You took up the watch from 12:00 midnight?

A. Yes.

Q. Does that occurrence appear in your records under date of March 31st?

A. No, it does not.

Q. Was there any particular reason why you made no record of the occurrence?

A. No, only his promise to stop it.

Q. Another item under date of April 1st states "asleep from 1:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m." What were the hours of his watch on that day?

A. From 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Q. Is there any record of that occurrence in your books?

A. No. I never entered it because I thought he would change.

Q. There are various dates reported here where it is claimed Asst. Keeper Colbert was asleep during hours that he was on watch, and you say there is no record of any of those occurrences in the station book, is that correct?

A. That's correct.

Q. Where did you keep a record that enabled you in July to record things and dates back in March and April?

A. I had it on a little pad I keep in my desk.

Q. All of the occurrences where you have made the charge of Mr. Colbert being asleep on watch, are the hours concerned within the period of his watch in each case?

A. Yes.

Q. Under date of April 22nd, it is stated that Mr. Colbert was awakened by his alarm clock at midnight, and in shutting off the alarm clock he knocked over the lamp and broke the chimney and mantle. How do you know the table lamp was knocked over?

A. His room is right over our bedroom, and I heard the crash and went up to see what happened.

Q. Did you see what had happened?

A. I saw the lamp broken. He said he had reached for the clock and it was dark and the lamp fell over and was broken.

Q. Under date of April 26th you referred to your returning from shore and finding that Mr. Colbert had been down on one end of the island getting a sun tan, etc. What time of day was it that you returned from shore?

A. I returned about 3:00 p.m. I couldn't find him and I looked all over the island. I asked Mrs. Colbert and she said she didn't know where he was.

Q. Under date of May 15th you also report that Mr. Colbert broke his lamp chimney in reaching for his alarm clock at midnight. Did you see any evidence of the occurrence at that time, or did you merely judge by the noise?

A. I saw the mantle, he gave it to me.

Q. Your letter states that on June 30th you woke up at midnight to relieve Colbert, but he was nowhere in sight. Where should he have been at that time?

A. He should have been on watch.

Q. Where does he come to relieve you?

A. To the entrance to the tower that leads to the door to my quarters.

Q. This was shortly after midnight?

A. Yes.

Q. And on that occasion it is stated he appeared at 1:30 a.m. Is there any record in your books of that occurrence, that would be under June 30th or July 1st.

A. No record.

Q. You further state that you changed the chart. I presume you mean the recording gauge chart. At what time was Mr. Colbert supposed to change the chart?

A. At midnight. It was the last of the month.

Q. Do you change the chart at midnight every night?

A. No, only on the last day of the month.

Q. It is also reported under date of July 9th that you woke up at midnight to relieve Colbert, but he didn't report until 2:20 a.m. What were the hours of his watch on that day?

A. From 4:00 to midnight.

Q. You further state that he went to sleep shortly after you went to bed. Do you know by actual knowledge that he went to sleep?

A. The only knowledge I have was that they were talking and Mrs. Colbert said "Shut up and go to sleep."

Q. But as a positive fact you don't know that he was asleep?

A. No.

Q. But you make a very definite statement when you state he went to sleep shortly after you went to bed?

A. He practically admitted it. I asked him "What time did you go to bed", and he said "Right after you."

Q. Is there any record in your books of that occurrence?

A. No, there is not.

Q. Another occurrence stated is on July 24th, it being stated that Colbert's alarm clock woke you up at 5:00 a.m., and that he came down to extinguish the light, which should have been done at 4:35. It is also stated his watch was from midnight to 8:00 a.m. The same item goes on to state that at 9:00 p.m. the same day Mr. Colbert extinguished the light in his quarters and you heard him try out his alarm clock. At 11:35 he came down to the front porch. Did he have a watch during that evening?

A. Yes.

Q. Then on that day he was on watch from 4:00 p.m. to midnight?

A. That's right.

Q. Included in your charges is a statement of work that was performed by Colbert. Is your letter a copy of your station book, showing the work done day by day?

A. Yes, I always enter the station work.

Q. Your letter was taken from the books?

A. Yes.

Q. The first item under that heading is March 28th, 30th and 31st, on which days it is stated Colbert did no work. On those three days the 28th is Thursday, the 30th is Saturday and the 31st is Sunday. The matter of working on Saturday and Sunday has been discussed, but why did he do no work on March 28th, which was during the middle of the week? Is there any particular reason why he didn't work?

A. No, only he didn't have any ambition. He told me he was tired.

Q. Did you order him to do any work?

A. I ordered him to wash the parlor.

Q. Is it your custom to lay out work for the assistant to do each day?

A. No. It is my custom to start work and work with him. We work according to the weather and the tasks that have to be done.

Q. Is it recorded in your books that he refused to work when you told him to do so?

A. He didn't refuse openly, so I didn't record it. He would start to work, but I had to get after him.

Q. Is there any record of that in your books?

A. No.

Q. What he failed to do or refused to do doesn't appear in your books?

A. He didn't refuse to do anything. He just failed to do it. He would start to work but he wouldn't finish it.

Q. Under the item of May 13th reference is made to work on the boat with the statement that a Mr. Wingood helped and did most of the work. Who is Mr. Wingood?

A. He is a young fellow who stayed with them and substituted for him when he had a week's vacation.

Q. When did he come to the station?

A. It was in the early part of May.

Q. How long did he stay?

A. He stayed there to the last of June.

Q. Was there any authority issued for Mr. Wingood to live at the station?

A. No, there was no authority.

Q. By what right was he there?

A. He was out of work and Mr. Colbert asked me if he could bring him out there, and I said it would be all right if he didn't interfere with our duties. At that time he had a letter from the office that he could take 7 days leave.

Q. What has that got to do with Mr. Wingood?

A. He thought he could break him in to the job.

Q. Aren't you aware of the regulations prohibiting unauthorized persons living at the station?

A. Yes.

Q. Why was he permitted to have this man stay there?

A. He didn't interfere with our duties, that's the only reason, and he was out of work.

Q. Is Mr. Wingood related to Mr. Colbert, or is he a member of his family?

A. No, he is not.

Q. How long was Mr. Wingood there altogether?

A. He was there practically two months, counting days he was ashore, and he was there 8 days as substitute for Colbert during this time.

Q. How old a man is this Mr. Wingood?

A. I believe 22 or 23 years old.

Q. Where does he come from?

A. Guilford.

Q. I take it he is a friend of Mr. Colbert's?

A. Evidently he was, for Mr. Colbert brought him out. I hadn't met the man before that.

Q. What sort of a person is he?

A. He appeared to be very agreeable all the while he was out there. He was respectable and conscientious.

Q. An item under date of June 17th refers to entries in the log made by the assistant keeper. Were you absent at the time or on the station?

A. I was at the station.

Q. Why was Mr. Colbert making entries in the log about station affairs if you were present?

A. It was up until the latter part of June we had arranged it that the man on watch would write in the work done. I stopped it after he put entries in it that should not have been put in there.

Q. Was the assistant keeper absent around that time, from the 17th of June?

A. He was on leave from the 18th to the 25th.

Q. Was he on the station or away between July 3rd and the 8th?

A. He was on the station.

Q. In your letter you make reference to work done by Mr. Colbert on July 3rd, after which there is no entry until July 8th?

A. July 4th was a holiday, 5th he didn't work, 6th was Sabath, and the 7th was Sunday.

Q. Under date of July 15th a statement is made in reference to cutting grass in front of the dwelling, also stating that a Mr. Dickey was helping, etc. Who was Mr. Dickey?

A. That's his father-in-law.

Q. Had he been residing at the station?

A. He was there on a vacation about a week or two.

Q. Under date of July 27th reference is made to a Mr. Baltrush, who apparently was there. Who is Mr. Baltrush?

A. He is a cousin of my wife's who came out there when I first came to the station. He was there a short time.

Q. How long was he on the station?

A. About 3 or 4 weeks, at the most.

Q. Under date of June 2nd you refer to your absence and state that Mr. Colbert entered your quarters without permission and went through your rooms and personal property, etc. How do you know that he did that?

A. At that time I had scraped the floor of my dining room and there was a powdery dust which he tracked all over the floor. Mr. Colbert was the only one that had shoes with hollow heels. Mr. Wingood didn't tell me this but he saw Mr. Colbert go through my quarters.

Q. Did you talk to Mr. Colbert about that?

A. I most certainly did.

Q. Did he deny it?

A. He denied it at first, then he admitted it. But he denied going through my personal property.

Q. According to your letter at 11:05 on July 27th you were down at the boat landing talking with the three men who stayed there overnight, Johnsen, Olsen and Nelson, and you further state that Mr. and Mrs. Colbert shouted out remarks from their windows. Who made the remarks?

A. Both of them.

Q. Who were the remarks supposed to be addressed to?

A. To these men on the boat.

Q. Did those three men hear those remarks, as well as yourself?

A. I imagine they all did because they laughed. It was said loud enough.

Q. Among other things, you say they shouted "Don't believe a word the damn keeper tells you." Will those three visitors corroborate your statement?

A. Yes.

Q. Has Mr. Colbert been back to the station since he left on July 28th?

A. He came one day after I had come back from the hospital, and was there about two hours getting his personal belongings.

Q. And he hasn't been back?

A. No.

Q. Has he still got personal property at the light?

A. Yes, his furniture, etc., are still there. I asked him if he was going to take his furniture and he said "I am not through yet."

Q. And you have heard nothing further from him?

A. No.

Q. Is there anything further that you care to state that is not covered by your letters and charges?

A. There is one occasion that Mr. Wingood told me about, that he and Mr. and Mrs. Colbert went over to Goose Island and left the station unattended. Mr. Colbert is the laziest man I have ever seen in my life, and the most spiteful man I have ever met. He told me he should have been keeper, and that's why all the trouble started. That's probably the whole story.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

FWO-JHG

C O P Y

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
3D DISTRICT, STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

Aug. 7,1935

Louis E. Colbert,
Hope Valley,
Rhode Island.

SUBJECT: Absence from duty.
REFERENCE: Your letter Aug. 6,1935.

1. You are advised that the subject of your interview at this office on July 30th, and the matter of your having deserted your position as Assistant Keeper at Falkner Island Light Station without authority, is being investigated, and you will be further advised at a later date.

/s/ J. T. YATES
Superintendent

Per

Hope Valley, R. I.
Aug 6, 1935

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHT HOUSES
AUG 7 8
1935
RECEIVED
JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

Supt. Of Lighthouses
Staten Island, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

After spending nearly two weeks up here in the country, I'm very much rested up. I'm ready to go to work, whm ever you see fit, however I hope it will be soon as my folks are poor people and the bills are very numerous, they can't afford to kelp us, too.

I will gladly accept most any light, preferably a one man light, if that's not asking to much.

I hope I may hear from you soon, if you pleas.

Respectfully

Louis E Colbert.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE



THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Is. Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935

Superintendent of Lighthouses 3rd Dist.

Subject Charges against Assistant Keeper Colbert.

The attached are charges and true records of Mr Colberts Conduct and work.

Respectfully
George Zuiss Kpr.

Asst Keeper Colbert asleep on watch — 1 sheet #1

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
AUG 1935
RECEIVED
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THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 29, 1935

March 28th - Colbert came on watch at midnight the 27th but went back to sleep the 28th at 1 15/AM and did not wake up till 6 AM when his alarm clock rang. 31st - asleep on his cabot couch from 9 P.M to 12 45/AM He admitted this.

April 1st - asleep from 1 P.M. to 3 45/PM. He admitted this 2nd - " " 12 30/AM to 6 AM when his alarm clock rang. 4th - asleep from 9 AM to 11 45/AM. He admitted this 5th - " " 8 30/PM to 12 30/AM " " " 8th - " " 10 AM to noon and from 1 30/PM to 3 20/PM Mrs Colbert admitted this to Mrs. Zuiss. 22nd - when Colbert was awakened by his alarm clock at mid night in his efforts to shut the alarm off he knocked over his table lamp and broke the chimney and mantle of it. He was supposed to be on watch from 4 PM to M. N. but he had gone to sleep early in the evening and did not awake till the alarm went off. I warned Colbert that he would have to stop his alarm clock watches and he became sulky, passed

Exhibit # 2

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
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STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 29, 1935.

April a few remarks under his breath and went back to bed. 26th - went I returned from shore Colbert was no where to be found. I asked Mrs Colbert where Mr. Colbert was. She was very sulky and exclaimed, "I don't know!" At 4 30 PM Colbert showed up. I asked him where he had been and he answered, "It's been too nice a day to work so I decided to get a sun-tan and fell asleep on the end of the Island. It's perfect down there, no wind and the sun is hot." I asked him if he thought getting a sun tan was part of his duties and he remarked, "The Lord will take care of me."

May 25th - Colbert broke his lamp chimney and mastitle again reaching for his clock to shut the alarm off at midnight. His bed room is directly over mine and I heard him. He was on watch from 4 PM to M. N. When I relieved Colbert at midnight I warned him again

Exhibit # 3

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STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 29, 1935

May about his alarm clock watches the same as I have done many times previously. He just sulked a few minutes, passed several remarks and said, "You have to catch me asleep in bed and have witnesses to prove it, because my word is just as good as your's and I can and will deny anything you have to say."

During the rest of May and the month of June on many occasions I heard Colbert's alarm clock ring when he was on watch. Even tho' he denies the fact it is the absolute truth. On June 30th I woke up at midnight to relieve Colbert but he was no where in sight. I changed the chart which Colbert was supposed to do, it being the last of the month and his watch. At 1 30 AM Colbert came down stairs bare footed and half dressed. I asked him where he was and he answered "The alarm on my clock didn't ring". Then I told him he would have to stop his alarm clock watches and stand

Shtd #4

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 29, 1935

June the watch as he is required by Service regulation. He sulked a few minutes and then remarked, "My clock is an hour slow." He has given me this excuse on several occasions.

July 9th - I woke up at midnight to relieve Colbert, but, Colbert did not report till 2.20 AM bare footed and half dressed. He went to sleep shortly after I went to bed. He was supposed to be on watch from 4 PM to M.N.

14th - At 3 A.M. Colbert's alarm woke me up. And I heard Colbert jump out of bed shut the alarm off and come down stairs to extinguish the light which he should have done at 4.35 AM. It was his watch from M.N. to 8 AM. At 9 P.M this same day Colbert extinguished all the lights in his quarters and I heard him try out his alarm clock just before he layed down on his palot couch. At 11.35 PM he came down to the front

Sheet #5

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
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STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Talkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 29, 1935

porch bare footed and sat down coughing and spitting up mucous under our windows for about ten minutes when his alarm clock started to ring and he ran upstairs to shut it off. He tried to deny that he had set the alarm so he would be awake at midnight but this is true because that alarm clock rang at 5 a.m and I'm sure it did not set it self for 11 45 PM.

Many times since I've been in charge of this Station I've asked Collett not to do any coughing and spitting under our windows as it makes Mrs Zuins sick to her stomach. He has been very sulky and spiteful about this and instead of going away from the house he seems to do it more than ever. Several times before I took Mrs Zuins ashore Collett's coughing and spitting nauseated Mrs. Zuins and made her sick. When I told Collett about this, he laughed and said "Why don't you take her ashore."

Respectfully yours
George Zuins
Keeper

Sheet 1 #

Work performed by Assistant Colbert since March 28 1936

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STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE



THIRD DISTRICT

Halbours Is. Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 29, 1936

March 28, 30 sat & 31 sun - are days Colbert did no work.

April 2nd - Colbert started to wash his paint and did not finish till April 5th. This task is a one day job with plenty of rest periods. 6th sat & 7th sun - no work. 8th - he spent all day washing his pantry. A - two hour task at the most. The 9th - Washed ceiling in his spare room. It's a small ceiling and can be done in one hour. 10th - Painted that ceiling. 15th to 19th - helping Mr. McKay 19th - changed oil on east fog signal & wiped off the engine. 20th sun, 22nd, 23rd & 26th - no work. 29th - recharged five extinguishers. about one hours work. 30th - Cleaned engine room floor less than one hours work.

May 1st - started to scrape floor in his spare room. Worked about an hour & quit for the day. 2nd - helped to cut grass in front of dwelling for one hour and quit for the day. 3rd - helped to cut grass in back of dwelling for less than an hour and disappeared for the day. 4th sat & 5th - no work. 6th - washed lens room ceiling; worked one hour. 10th - scraped

Sheet # 2

1

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
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STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Is Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 29, 1935

May

and red leaded lens's room. worked two hours. sat 11th - no work. 12th - packed 4 I.O.V vaporizers. 13th - replaced broken clamp on sail boom. Asst. Colbert only did part of the work. Mr. Wingood helped and done most of the work. 15th - made another attempt at scrapping the floor in his spare room. Worked about one hour and was silent for the day. 16th & 17th helped clean up & cut the grass. Actually worked 3 hours during these two days. sat 18th & 19th - no work. 20th - worked about one hour in the afternoon after I told him he would have to do more work and less sleeping and laying around. 24th - polished brass in lens room two hours; cleaned holes in burner of 4th order lamp. 15 minutes work; put handle in chipping hammer 2 minutes work if it is considered work as Colbert thinks. sat 25th - no work. 26th - started to chip rust scales on boat crane. Worked about an hour and a half. On this day Mr. Wingood painted the ceiling in Colbert's palor and Colbert tried to claim credit for the work. 27th - chipping and red leading

Sheet #4

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Is Lt
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 29, 19 35

June

shellaced the drain board which Colbert now claims he did. 12th - started to cut the lawn with Mr. Wingood while I was white washing the tower. Mr Wingood cut most of the grass that was cut this day Colbert worked about two minutes and rested - heavily. 13th - I told Colbert he would have to finish cutting the grass this day without the long rest periods as they were not necessary. He became sulky and started to argue. At 1 30 PM he insisted he had to go ashore on business so I let him go and finished cutting the grass myself. This job does not take over six hours with plenty of rest periods. 14th - fitted screens in his quarters. There isn't anything to fit on the screens but because he had to make two slides so the screens wouldn't fall out, about fifteen minutes work, Colbert considered it a days work.
sat
15th - no work. 16th - It entered in the log. "Ass't cleaned and oiled tools in tool chest and soldered leaky gallon and quart measure." He only cleaned

Sheil

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Tallmer D. L.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 29, 1935

where from 17 to 26?

June

and oiled a few of the tools that were used. This is supposed to be part of routine work but Colbert doesn't think so. Soldering the measures and cleaning the tools he did take but one hour at the most with sufficient time for rest periods that Colbert needs. 17th - Colbert entered in the log. "Asst polished brass in engine room, cleaned windows in engine room and packed vaporizers." He did not clean all the brass. What he did requires but twenty minutes at the most. The work done this day can be accomplished in less than two hours. Mr. Wingood did most of the work under Colbert's instructions and encouragement. That of he 'Wingood' worked hard and done as much work as he possibly could," 'Colbert would help and recommend Mr. Wingood to get in the Service.' 26th - Painted his sink & pump. 20 minutes task if it can be considered as such. 27th - cleaned brass and lens in lens room. 3 hours work with plenty of Colbert's much needed rest periods. 28th - helped

Sh-8 #6

1

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Fulkerson Is Lt
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 27, 1930

June

me to clean fuel tank and fuel line in engine room. Worked with me about twenty minutes and did the vanishing act for the rest of the day. 29th - no work. 30th - Scrubbed and painted his closet floor and around sink. And started to pack I.O.V. Vaporizers. The closet floor is a 6'x6'. This work can all be done in one hour.

July 1st - finished chipping and red leaded boat crane and finished packing four I.O.V. vaporizers which he started June 30th but could not finish because of the strenuous task he accomplished shellacing a floor 6'x6'. This work had him "all pooped" as he put it. And could be accomplished by any one but Colbert in less than an hour. 2nd - Cleaned windows in lens room. One hours work. 3rd - removed storm door and entry and stored same away. Less than one hours work. 4th - cleaned stove in engine room and cleaned out furnace. Worked three hours, two hours were rest periods. This work I asked him

Sheet # 8

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island Lt
(Station, Depot, or ~~Vessel~~)

July 29, 1930

July

took him all morning to do it, working ten minutes and doing the washing act twenty to thirty minutes. In the afternoon he painted the floor of his spare room. About twenty minutes work. 27th- He openly refused to work and help out with the general routine work insisting it was his Sabath and he wouldn't work for anyone. He got his bible and he and his wife went down to the boat house and read and prayed out loud so the Lord would remove me from Falkner Island and prayed for a hand to crush me. This has been a constant prayer with the colleds since the day I took charge of this Station. Collet told Mr. Buttrush, while he was here, that it was through their constant praying to the Lord that former Keeper Minzner was removed from this Station, and, if one prays hard enough the Lord will answer ones prayers.

Respectfully
George Burns Kpr.

Sheet #1

Mr. & Mrs Colbert's conduct and abusive language.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935

April 3rd - While I was overhauling the outboard motor, Colbert came down to the boat-house and declared that he was going ashore. I asked him his reasons and he became all epited and said, "I have a right to go ashore whenever I feel like it, because I am entitled to six hours leave a day and can take it whenever I feel like it, and I don't see why I have to ask you for permission". I tried to explain to him that the six hours was not a leave but a privilege granted for mail, supplies and emergencies. Then he started to make alibis of all descriptions as reasons for wanting to go ashore and emphasizing the fact that he was entitled to six hours leave a day and he was going to take it. I

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LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935

April 3rd -

did not care to argue any further and left him raving. Then I came up to the house Mrs. Quinn told me that Mrs. Calbert had been down-stairs and said, "Lou has just gone down to the boat-house to give your husband a piece of his mind. I tried to stop him but he had a chip on his shoulder and insisted he was going to tell George a few things and have things done his way and not the way George thinks they ought to be done I hope George makes him work good and hard after this because I'm sick and tired of having Lou laying around the house and doing nothing". Then I returned to the boat-house, Calbert started demanding his rights. I did not care to argue any further and told him to go and do some

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935

April 3rd

cleaning up in his quarters. He didn't like this and as he was going away he shouted, "Heire going to have trouble and plenty of it". Those words are the truest words Colbert has ever spoken since I have been in charge of this station. I can prove this through Mr. Baltrush who was here at the time. Every available opportunity the Colberts have had since, they have picked petty arguments, demanded nonsensical rights. They have tried and are still trying to impress people, ashore and those who have visited this Island, with their malicious lies that I am nothing more than a rotter. Several times already, I've had to free people and prove to them that 'Colberts' tales of woe' were only

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935.

April 3rd -

this station, that Mr. and Mrs. Colbert haven't created some petty and nonsensical arguments, too numerous to mention and of little import other than causing unpleasantness and excitement. They are religious fanatics and imagine a lot of things are happening which do not exist. They are continually planning and scheming ways and means to hurt my character, and make it unpleasant for all who have visited with me.

April 24th - The Colberts came back from shore with what they thought was a well-planned and thought-over argument. Some one ashore had been advising them what to demand and what to say. This argument was the result of Colberts' letter to the office which I made a copy of and forwarded. I refused to

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LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935

April 24th.

signs Colberts' letter of April 24th because he insisted on mailing it himself. The next day when I was going ashore, I asked for the letter again, and he told me Mrs. Colbert was sending it ashore through one of the fishermen. July 26th, when I told Mr. Colbert that I had reached the end of my patience with him and that he'll have to work or we'll have a show-down and settle this misery once and for all, he became sulky as usual and remarked, "Go ahead and turn me in, my word is as good as yours. The Lord will take care of me. You think I mailed that letter in April, but I didn't. I kept it and still have it." I remarked, "Then you lied when you said your wife gave the letter to a fisherman." Colbert

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935

April - 24th.

laughed and said, "What of it." Anyway, the Office didn't pay any attention to your letter. They know me at the office and know that I know what I'm doing." I didn't wish to argue and just remarked, "Why don't you practise the truth once in a while, even if it does hurt." While he was telling Mrs. Colbert what I said, she shouted, loud enough for me to hear, "Don't worry about him. Your word is as good as his and if he keeps this up, he'll be stepping his little ass around. You can deny everything. He has no witnesses."

May 21st - when I returned from shore, the Colberts' were all excited and met Mrs. Ives and me with, "She had inspection and got hell for everything. I don't see why the inspector should

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935

May 21st —

give me hell. He sure is the toughest old fossil I've ever met," So remarked Mrs. Colbert. He continued," I told the Inspector I do everything the Keeper tells me." I looked up from the boat and remarked," Why didn't you tell him the truth? You know, Law, you haven't done anything to speak of since I've been here." He didn't like this and kept quiet. While we were walking towards the dwelling, Mrs. Colbert was telling Mrs. Quinn of how Mr. Land went through her quarters, and remarked," I felt like pushing the old 'Son-of-a bitch' down-stairs." I told Mrs. Colbert that such a remark was not necessary. After that, both of them went upstairs. Ever since, the Colberts have been sulky and do everything spiteful, and have been

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STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935

May 21st —

trying to make things miserable for us and disagreeable for all who visit us.

June 2nd — During our absence, Mr. Colbert entered my quarters without any permission and went through every room and all my personal property. Mr. Colbert tried to deny this, but I have proof from one who saw him do so and by the disorderly state in which he left my property. Also, the imprint of the heel of the shoe he was wearing at the time, was found in every room of our quarters.

June 30th - Midnight — I woke up at midnight to relieve Mr. Colbert, but Mr. Colbert was nowhere to be found. I changed the chart, which he was supposed to do, being the last day of the month. At 1:30 A.M., July 1st, Mr. Colbert made his appearance. I asked him where he was, and he

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Talkner Island
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July 30, 1935.

June - 30th -

informed me that his alarm clock didn't work. I asked him if he knew he wasn't supposed to sleep on watch. He immediately changed the subject, and said his clock was one hour slow. This is not the first time Mr. Colbert has slept on watch. I told him he would have to stop it and do things properly or suffer the consequences.

July 4th - Upon returning from shore, Mr. Colbert asked me if he could go on leave Saturday the 6th, while knowing that Mrs. Jones had to keep her appointment with her doctor for her regular treatments. I told him if he wanted to go on leave he could go today, as long as he returned Saturday in time so that I could get Mrs. Jones ashore to keep her appointment with her physician. He went upstairs and told Mrs. Colbert that they would

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Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935.

July - 4th

have to go on leave today or else, wait until after the 6th. She immediately became quite choleric and shot forth a volley of curse words, using the obscenist language. She explained, at the top of her voice, "The son-of-a-bitch. I'll tell that God-damned keeper a few things. What does he think he is? The're going ashore when we feel like it, and not when he says so." But Mrs. Colbert did not come down stairs to tell me what she intended to do. Instead, she went ashore with one of the fishermen. Later on in the day, I told Mr. Colbert that his wife could go ashore anytime she wished. The more time she spent ashore, the more peace and quiet we will enjoy out here. Mr. Colbert didn't like that and started another lengthy argument.

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LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935.

July 29th. Midnight.

When I relieved Mr. Colbert at midnight I read over the log and tried to explain to him that he was not to enter anything in the log that wasn't actually done. He became epited and tried to convince me that he could enter anything he wished in the log. He had entered, "Finished repairs on oil-tanks", which he did not do. All he did was to drill a hole in the stand to bolt the pump: a five minute job. While I was explaining to Mr. Colbert that he is to enter only the actual work done, Mrs. Colbert came down stairs and exclaimed, employing her ever-abusive language, "You God-damned fool. You are trying to take credit for everything". I politely told Mrs. Colbert I was not taking credit for anything. All I wish is that things would be done properly at

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THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935.

July - 20th -

this station. Dalss told her and Mr. Colbert that they would have to stop their abusive and foul language. Mrs. Colbert shouted out, "My wife can use any kind of language she cares to." I did not wish to argue any further and told Mr. Colbert to go to bed but Mrs. Colbert kept on raving and cursing and shouting at the top of her lungs. It is because of the nervous strain caused through Mr. and Mrs. Colberts' petty arguments and abusive and foul language, that Mrs. Zuiss had been removed to shore. Mrs. Zuiss is in a serious condition and cannot stand any unnecessary excitement caused through the Colberts' petty and fantastic grievances and arguments.

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LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Tarkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935.

July 27th -

Assistant Keeper Colbert refused duty. I waited until 9:30 A.M. for Mr. Colbert to report for duty and as he did not do so, I called him and asked him if he was going to work today. He openly refused, saying it was his Sabbath, and he would not work for anyone. Today, being Saturday, I wanted him to help me mow the lawn and help me with general routine work, so that everything would be in order for Sunday or week-day visitors. When first I took charge of this Station, I granted Mr. Colbert his Saturday Sabbath, thinking it would help to create a harmonious feeling and that he would do his Saturday work on Sunday as he promised to do. He has made several attempts to live up to his promise, by starting various small

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THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935.

July - 27th -

tasks on Sunday mornings, but never finishing the work. Whenever I'm out of his sight, he "forgets" about his duties and tries to do as he chooses. I've spoken to him on many occasions that he would have to show more interest in his work and to do it properly and not spend two and three days doing a job which would take a normal man with a little ambition, a few hours to complete. There is a good deal of work to be done at this Station, and I have about exhausted my patience trying to get Mr. Colbert to help me with the necessary work. Everytime I tell him to show more ambition, he keeps repeating, "I do as you tell me, don't I." Mr. Colbert thinks that by working a half-hour and resting two hours, he is accomplishing and doing his part. I've tried, ever

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THIRD DISTRICT

Faskner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 19 25.

July 27th —

since I've been here, to convince him that working at that rate wasn't accomplishing a thing.

11:05 P.M. — I was down at the boat landing talking with Mr. Amuel Johnson, Mr. Gus Nelson, and Mr. Bill Olsen, of New Haven, who asked if they could tie up at our boat-landing for the night. While we were conversing over various fish-stories, Mr. and Mrs. Colbert shouted out through their window, "Don't believe a word the damned Keeper tells you. If he says anything about us, its a pack of lies." There was no need for Mr. and Mrs. Colbert to do anything of this nature, because I do not tell my troubles to strangers, as they have the habit of doing. Every time a visiting party arrives, Mr. and Mrs. Colbert are first to greet them with their malicious

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Falkner Island
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July 30, 1935

July - 27th

lies, concerning the "cruel and torturous life" they are obliged to lead.
Since our conversation did not concern the Colberts, I told them to pull their heads in and stop the disturbance. Then Mr. Colbert, with the aid of Mrs. Colbert chorused, "Did you ever hear of the Secret - Service? No, I suppose you didn't, you're too dumb for that." I only laughed and let them rave on. They kept up their shouting for about twenty minutes, trying to make me believe Mr. Colbert was a member of the Secret Service. I grew tired of listening to their raucous voices and went and sat in the boat-house, until midnight, when I went upstairs to summon Mr. Colbert, who was to go on watch. He launched out on another argument. My patience was

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July 30, 1935

July 27th.

nearing the end, and I became quite heated. I told him I was going to turn him in. He laughed and, still remaining behind a closed door, used every means to insult me. Mrs. Colbert stood out in the hallway and laughed and jeered hysterically. My sister-in-law, Miss Alice Pacowsky, who was visiting at the time, was on her way to the third floor to get a blanket from the spare-room. As she passed Mrs. Colbert, the latter fell upon her and tried to push her down-stairs. Not succeeding in this, she struck her. I intervened at this moment. Mrs. Colbert, in her fury, slapped me, twice. I was in no position to stop her attacks, so I told Miss Pacowsky to run down-stairs in order to escape the blows of this

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July - 27th.

almost "mad" woman. They had reached the acme of their behavior. I warned them of my intentions of informing the office of their conduct. Mrs. Colbert screamed, "To hell with the damned service. We have plenty of money. We don't give a damn what happens." Mr. Colbert confirmed his wife's statement. After that, I went downstairs to my quarters. The house fairly shook with their shouting and slamming of doors. There was no rest for members of my household that night. The following day, July 28th, Mr. and Mrs. Colbert left the island, without permission, while I was escorting visitors to the tower. Before he left, Mr. Colbert asked me to sign a physical examination application. They have been absent from the station

Sheet # 20.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
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STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

July 30, 1935

July 27th -

since Sunday, 9:45 A.M.

Respectfully
George Ziems
Keeper

JHG

Extracts from Journal

Falkner Island Light Station.

- 0 -

Upkeep work performed by Keepers on Sundays.

- -

1935

March 31 - Painted pantry in keepers quarters, 2d coat.
Scraping floors in keepers quarters.

April 7 - Painted keepers kitchen, 1st coat.

April 14 - Burning old paint and scraping floor in keepers quarters.

April 21 - Dug hole, repaired and sat up looking glass reflector.

April 28 - Washed engine room floor and packed vaporizers.

May 5 - Scraping floors.

May 12 - Cleaned and packed vaporizers and cleaned up yard.

May 19 - None.

May 26 - Chipping rust scale on boat winch and painted ceiling in Asst's quarters.

June 2 - - General station duties. Cleaning and repacking vaporizers and painting wall of front room in Asst.Keepers quarters.

June 9 - Scraping floor in Asst.quarters.

June 16 - General station duty. Asst.cleaned and oiled tools in chest,and soldered leaky gallon and quart measures.

June 23 - Sunday routine.

June 30 - Asst.scrubbed and painted closet floor and around sink and packed vaporizers.

July 7 - None.

July 14 - General station duty. Asst.shellaced linoleum in kitchen,also closet floor and around sink.

July 21 - Cleaned brass and lens in lens room.

July 28 - None.

Form 61

REPORT OF INSPECTION OF LIGHT STATION OR DEPOT

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, ~~3rd~~ DISTRICT,

Sept.19 , 19 33

1. Name of aid, Stamford Harbor Lt.Sta.
2. Inspected by J. T. Yates on Sept.19, 19 33
3. Does aid conform in characteristic and description to official lists? Yes
4. Is the aid in efficient condition and does it function properly? Yes
   (a) Light. Yes
   (b) Fog signal. Yes
   (c) ----------
5. Is the station in clean and orderly condition? Fair
6. Is the station in proper state of repair as to—
   (a) Work that can be done by the keepers? Fair
   (b) Work that can not be done by the keepers? Yes
7. Station rating: Cleanliness, 80 ; orderliness, 80 ; operation, 85 (See Instructions for scale.)

			NAME	NEATNESS	CONDUCT	EFFICIENCY
8.	PERSONNEL RATING	Keeper	L. E. Colbert	80	80	80
		1st Asst.				
		2d Asst.				

9. Remarks.—Give further information as may be necessary relative to negative answers to questions 3 to 6. Mention should be made of all important facts concerning the station.

Station in fair condition only. Lens, pedestal, lantern, and lens cover dirty, lantern cluttered and dirty, straps around foundation rusty, closets and storerooms cluttered and dirty. Several places on outside of tower need cleaning and painting also scaling. Boats dirty and neglected badly in need of scraping and painting. Paint brushes stuck in paint in bottom of pots. Several small repair jobs that should have been done by keeper not attended to. Stair well trap door removed and lying on floor in watch room.

(1st. - This is good inoffensive man, thinks he is doing something but lacking. His wife does most of the work which is'nt much. He may come around. J.T.Y.)

----------, 19

Forwarded to the Commissioner of Lighthouses for his information.

11—877

Form 61

REPORT OF INSPECTION OF LIGHT STATION OR DEPOT

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 3rd DISTRICT,

Sept.10,1934 , 19

1. Name of aid, Stamford Hbr. Lt.Sta.,Conn
2. Inspected by R. G. Lamb on Sept.10,1934 19
3. Does aid conform in characteristic and description to official lists? Yes
4. Is the aid in efficient condition and does it function properly? Yes
   (a) Light. Yes
   (b) Fog signal. Yes
   (c) ----------
5. Is the station in clean and orderly condition? Yes, except as noted.
6. Is the station in proper state of repair as to—
   (a) Work that can be done by the keepers? Yes
   (b) Work that can not be done by the keepers? Yes
7. Station rating: Cleanliness, 80 ; orderliness, 80 ; operation, 80 (See Instructions for scale.)

8.

PERSONNEL RATING		NAME	NEATNESS	CONDUCT	EFFICIENCY
	Keeper	Louis Colbert	80	80	80
	1st Asst.				
	2d Asst.				

9. Remarks.—Give further information as may be necessary relative to negative answers to questions 3 to 6. Mention should be made of all important facts concerning the station.

Plane rusty. Watchroom door needs paint. Gallery railings throughout need paint. Lantern and lantern roof need paint. Keeper not in uniform.

---------- , 19

Forwarded to the Commissioner of Lighthouses for his information.

11—877

No

No

Form 61

REPORT OF INSPECTION OF LIGHT STATION OR DEPOT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

COPY

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 3rd DISTRICT,

Stamford Hbr. Lt.Sta. June 15,1934 , 19

1. Name of aid,
2. Inspected by R. G. Lamb on June 15,1934 19
3. Does aid conform in characteristic and description to official lists? Yes
4. Is the aid in efficient condition and does it function properly? Yes
   (a) Light. Yes
   (b) Fog signal. Yes
   (c) ----------
5. Is the station in clean and orderly condition? Yes, except as noted.
6. Is the station in proper state of repair as to—
   (a) Work that can be done by the keepers? Yes
   (b) Work that can not be done by the keepers? Yes
7. Station rating: Cleanliness, 80 ; orderliness, 80 ; operation, 80 (See Instructions for scale.)

		NAME	NEATNESS	CONDUCT	EFFICIENCY
8. PERSONNEL RATING	Keeper	Keeper not seen, on 15 days leave. Moore substitute.			
	1st Asst.				
	2d Asst.				

9. Remarks.—Give further information as may be necessary relative to negative answers to questions 3 to 6. Mention should be made of all important facts concerning the station.

5 - Cellar has been partially cleaned of clutter to be completed. One closet cluttered. Straps around base need to be chipped and painted. Watch room gallery rail to be chipped and painted. One brush in red lead improperly cared for. Burner on spare lamp needs vent holes cleaned.

, 19

Forwarded to the Commissioner of Lighthouses for his information.

No

No

11—877

3201

Exhibit D

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
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STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT LIGHTHOUSES
MAY 6 1935
RECEIVED
THIRD DISTRICT

Refer

3201

Halfmoon Island Ft.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

May 4, 1935

Superintendent of Lighthouses, 3rd. Dist.

Subject: Asst. Keeper Colbert.

Reference: Your letter April 29, 1935.

I respectfully wish to state I did not refuse to forward Assistant Keeper Colbert's letter addressed to you April 24, 1935.

After I read Mr. Colbert's letter he asked me what I thought of it. I told him if he had read over his Instructions to Employees and complied with Service Regulations there would be no need for any of the discord his letter indicated. He asked for the letter so he could look it over and I gave it back to him. When I asked for the letter so I could forward it with my comments he informed me that he was going to mail it himself as that was a 'hobby' of his to mail his own letters. That is the reason I refused to sign his letter. When I was going ashore I asked for the letter again and he informed me that Mrs Colbert had given it to a fisherman to mail.

Since then Mr. Colbert has changed his

Sheet #2

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
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STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
MAY 8 1935
RECEIVED
THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner Island Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

May 4, 1935

attitude and has shown more interest in his work and has started to perform his duties in the proper manner. Therefore I have no further comments to make.

Respectfully

George Zinno
Keeper

K

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

FWO-JHG

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
3D DISTRICT, STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

George Zuius, Keeper,
Falkner Island Light Station,
Guilford, Conn.

April 29,1935

SUBJECT: Asst.Keeper Colbert.
REFERENCE: Your letter April 24,1935.

1. In reference to the matter of having refused to forward a letter addressed to this office by Assistant Keeper Colbert; your attention is invited to Paragraph 69, Section (g) Page 29 of Instructions to Employees, which plainly prescribes the disposition of communications addressed to this office by an Assistant Keeper, and does not leave it to the discretion of the keeper if the communication is expressed in respectful language. The letter you refer to should therefore have been forwarded to this office with such comments as you deemed proper.

2. Your 12 page letter contains general information only as to differences between yourself and the Assistant Keeper, and although you state that he is incompetent and incapable, no definite information or evidence is submitted to support or prove your statement. If the Assistant is incompetent and/or incapable, or is not performing the duties of his position in a proper manner, or is not complying with Service regulations, full report in the matter should be submitted giving definite information as to specific instances with dates, time, etc., and be accompanied with such information and evidence as will corroborate your statements.

3. As you are aware, you are the keeper and responsible for the proper maintenance of the station in your charge, and necessarily your orders as such are to be respected and obeyed as provided for by the Instructions to Employees.

4. Where keepers and assistant keepers properly perform their duties, and comply with Service Regulations which are quite plain and definite, there is but little possibility of discord among keepers, but where an

inharmonious condition develops it necessarily affects the proper and efficient operation of a station, and it then becomes necessary for this office to take action for the good of the service with the view of removing one or both of the keepers concerned, as the circumstances of the case may warrant.

5. It is not expected that keepers in charge of stations will submit to this office petty differences or minor matters that may arise, but that they as keepers will properly settle such matters, and by the proper handling of station work, and enforeement of regulations and discipline, reduce possible discord to a minimum, so that a harmonious condition may prevail.

J. T. YATES
Superintendent

Copy of Mr. L. E. Colbert's letter. sheet 1.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
APR 27 1935
RECEIVED
TOMPKINSVILLE, N.Y.

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkners Island Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 24, 1935

Supt. of Lighthouses
Staten Island, N. Y.

Subject: Discord Between Keepers.

This is the first and only time I've ever bothered you or asked you for your help.

Now I hope that you will forgive me and not think wrong of me for doing so for this is a very unpleasant thing for both my wife and I.

I don't like things of this nature but the circumstances force me to do this, as we are not getting along and if there is any way out with the least trouble I'm for it.

I'm sorry I ever requested a transfer here as Asst. Keeper or any other places. I've seen some nice lights and Keepers and man and I have my Idea's.

If I could only get off of here on another one man light, I'd take pride in it, scrape all floors and varnish it and it would be a palace, just to have

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APR 27 1935
RECEIVED
STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkners Is. Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 24, 1935

a few liberties or not to be dictated too.

Mr. Zuius has his cousin here and he's been here sometime, a fellow about 30 years of age. I don't mind that so much but he's horning in on me and doing work.

I told George that I didn't like it and I do whatever there is to do and I'm getting paid for it, I don't need no outside help and I know how to do it too. He say none of my business but I say it is. What do you think?

Another thing my wife digs up a flower bed in front under the window and after she gets it done he says your not going to plant no flowers there and that gets me sore so I say how about half the rock garden and he refuses says go out in back of the engine room and plant, he wants all the flower garden just because he's Keeper. I say all I ask is 50/50 on everything and he says I'm Keeper what I say goes. Do you think that's fair? Well neither do I.

Another thing I almost have to fight to get a hair he was in six times to my twice and that was my

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APR 27 1935
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THIRD DISTRICT

Talkners Is. Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 24, 1935

leave. Can't I go ashore for mail and supplies also, never does he ask me if I want to go ashore. We have had trouble before and took it without saying a thing but that wears out after a while. If we can get out without any more of this business and be on a one man light I'd sure know how to appreciate it now.

This is all I have to say and I hope it all works out alright.

Trusting in You Always,
Louis E. Colbert.

1935

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
APR 27 1935
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TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

J

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkners Island Lt
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 24, 1935

Superintendent of Lighthouses, 3rd District.
Staten Island, N.Y.

3201

Sir,

I am enclosing an exact copy of a letter I refused to sign for Mr. L.E. Colbert, 1st Asst. Keeper of this station.

Since the day I took charge of this station Mr. and Mrs. Colbert have tried their utmost to inform me with a lot of rot and at every favorable opportunity they could grasp, especially Mrs. Colbert, have tried to impress upon me what other keepers have done or are doing. Now that I have explicitly impressed upon them that I was not interested in what other keepers have done or are doing but that my sole interest was in Falkner's Island and not elsewhere, they are very disappointed. They have tried to dictate to me as to how this station should be managed and have tried to do practically everything when, where and how they pleased without anyone's permission. They, Mr. and Mrs. Colbert,

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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THIRD DISTRICT

Dalkeus Do. Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 24, 1935

informed me that they have been here longer than I and they have a perfect right to do as they pleased. This started the tempest a-rolling and it was then that I informed them that I was the Keeper at this station and not Mrs. or Mr. Colbert. This, as yet, neither of them have been able to digest. It is very obvious that the continued failing and disappointing results of their entiring efforts to do as they pleased have about exhausted their patience and now that they have conceived a different conception of my character they have become dissatisfied and displeased with everything in general.

When I came here Mr. and Mrs. Colbert informed me that they have lived in "hell" since the day they arrived here and "are on the verge of a nervous breakdown and need a complete and quiet rest." Ever since, Mr. Colbert keeps telling me that he has seven and one half days leave coming to him from Stamford and twenty four hours he did not take during the month of March. I have tried to impress upon him that if he wanted the leave he claims

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Fallens Is. Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 24, 1935

he has coming to him, he would have to be granted permission from the Office as I have no authority to grant such leave. Evidently he must think I'm wrong.

Mr. Colbert's main interest is leave and more leave and attempting to convert people to his faith instead of his duties as 1st. Ass't. at this station. Mr. Colbert claims the confinement is too much for him and his wife and it is getting on their nerves and they've got to have more time off. He kept telling me that he and Mrs. Colbert want two weeks off so they can go away and forget this place. When I impressed upon him that he would get only the authorized allowance it went against his grain. He declared himself and informed me that this was no prison and he was no prisoner, that he was allowed six hours leave every day and he was going to take it when he felt like doing so. I've tried to convince him that the six hours he speaks of is not a leave but a privilege and is granted when it is necessary for him to go ashore for mail and supplies providing he has the Keeper's permission to do so and not whenever

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LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkners Is. Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Apr. 24, 1935

he has an urge to go ashore as he has been thoroly convinced by the ever-instructing samaritans of his in Guilford. When this argument first broke out Mr. Colbert knew that the first break in the weather I was going ashore to attend to some important matters and make arrangements to have more of my furniture brought out here. With this in mind while I was overhauling the outboard motor so it would be in working order to go ashore he came down to the boat house and started to give me an argument. He declared himself again and expressed the fact that he was going ashore. He tried to argue the fact out and gave alibis of all description, such as he "had to buy a radio tube" and "see a certain friend" of his that he "hadn't seen in a long time", and many more too numerous to mention and all of like importance, but tried to emphasize the fact that as long as he was entitled to six hours leave a day he was going to take it and he did not see why he had to get permission from me in order to do so, but I told him as long as he tried to possess the

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkners Is. Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 24, 1935

dictatorial attitude he would have to give his reasons for wanting to go ashore and will ask for permission to do so. This he did not like and later told me we were going to have trouble. While we were thrashing the subject out in the boat house Mrs. Colbert came downstairs and told Mrs. Zuius she had tried to keep her husband from arguing with me but he had a chip on his shoulder all morning and he told her that he was going to tell me a few things and have things done his way regardless of what would happen. Mrs. Colbert also told Mrs. Zuius to tell me not to pay any attention to her husband. What Mrs. Colbert's motive was I don't know but perhaps it was because her husband had hit her on the arm with a pot the previous day and had Mrs. Zuius treat it for her. While Mrs. Zuius treated Mrs. Colbert's arm she, Mrs. Colbert, told Mrs. Zuius not to be alarmed as to her husband's actions because more than once he has knocked her "up against the wall and out like a light".

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(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 24, 1935

In his letter Mr. Colbert mentions the fact that I have been ashore six times while he has been in but twice, but he does not mention the reasons for my absence nor the weather conditions. Everyone of my absences were for a real necessity and not just because I wanted "a radio talk" or was "sick and disgusted with this place" as Mr. Colbert's reasons were for wanting to go ashore.

He also mentions the fact that I never ask him if he wants to go ashore and that he has to almost fight with me when he wishes to do so. This is a malicious lie. He has only asked me twice if he could go ashore and I've let him go in both times. I don't think it at all my duty to go up to him and ask him if he would have the pleasure to go ashore, nor do I think it my duty to go to him to ask permission if I could go ashore, as he has insinuated several times.

Mr. Colbert mentions my cousin being out here with me. He is a cousin to Mrs. Zuiles, a young fellow who has finished high school recently. He is out here on a

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LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkner I. Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 24, 1935

vacation and is not "horning in", as Mr. Colbert puts it, on his work. The second day Mr. Baltrush, Mrs. Zinns' cousin, was here, Mr. Colbert came to me and "wanted to know if I was breaking him in as a new assistant at this station, because if I was, he wanted to know it then so he would have time to transfer to some other station and not be let go flat." I assured him that the young man was only out here on a vacation. Mr. Colbert breathed a sigh and exclaimed, "I'm glad of that and now I'll be able to rest in peace." If Mr. Colbert thinks that Mr. Baltrush is "horning in" on him because he is helping me to straighten out my quarters while he is here, I fail to see it. I do not want any part of Mr. Colbert or his help in my quarters. Mr. Colbert is the most useless, awkward, careless, incompetent and helpless man I've ever worked with. Today when he returned from shore he tried to demand a reason why Mr. Baltrush was out here and informed me that he had a right to know and so

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LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Dalkeys Is. Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 27, 1935

much as said that I had to get permission from him to keep Mr. Baltrush here with me. Evidently Mr. Colbert was told to bring this fact in by his ever-willing Guilford advisor. ~~of his~~. Mr. Baltrush has tried to be as sociable with Mr. Colbert as he can and I believe the both of them would get along fine if Mr. Colbert would stop preaching the Bible to him and rather discuss a more sensible topic instead of trying to convert him. I mention Mr. Colbert and his religion because it has played a great part in Mr. Colbert's grievances. When I came here Mr. Colbert asked if he could have Saturdays off and work Sundays instead because that was his Sabbath and he always observed it. I agreed to his wishes but when he was about to discuss his faith I impressed upon him that I was not interested. This apparently went against his grain where I was concerned and he took a different attitude toward me.

When Mr. Baltrush was on the way to (returned) retire the evening of the day I informed Mr. Colbert

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Dalkeys Sr Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 27, 1935

that I was the Keeper here and not he, Mr. Colbert asked him in his quarters and told him that "if one prays hard enough for anything the Lord will take care of it." Mr. Colbert went on saying "here's an instance. My wife and I prayed every night to have Mr. Minzner removed from here and before we know it a letter came from the office that Mr. Minzner would be transferred." The reason why Mr. Colbert told Mr. Baltusch this was he knew that Mr. Baltusch would tell me the whole story and I presume it was meant as a hint that he and his wife would pray to have me removed from here.

Mr. Colbert writes that he would do what there is to be done and that he doesn't need outside help to do it and also knows how to do it. He undoubtedly is the only one who thinks so.

If Mr. Colbert diverted his mind to the tasks he attempts instead of always paraphrasing everything "the Lord will take care of it", he might possibly accomplish something and not be so

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkners I. Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 27, 1935

negligible and self-conscious. Mr. Colbert is not the type of a man and has not the ability or ambition to do the required tasks at this Station for the proper maintenance and operation. And where Mr. Colbert refers to Mr. Baltrush doing his work it is a malicious lie.

About the flower bed Mrs. Colbert dug up. This is right under our bedroom window and she did this without first finding out if she could do so. Mr. Colbert knew and knows that we are going to scrape the house as soon as weather permits and so did Mrs. Colbert when she was digging up the garden. They have the impression they can dig where they choose and do as they please just because they are here longer than I. I told Mrs. Colbert if she wants a garden she can dig to her heart's content south of the engine room. There is plenty of ground there and they can plant as much as they like but not under our windows.

Mr. Colbert writes all he wants is "50/50 on everything"

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Falkners Is. Lt.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 24, 1935

If that was all he wanted there would be no need for any grievances. Mr. Colbert does not like to be told to do things. Even Mrs. Colbert said that her husband does not like to be ordered around, that he was Keeper at Stamford and he knows what has to be done.

Mr. Colbert writes that if he is given a chance again he will scrape all floors and varnish them and would make a palace of the station. He derived the idea of scraping floors because I am doing it here at present. If Mr. Colbert is considered for a one man station it will be one of the many wonders if he himself makes a palace of it. If someone else does the work he might oblige the party by trying to get the credit for it. He does not know how to sharpen a scraper let alone scraping floors. He has some mighty big ideas of himself and he is the only one who can appreciate them.

From my experience of Mr. Colbert within the past four weeks I find him incompetent

Sheet 12

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

THIRD DISTRICT

Fairmount Island Lt
(Station, ~~Depot, or Vessel~~)

April 24, 193 5

and incapable of performing his duties as first assistant keeper of this station.

Respectfully

George Zinno
1st Keeper.

C

General Lighthouse Depot,
3rd District, Staten Island, N. Y.
July 30, 1935.

STATEMENT BY LOUIS E. COLBERT, ASSISTANT KEEPER, FALKNER ISLAND LIGHT STATION, WHO MADE SPECIAL REQUEST AND WAS GRANTED INTERVIEW AT THIS OFFICE

Present:

J. T. YATES,
Superintendent.

F. W. OCKENFELS,
Asst. Superintendent.

Testimony by: H. Rosenstein, Clerk.

Louis E. Colbert, Asst.Keeper, Falkner Island Light Station, testified as follows:

Things have been going pretty badly, but lately they have been growing gradually worse all the time. I have been patient as much as I could. We have had frequent arguments and every time there has been more hard feeling between us. I have tried to please him all I could. I did my work to the best of my ability and have tried to do my work satisfactorily, but lately we have had arguments about religion and he has told me I would have to work on my Sabath and I refused to do it. I told him Saturday is my Sabath and I observed it, but he said I must work on the Sabath. It happened this last Saturday. That morning he called me and said "Are you going to work today," and I said "No, I will not work on the Sabath." It happened during the day and I wrote it down in the book. There is one constant trouble after another. I wrote down other things before because he said I wasn't doing my work, and when he said that I started to write it down in the book in case he didn't give me credit for working. This is the way it began: (reading from book) Saturday morning Keeper asked me to work on this day, Saturday, and I refused to work on my Sabath. Visitors came today on the fire department boat from Madison on the Sabath. One man gives the keeper a quarter for showing them around. Keeper accepted and expressed his opinion to me as if it wasn't enough. Keeper threatens to turn me in if I don't work on my Sabath. I still refused as it is my own right, and I told him to go ahead and turn me in. The J-543, boat from New Haven, made the second trip today. The last one was about two weeks ago. Three men came aboard after sunset with the keeper, and by the sound of their voices I guess they are all good and drunk. It is now 10:45 p.m. and the keeper is keeping me awake by saying if he had his way he would have us out of here. He is also accusing me of pulling his lobster pots. I have got to go on watch at midnight. If I was a drunken slob I could get along with him. It is now 11:00 p.m., they are all going down to the dock again. The keeper is drunk alright. He is talking about my Coast Guard service, and we have had a heated argument. He was hollering at the top of his voice and making false accusations against me when we were lying in bed and trying to go to sleep. I told him he has got to prove what he says about me. My wife is a nervous wreck because of the constant fighting for her rights. The keeper comes up with liquor on his breath. He wasn't satisfied with arguing all day but started it again. My wife comes in and tells him to go to bed. He gets sore. About that time he gets a one-two on the chin. It was really sad and funny. My wife collapses on the floor after this. My wife has worked up to such a nervous state she walked in the bedroom and dropped on the floor. It went down to the Swedish boat and got one of the Swedes just to show him what the keeper had done. We soon had my wife on her feet again. The fellow's name is Johnson. None of the others came up. I went down to get that fellow at the dock. The keeper put his arms right up and was going to start a fight. One of the fellows stood between us. He said "No, I don't want any fighting." I left the island Sunday morning, and I was worked up to such a state that I can't stand it any longer. I haven't had any fights outside of arguments. The keeper dared me and challenged me to fight, but I wouldn't fight with him. I wouldn't fight with him because I thought things could be straightened out. He made fun of me. I went down to the dock and got

one of the fellows to come up and said "If you believe what the keeper says, you are all crazy." He started in then and called me a liar and everything else, and I couldn't stand it any longer. That's my whole story, Mr. Yates.

BY J. T. YATES.

Q. When did you leave the island?

A. I left the island Sunday morning.

Q. How did you come ashore?

A. I sailed ashore.

Q. In the station boat?

A. In the station boat.

Q. Where is the station boat now?

A. The station boat is in Guilford.

Q. Did you tell the keeper you were going ashore?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you tell the keeper when you were coming back?

A. He told me to be back in 6 hours. I told him my reason for coming ashore was to go to the doctor at New Haven, to get medical examination papers filled out.

Q. And you have not been back to the station since?

A. No, sir.

Q. On what authority did you refuse to work on Saturday?

A. I refused to work because I thought it was in the Constitution of the United States that any man in this country could worship God in any way he wanted to. The keeper told me I could have my Sabath and then he told me I couldn't.

Q. Did you make up for this by doing the work on Sunday that should have been done on Saturday?

A. I did.

Q. What work have you done on Sunday?

A. I polished the light in the lamp room, I polished brass, and I did my general station duties on Sunday.

Q. Then all the work on the station that's done on Saturday has to be performed by the keeper. Is that right?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is there anything in the regulations that permits you to refuse to work on Saturday?

A. Not that I know of.

Q. Do you know of any other place you can go where work is carried on on Saturday, and where you could hold your employment and refuse to work on Saturday?

A. No.

Q. Then it appears that this no work on Saturday is a little idea all your own?

A. I did ask permission of the keeper. When I first came to the station I asked him if I could have my Sabath off and he gave me permission. I told him I would do my general station work on Sunday, but I also lit up the light on Saturday and stood my watches and did things that were required to be done. I never did any painting or scraping or anything like that on Saturday.

Q. I was at Falkner Island Light Station on July 24th and at the time the keeper told me you did not work Saturday and also you did not work on Sunday.

A. Well, Mr. Yates, I think thebooks will verify my statements on that.

Q. What do you say to that?

A. I did work on Sunday.

Q. Did you do any scraping or painting, or that kind of work on Sunday?

A. No, I did not, but I did my general station duties and what the keeper told me to do.

Q. Did you do any mowing of the lawn on Sunday?

A. I won't say because I can't remember just exactly the work that I did do, but I did what he told me to.

Q. You did the regular station duties of lighting up and cleaning up, that has to be done every day, and that is all, isn't it?

A. No, I worked on Sunday. I did what the keeper told me.

Q. Tell us what laborious work you did on Sunday.

A. I don't know. I haven't any reference to it, but it is in the book, and I won't say what I did because it might not be correct.

Q. You can't recall any laborious work you did on Sunday?

A. No. To be truthful about it I can't, but I think that I did laborious work on Sunday.

Q. What arguments did you and the keeper have about religion?

A. Well, the argument was I said "Maybe if I was a Polack or a Catholic we could get along all right." And the keeper walks over and says to me "You call me a Polack and I'll punch the words down your throat." I didn't want to get in trouble on the Government reservation and still not be intimidated by him. He has changed his statement by saying I called him a damn Polack, but I didn't say such a thing.

Q. You insinuated that on Saturday the 27th the keeper was drunk.

A. Yes, sir. We could smell it on his breath.

Q. Did you see him drinking?

A. I didn't see him drinking.

Q. Did you see anybody at the station drinking on that day?

A. No, I did not, but I heard the bottles clink on the boat anchored inside of the breakwater, at least I thought they were bottles, it sounded like glass.

Q. Did you see anybody drinking on the boat?

A. No, sir.

Q. Then what made you think the keeper was drunk?

A. I smelled it on his breath.

Q. How near were you to him?

A. He had his face 2 or 3 feet away from me.

Q. Were his actions such as to indicate he was drunk?

A. He talked very loudly and he acted in every way like a drunken man.

Q. You stated that your wife was affected by fighting for her rights. Just what action did she take in the matter of fighting for her rights?

A. The keeper made false accusations and she would say it wasn't true. And when things weren't right she would stand up for me.

Q. Was your wife in the habit of injecting herself into the arguments and disagreements between you and the keeper?

A. No, sir, not exactly.

Q. Had she taken such action previous to Saturday the 27th?

A. Yes, I think she did before when the keeper pulled up her flowers in the flower bed.

Q. Did you tell the keeper that you should have been the keeper at Falkner Island in place of him?

A. No, sir, I never said that in my life.

Q. Did your wife ever make that remark?

A. No, she never did.

Q. Do you know the names of any of the parties that were on the boat J-543 at the station on Saturday the 27th?

A. I just know one of the fellows named Johnson.

Q. Do you know his initials?

A. No, sir. I just know his name, Johnson.

Q. Do you know where he lives?

A. No, sir.

Q. How many men were there on this boat?

A. I saw three of them.

BY F. W. OCKENFELS.

Q. In reference to your statement that the keeper was drunk on Saturday the 27th, outside of your reference to an odor of liquor, what actual evidence was there that the man was intoxicated, or that made you believe he was?

A. He waved his fingers in my wife's face and he wanted to fight with me. That's why my wife slapped his face, because he had his face right next to hers.

BY J. T. YATES.

Q. Your wife slapped the keeper's face?

A. She did.

Q. What did he say to your wife that was not respectful?

A. I just don't remember. There was so much said, I wouldn't dare say what he did say.

Q. You remembered enough of it to determine that it was not respectful. If you remembered that much, you must remember what was said that was not respectful.

A. I couldn't say just what he said. He told my wife to keep her nose out of this.

Q. Mr. Colbert, have you anything further to add?

A. No, sir.

BY F. W. OCKENFELS.

Q. According to your statements, you left the station Sunday morning, that is correct, isn't it?

A. That's correct.

Q. And your statement is also correct that the keeper told you that he expected you back in 6 hours?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Such being the case, you are obviously absent from duty without leave, you understand that, don't you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What are your present plans or intentions as to duty?

A. Well, I have been in such a nervous state I can't sleep and I don't think I am in any position to perform my duties properly, and I would like to have a chance to get on my feet again, and I hope I never have to go back there.

Q. You have not applied for leave?

A. No, I didn't have a chance.

Q. As I understand your statements, you do not propose to return to Falkner Island Light Station. Is that correct?

A. That is correct.

Q. At what address will mail reach you?

A. At Hope Valley, Rhode Island.

STANDARD FORM NO. 14a
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT
MARCH 10, 1926

COPY

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS ~~GOVERNMENT RATES~~

FROM YATES Supt. of Lighthouses

BUREAU LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ CHG. APPROPRIATION GENERAL EXPENSES, LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Supt. of Lighthouses, 3rd Dist.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 11—9240

Louis E. Colbert
First Assistant Keeper,
Falkner Island Lighthouse
Care Charles Muller,
Guilford Connecticut.

Staten Island, N. Y.,

July 29,1935

Permission granted you to call here when station work permits

any week day nine A.M. to four P.M.

YATES

COLLECT

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION (10)

R. B. WHITE, PRESIDENT
NEWCOMB CARLTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS
DL = Day Letter
SER = Serial
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
CDE = Code Cable
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

Received at Ferry House, St. George, S. I., N. Y.

1935 JUL 28 PM 8 10

NH210 25/27 9 EXTRA=TDNV GUILFORD CONN 28 740P

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

J T YATES=

SUPT OF LIGHTHOUSES STGEORGE NY=

HAVE TROUBLE AT THE ISLAND NERVES AT BREAKING POINT WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU PERSONALLY PLEASE ADVISE WESTERNUNION=

LOUIS E COLBERT FIRST ASST KEEPER FAULKNERS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE CARE CHARLES MULLER.

Yes May

Recd 9⁴⁰ A.M.
7-28-35

FDY

TELEGRAMS MAY BE TELEPHONED TO WESTERN UNION FROM ANY PRIVATE OR PAY-STATION TELEPHONE

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

FWO:JHG

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1934 OCT - 10 - AM 8:55

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OCT 11 1934
APPOINTMENT
DIVISION

1934 OCT - 11 - AM 10:07

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
3D DISTRICT, STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

CHIEF CLERK

Oct. 9,1934

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

SUBJECT: Transfer of personnel, effective date.

REFERENCE: Bureau Circular Letter No. 454, dated May 8th, 1934.

1. The Bureau is advised that the effective date of a recent transfer of personnel in the Third Lighthouse District, is as follows:-

- -

ENTERED ON CONFIDENTIAL OF PERSONNEL JOURNAL
Date 10/31/34

Name:	Louis E. Colbert
Effective Date:	Oct. 4,1934
Former Designation:	Keeper
Former Station:	Stamford Hbr.Lt.Sta.,Ct.
Former Pay:	$1440 p.a.
Present Designation:	Keeper (Asst)
Present Station:	Falkner Island Lt.Sta.,Ct.
Present Pay:	$1320 p.a.
Date of Department Notice:	Aug.21,1934

CARDED

For and in the absence of the Supt.

Asst.Supt.

OCT 10 1934

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information

For the Commissioner,

Chief, Personnel Division

Form A-38

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

APPOINTMENT DIVISION

WASHINGTON

THIRD DISTRICT

August 21, 1934.

Mr. Louis E. Colbert,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You are advised that your compensation has been changed as indicated below, effective upon entrance on duty (change in station).

No new appointment will be issued to you as a result of this change, and an oath of office is not required.

By direction of the Secretary.

Respectfully,

EDW. J. GARDNER AUG 27 1934

Chief of Appointment Division.

From: $1440 per annum.

To: $1320 per annum.

Service and grade:

Appropriation (unit): Field.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION RECEIVED AUG 28 1934 SHEET NO. 4603 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CARDED

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE . 11—9051

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NOV 10 11
1933
RECEIVED

THIRD DISTRICT

~~Stamford Harbor Light~~
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)
Nov
~~Oct. 8~~, 1933

Superintendent of Lighthouses
Staten Island, N.Y.

Subject: Transfer list of 2nd. or 3rd. districts

In the event of a vacancy, I wish to be considered for a transfer to any of the light stations on my list, as follows.

	(Names of Lights)	(Positions)
1-	Beavertail, R.I.	1st. Asst. Kepr
2-	Block Island N. RI	Kepr
3-	Block Is. S.E, R.I.	1st or 2nd. Asst. Kepr
4-	Chapel Hill, N.J.	Kepr
5	Coney Is, N.Y.	Kepr
6	Eatons Neck, N.Y.	1st Asst. Kepr
7 ✓	Falkner Island, Conn.	1st Asst Kepr
8	Fire Island, N.Y.	~~1st~~ Kepr, or 1st or 2nd Asst.
9-	Fort Wadsworth N.Y.	Kepr or 1st Asst.
10	Gould Island, R.I.	Kepr
11	Great Capt. Island. N.Y.	1st. Asst. Kepr
12	Montauk Point, N.Y.	1st or 2nd. Asst.
13	Navesink. N.J.	Kepr 1st or 2nd Asst Kpr

II

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NOV 10 11
1933
RECEIVED
PARKERSBURG W. VA.

THIRD DISTRICT

Stamford Harbor Light
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)
Nov
~~Dec~~ 8, 1933

Superintendent Of Lighthouses
Staten Island, N.Y.

(Names of Lights)	(Positions)
14- Point Judith, R.I.	1st. Asst Kuper
15- Rose Island, R.I.	1st. Asst Kuper
16- Sandy Hook. N.J.	1st or 2nd. Asst Kuper
17- Saybrook Bkw. Conn.	Kuper
18- Saybrook (Lynde Pt.) Conn	Kuper

Louis E Colbert - Kuper

Form 73

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AUG 18 1934 APPOINTMENT DIVISION

FWO-JHG LIGHTHOUSES

1934 AUG 18 AM 10:20

1934 AUG -13- AM 9:16

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 3rd DISTRICT,

Staten Island, N. Y. Aug. 11, 1934
(City) (Date)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AUG 21 1934 APPOINTMENT DIVISION

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Transfer

Legal residence, Rhode Is.

Name, Louis E. Colbert

Proposed salary, $1320 p.a.
$240 quarters

Position, Keeper (Asst)

Proposed range, $1320-1680

Location, Falkner Island Lt.Sta.,Ct.

Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses.

Effective, Aug.18,1934

[1] the actual date of entrance on duty, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, Keeper

Former salary, $1440 p.a.

Location, Stamford Hbr. Lt.Sta. &c Lts.,Ct.

Former range, $1440-1800
$240 quarters

Rank on eligible list, Rating, Percentage, , Other eligibles considered:

(Lt.#1565)

Previous incumbent and his pay, Dana L. Burt/ Services terminated, Aug.17,1934

Reason, Transferred (Salary $1320 p.a.)

Members of family in Government service,

Date of birth,

Remarks: Letter from Mr.Colbert requesting this transfer attached hereto.

Selection regular, subject to the action of the
U. S. Civil Service Commission, , 19----

8/18/34

Secretary, Civil Service District.

J. T. YATES
Superintendent

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

August 17, 1934

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved, attention being invited to the attached letter from the nominee requesting this transfer.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN AUG 24 1934 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

THIS IS A CIVIL SERVICE POSITION

Action O. K.
Kerlin
Adm. Asst. to Secy

W P Harman
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

Form 73a

REPORT OF TRANSFER OF APPOINTEE

CHIEF CLERK

FWO-JHG

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1931 AUG 20 PM 3

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AUG. 20 1931
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 3rd DISTRICT

Staten Island, N. Y., Aug. 18, 1931, 19

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

The following-named employee will be transferred as indicated, and will enter upon duty at his new station on August 22,1931.

Name, Louis E. Colbert

Position, Keeper

From Romer Shoal Lt·Sta.,N.Y.

To Stamford Hbr.Lt·Sta.,Stamford Hbr. Range Lts.1 & 2,Stamford Hbr.Lts. 2 & 3, and Flint Rock Lt.Conn.

Salary and range, $1440 ($1440-$1800)

Salary and range, $1440 ($1440-$1800)

Previous incumbent and pay, Raymond F. Bliven (Salary $1440 p.a.) Lt#1667

Services terminated, Aug.12,1931

Reason, Died.

Letter from Mr. Colbert requesting this transfer attached hereto.

CARDED

J. F. Mees
Superintendent

, 19

The above-referred-to transfer became effective beginning with .....

.....

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

August 20, 1931.

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for his information, attention being invited to attached report from the Superintendent relative to necessity of filling this position.

For the Commissioner:

R. S. Procter
Chief, Personnel Division.
~~Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.~~

11—4598 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1930

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

FWO-JHG

1931 AUG 19 AM 9:18

GENERAL DEPOT
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
3D DISTRICT, STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

Aug. 18,1931

Commissioner of Lighthouses;

SUBJECT: Louis E. Colbert, Keeper, transfer, Romer Shoal to Stamford Hbr.Lt.Sta.

REFERENCE: Form 73a of this date.

1. The Bureau is advised that deferment of transfer in this case would clearly be detrimental to the public service, for the reason that there is but one position of Keeper authorized for this station, and in order to maintain the station it is necessary that the position be filled.at the earliest possible moment.

J. F. Yates

Superintendent

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
MAR 19 1931
RECEIVED

THIRD DISTRICT

J. T. Yates.

Bowers Hook Lt. Sta.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Mar 14, 1931

Supt of Lighthouses. Staten Island, N.Y.
Subject: Transfer.

In the event of a vacancy at stations mentioned below, I wish to be considered for a transfer.

Absecon, N.J.	1st or 2nd Asst Keeper.
Beavertail, R.I.	1st Asst Keeper
Black Rock, Conn.	Keeper
Block Island S.E. R.I.	1st or 2nd Asst Keeper.
Bridgeport Harbor, Conn.	Keeper.
Billlock Point, R.I.	Keeper.
Castle Hill, R.I.	Keeper
Cedar Island, N.Y.	Keeper
Chapel Hill, N.J.	Keeper
Cold Spring Harbor, N.J.	Keeper
Cuttyhunk Island, R.I.	Keeper
Cuttyhunk, R.I	Keeper
Coney Island, N.Y.	Keeper
Coxsackie, N.Y.	Keeper
Cumberland Head, N.Y.	Keeper

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
MAR 19 1931
RECEIVED

THIRD DISTRICT

Romer Shoal Lt Sta
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

....., 192

Clutch Island, R.I.	Keeper.
Eatons Neck, N.Y.	Keeper.
Fire Island, N.Y.	1st or 2nd. Asst. Keeper
Fort Wadsworth, N.Y.	1st Asst Keeper
Gould Island, R.I.	Keeper
Great Beds, N.J.	Keeper
Great Capt. Island, N.Y.	1st Asst Keeper
Gull Rocks, R.I.	Keeper
Hereford Inlet, N.J.	Keeper
Isle La Motte, Vt.	Keeper.
Lime Rock, R.I.	Keeper
Little Gull Island, N.Y.	1st or 2nd Asst Keeper.
Long Beach Bar, N.Y.	Keeper
Ludlam Beach, N.J.	Keeper
Montauk Point N.Y.	1st or 2nd Asst Keeper.
Navesink, N.J.	1st or 2nd. Asst. Keeper.
New Port Harbor, R.I.	Keeper.
North Bro. Island N.Y.	Keeper.
North Dumpling, N.Y.	Keeper.
Old Field Point, N.Y.	Keeper.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

MAR 19 1931 RECEIVED

THIRD DISTRICT

(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

, 192

Plum Island, N.Y.	Keeper
Point Judith, R.I.	1st. Asst. Keeper.
Pontham Rock, R.I.	Keeper
Princes Bay, N.Y.	Keeper
Prudence Island, R.I.	Keeper
Rondout, N.Y.	Keeper
Rose Island, R.I.	1st. Asst. Keeper
Sabine Point, R.I.	Keeper
~~Sakonnet, R.I.~~	~~1st or 2nd Asst Keeper~~
Sands Point, N.Y.	Keeper
Sandy Hook, N.J.	1st or 2nd. Asst. Keeper.
Sangerties, N.Y.	Keeper.
Saybrook (Bkw) Conn.	Keeper.
Sea Girt, N.J.	Keeper
Shinnecock Bay, N.Y.	1st or 2nd. Asst. Keeper.
Split Rock, N.Y.	Keeper.
Stamford Harbor, Conn.	Keeper ✓
Steppingstones, N.Y.	Keeper.
Stonington (Bkw) Conn	Keeper
Stony Point N.Y.	Keeper.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
MAR 19 1931
RECEIVED

THIRD DISTRICT

_____
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

_____, 192

Stratford Point, N.Y.	1st. Asst. Keeper.
Throgs Neck, N.Y.	Keeper.
Tucker Beach, N.J.	Keeper.
Warwick, R.I.	1st Asst Keeper.
Watch Hill, R.I.	1st. Asst. Keeper
Wickford Harbor, R.I.	Keeper.

Respectfully Yours

Louis E Colbert 2nd. Asst. Keeper.
George E. Dunfee Keeper

Standard Form No. 17
Approved by the President, March 26, 1926

FWO-JHG

REPORT ON PROBATIONARY APPOINTEE

LIGHTHOUSES
1930 DEC 17 AM 9 25

This report to be made at expiration of fifth month of service. In cases where the probationary period comprises one year, this report is to be made at the expiration of the tenth month of service.

If service has been unsatisfactory, recommendation for discontinuance under the provisions of paragraph (c) of Executive Civil Service Rule VII should be forwarded immediately to the Department. A full statement of reasons should be set forth under "Remarks."

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
DEC 26 1930
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
1930 DEC 26 PM 2 59
CLERK

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
(Department)

Third Lighthouse District — Staten Island, N. Y.
(Bureau or office) — (Place and date)

To Commissioner of Lighthouses
(Head of department or establishment)

The probationary period of the person named below expires at the close of business on Jan. 17, 1931, 192 .

The conduct and capacity of this employee have been satisfactory during the probationary period, and (he) ~~(she)~~ is considered qualified for absolute appointment.

Name: Louis E. Colbert

Position: 2nd Asst. Keeper

Salary: $1440 per annum

Appropriation: Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses

Station: Romer Shoal Lt. Sta., N.Y.

Date of entrance on duty: July 18, 1930

Remarks:

CARDED

December 26, 1930

Submitted: J. F. Wells
(Signature of immediate superior)
Supt. 3rd Lighthouse District

By direction of the Commissioner:
R. J. Gross
Chief of Personnel Division.
(Head of bureau or office)

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 10—1732

STANDARD FORM NO. 6
(Approved by the President March 28, 1924)

PERSONAL HISTORY

(Statement to be prepared by appointee in his own handwriting)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
JUL 25 1930
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

Bureau, division, or office Lighthouse Service 2nd Dist

1. Name in full ✓ Louis Edison Colbert

2. Legal (voting) residence Rhode Island 2nd Dist. Washington Hope Valley
(State and Congressional District) (County) (City or town)

3. Where born? Rhode Island Wyoming When born? Sept 15 1903
(State or foreign country) (City or town) (Month—Day—Year)

4. If foreign, state whether naturalized or alien

5. Indicate sex, marital condition, and race by check, thus: √

SEX		MARITAL CONDITION				RACE. (If other, state which)	
Male ✓	Female	Single	Married ✓	Divorced	Widowed	White ✓	Colored

6. A complete record of your past civil service for the United States Government:

BRANCH OF SERVICE AND PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT	POSITION	SALARY	DATE APPOINTED			DATE SEPARATED		
			Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year
None	CARDED							

7. Military and naval record. If any, check (√) to indicate branch and other information and give dates of enlistment and discharge:

None	Army	Navy	Marine Corps	Coast Guard ✓	War Veteran	Pensioner	Veterans' Bureau beneficiary

Enlisted May 5, 1927 Discharged Sept 14 1927 Enlisted ..... Discharged .....

Organization Coast Guard Organization .....

8. EDUCATION (Circle number of years)

Common school								High school				College				Degrees, if any
1	2	3	4	5	6	(7)	8	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	

9. State special qualifications None

10. Name, relationship, and address of person to be notified in case of emergency:

Mrs Edna Colbert (Name) Mother (Relationship)

Hope Valley, R.I. (Post office address)

I certify that the foregoing answers are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Louis E Colbert
(Name as usually written and which will be used as official signature)

July 15, 1930 (Date) Present address Hope Valley, R.I.

10—1659 GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Standard Form No. 8
(Approved by the President, May 22, 1925)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
JUL 25 1930
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

CHIEF CLERK
1930 JUL 25 PM 3 23

OATH OF OFFICE

Prescribed by Section 1757, Revised Statutes of the United States

Department of Commerce
(Department or Establishment)

Third Lighthouse District
(Bureau or Office)

I, Louis E. Colbert, do
(Name in full, printed or typed)
solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So HELP ME GOD.

Louis E Colbert
(Signature of Appointee)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of July, A. D. 1930

at Hope Valley, R.I.
(City or place) (State)

U. S. REPORT DATA
[illegible]
CARDED

Charles E. Waines
Notary Public.

NOTE.—If the oath is taken before a Notary Public the date of expiration of his commission should be shown.

My Commission expires June 30, 1931

Position to which appointed 2nd Asst. Keeper, Romer Shoal Lt. Sta., N.Y.

Date of entrance on duty July 18-1930

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 10—1689

Form A-30

NOT TO BE ACCEPTED AS AUTHORITY FOR INVESTIGATION OPERATIONS UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICIAL CREDENTIALS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

July 8, 1930.

Mr. Louis E. Colbert,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

Keeper

in the Lighthouse Service

at a salary of Fourteen Hundred and Forty dollars per annum

effective upon entrance on duty.

Nature of appointment: Probationary.

Civil Service authority: Secretary, Second Civil Service District.

Classification allocation:

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully,

JUL 10 1930

F. A. DELONG

Chief of Appointment Division.

N 3

Appropriation (unit): Field.

Vice: Laurent Leclerc.

Legal Residence: Rhode Island.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION ENTERED JUL 12 1930 ON JOURNAL 2255 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

11-8057

Form 73

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 3rd DISTRICT

Staten Island, N. Y., June 26, 1930, 19...
(City) (Date)

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

(Thr.Sec'y 2nd C.S.Dist.)

Action recommended, Probationary Appointment.

Name, Louis E. Colbert

Position, Keeper

Location, Romer Shoal Lt.Sta.,N.Y.

Effective, July 1,1930

Legal residence, Rhode Island

Proposed salary, $1440 p.a.

Proposed range, $1440-$1740 p.a.

Appropriation, Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses

[1] ~~[illegible]~~, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position,

Location,

Former salary,

Former range,

Rank on eligible list, 3 Rating, Keeper Percentage, 86.1, Other eligibles considered:

Joseph B. Hearon---C. John J. Walsh---C. Harry E. Freeman---FR*

*Name removed from register.

Previous incumbent and his pay, Laureat Leclerc (LT.#1646) Services terminated, June 30, 1930

Reason, Transferred (Salary $1440 p.a.)

No employee of District desired transfer to this position. There are no family quarters provided at this station.

Members of family in Government service, None.

Date of birth, Sept.15,1905

Remarks: Mr.Colbert has had no previous service in the Lighthouse Service.

Selection regular, subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, JUN 27 1930, 19...

For and in the absence of the Superintendent.

E. A. Parker
Secretary, Second Civil Service District.

Asst.Supt.

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

JUL 1 1930

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

Action O. K.

Chief Clerk

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE JUL 8 1930 APPOINTMENT DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE JUL 3 1930 APPOINTMENT DIVISION

CHIEF CLERK

1930 JUL 5 PM 3 17

1930 JUN 28 AM 8 40

TELEGRAPHIC REPLY IS DESIRED

AWO-JHG

APPOINTMENT DIVISION NECESSARY ACTION TAKEN JUL 9 - 1930 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE