San Francisco, California,
14 November, 1940.

MEMO TO CHIEF OF STAFF.

1. Second Assistant Keeper Jens O. Wagner of San Luis Obispo Light Station has resigned effective at the close of November 14th.

2. Because of friction between Keeper Heard and Stelling, Sea.lc., at the Farallon Light Station, it is considered desirable to transfer Stelling. It is requested that Stelling be transferred to the San Luis Obispo Light Station, vice Wagner, and that a man be assigned to the Farallon Light Station in his place.

3. It is again recommended that older men, preferably from the Lifeboat Stations, be assigned to Light Station duty. The practice of assigning young men, especially seamen in their first enlistment, is putting into the Light Stations men who are not suited for, or sufficiently reliable for, duty of that nature. It should be kept in mind in selecting men for Light Station duty that a man assigned to a Light Station must be reliable as a watch officer, as he has to stand watches and operate the light and fog signal machinery and radiobeacon <u>without supervision</u>. Seamen, 1st or 2nd class, are in general not sufficiently reliable for this duty, and also are rarely mechanical-minded enough to learn to handle efficiently the machinery at the Stations.

4. San Luis Obispo machinery is much simpler than at the Farallones, as the Station has commercial electric power and there is as yet no radiobeacon, and I would like to give him another chance.

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT
NOV 12 1940
U. S. COAST GUARD

8 November 1940

From: James C Moore.
To : Commander, San Francisco District.
Subject: John M. Stilling Seaman 1/C,
acting as assistant Keeper Farallon light station.
Sir:-

From the time Stilling reported for duty as assistent Keeper Farallon light station, until My departure august 28 1940,
I Never saw any indication of insubordination, or inability to perform his duties on the part of Stilling, or to refuse to obey orders.
Keeper Heard was continually nagging and critiping Stilling and made conditions very unpleasant for him. Stilling would sometimes ask Me for information concerning operation of Machinery. Keeper Heard sure to resent Me giving this information to Stilling, and told me quote, Dont be a father to him, if he cant learn himself, Ill get rid of him, I dont want any Coast Guard men here enyway. unquote.
Stilling did ever thing possible on his part to Cooperate and get along with Keeper Heard, But this was impossible.

Respectfully,
James C. Moore.

San Francisco, California,
5 November, 1940.

From: Commander, San Francisco District.
To : Norman E. Johnson, 1st Assistant Keeper, Farallon Light Station.

Subject: John M. Stelling, Seaman 1c, Acting as Assistant Keeper, Farallon Light Station.

1. You are directed to advise this Office regarding the relations existing between Arnold G. Heard, Keeper of the Farallon Light Station, and John M. Stelling, Seaman 1c, acting as Assistant Keeper at your Station.

2. State whether there is any indication of insubordination or refusal to obey orders, or inability to perform or shirk work on the part of seaman Stelling. Also give any other information within your knowledge bearing on any inharmony existing between Keeper Heard and Seaman Stelling.

By direction,

R.S. PATCH.

5 November, 1940.

From: Commander, San Francisco District.
To : James C. Moore, Electrician, 1c., USNR, Navy Air Base, Alameda, California.
(Furloughed 2nd Assistant Keeper, Farallon Light Station)

Subject: John M. Stelling, Seaman 1c, Acting as Assistant Keeper, Farallon Light Station.

1. You are requested to advise this Office regarding the relations existing between Arnold G. Heard, Keeper of the Farallon Light Station and John M. Stelling, Seaman 1c, acting as Assistant Keeper at the Farallon Light Station for the period from the time Stelling reported for duty at the Farallon Light Station on July 12, 1940, until your departure on August 28, 1940, to resume active duty in the Navy. State whether there was any indication of insubordination or refusal to obey orders or inability to perform or shirk work on the part of seaman Stelling, or if the relations between Arnold G. Heard and John M. Stelling were at all times harmonious during the above period so far as you have knowledge.

By direction,

R. S. PATCH, Commander, U.S.C.G.

From: STELLING, JOHN M. (208-634) Sea. 1c.

To: R.S.PATCH, Commander USCG., San Francisco District

Subject: Reply to charges made by head keeper, Farallon Light Station

Subject -- Personal Grudge:

Mr. Heard has said in front of witnesses that he disliked any Coast Guard men coming to the Farallon Islands. He has expressed his dislike for having military men under him many times. He has constantly complained and nagged at me to such an extent that visitors and outside workmen have noticed and remarked about it. He has absolutely forbade me to use any electrical equipment with the exception of a radio and lights. My electric meter was at one time second only to that of the First Assistant because my wife was ill and we used an electric hot pad. As a result our meter read higher than usual. I examined some of the old records and noticed that the meters were considerably higher. Therefore, I see no reason for a complaint other than that of personal grudge.

Subject -- Complaints:

Previous to September 17, 1940, Mr. Heard and I had words over his treatment of me and several things he had done which I believe were uncalled for. For instance, shortly after my arrival at the Farallons, he came up to my quarters and asked me to go up the hill to the lighthouse, raise the shades in the tower, andand throw the switch to start the light revolving, as he had important busines down at the navy to attend to. I did as he requested, but found out later that his important business was getting up a card game.

During the time that a new Diesel engine was being installed, I kept a record of the time spent on watch and working. Mr.Heard promised to reimburse us for this, but so far he has not done so. He also stated that we would not do any unnecessary work, but he had me work over two hours cleaning out our surfboat so that it could be painted. Since this was done after twelve Noon, it does not appear to me to be emergency work. As a result of the above disagreements, Mr. Heard threatened to file charges against me, so that I should get, as he termed it, "A black mark on my discharge papers", and be transferred to another place. I told him I intended to tell my story in the office if his treatment of me did not improve and that I did not feel obliged to remain silent. Then he asked me if I would work and try to get aling. I replied that I had been trying to do so all the time. Mr. Heard then suggested that we both drop the charges against each other, and say nothing about the discussion to anyone in the future. I agreed to this. However, when Commander S.B.Johnson came out to the Islands for inspection, Mr. Heard told him all the things he had against me and refers to this conversation in his letter of complaint which I was requested to read when I arrived at the office to get my leave papers. Though Mr. Heard had said that he was going to write a letter to the boss about me, he did not tell me when he sent it in. Therefore I did not know there were any charges against me until I had called at the office.

Since Mr. Heard was so dissatisfied with me and with my work, I asked him why he did not ask to have me transferred. He said he would not do this as I had expressed a desire to remain there.

I told him I had no desire to stay there if he were not satisfied. When, at a later date, another discussion arose on this same subject, I told him I would fight any attempt he made to have me removed, as I believed I had gone half-way in my attempts to keep things running smoothly between us. Mr. Heard told me that if I tried to fight any charges he made against me, I would get the worst of the deal. The day before I left on my leave Mr. Heard told me to go in the office and get transferred, or else! He also said he would try in every way to have me removed, and that I had better have a good story ready to tell. He said that I am a slacker, untrustworthy, and totally unreliable, and that I am slow in learning and uninterested in my job. This is absolutely untrue. I was told by the former Second Assistant Keeper, Mr. J.C.Moore, who was called back to the U.S. Navy and is now stationed at the Alameda Air Base, that I learned how to operate the equipment more quickly than did Mr. Heard. Mr. Moore was constantly at odds with Mr. Heard, and in their discussions Mr. Moore usually came out on top. These discussions were over the maintenance of the station and equipment. Mr. Moore proved by these discussions that he knew his job thoroughly.

Subject -- Personal Opinion:

It is my opinion that Mr. Heard is no leader of men and is unqualified in many ways to hold the position of head keeper. I think an investigation of his ability as head keeper is warranted. He has been suspicious and untrusting in his actions toward me, and is constantly doing his best to worry my wife and myself.

I realize I have made mistakes, but I have tried to do my best at all times.

I believe that Mr. Moore will be glad to verify any of the above statements I have made.

Respectfully,

John M. Stelling

John M. Stelling, Sea. 1c.

Comdr Patch

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSE SUPERINTENDENT SEP 28 1940 SAN FRANCISCO

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT

Farallon Island
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Sept. 27, 1940.

From: Kpr. in charge.

To: Supt. of Lighthouses.

Sub: Transfer of 3rd Asst. Kpr.

The writer recommends Mr. J. Stelling be replaced by some one who can fill the position of 3rd Asst. Keeper for reasons named below.

Mr. Stelling arrived at this Station July 12th as Acting 3rd Asst, his own statements are, in the opinion of the writer, evidence that he is unqualified for this position, i.e. his utterly lack of experience around machinery and equipment as used on this Station. His lack of knowledge and ability to learn, the fact that he apparently isn't interested enough, too slow to comprehend, his intention (statement by him) of "quitting at the end of this cruise" seems sufficient reason for this request.

Request the Supt. to refer to Commander S. B. Johnson regarding the above - re conversation between the Commdr and the writer on Sept. 17th 1940.

Respt.
A. F. Heard.