

הצהרה מאושרת נוטוריונית של איש הדת גראואל על פרשת 'אקסודוס'

נחתמה במסצ'וסטס, ארה"ב, לקראת סוף ספט' 1947

נמסרה לפרסום באתר באדיבות בני גשור

I, JOHN S. GRAUEL, Journalist and lecturer, of 14
Yankee Street, Worcester, Mass. U.S.A., hereby make oath
and say:-

1. My name, profession and address are as above stated.
2. I was on board the S.S. "President Warfield" otherwise known as "Exodus 1947" (hereinafter referred to as "the Exodus").
3. I proceeded on board the Exodus from France as a correspondent for the "Churehman" Journal to observe the voyage.
4. During the voyage I was in constant contact with the Master, officers and some of the members of the crew of the Exodus and I was given free access to the bridge, chartroom and Master's quarters and I had personal knowledge of the position of the Exodus from time to time.
5. Before I boarded the Exodus I had already some knowledge of navigation, including fixing positions of ships, which knowledge was improved during this voyage by actual participation in fixing the position of the ship from time to time.
6. Between 5 p.m. of the 17th July, 1947, when the Exodus proceeded from a point off Damietta, Egypt, towards Palestine, until about 2 p.m. of the 18th July, 1947, when the Exodus arrived at a point off the Palestine coast, the Exodus was at no time within the territorial waters of Palestine. I ascertained the correctness of the statement contained in this paragraph as follows:-
 - (a) As from about 5 p.m. of the 17th July, 1947 until about 2:30 a.m. of the 18th July, 1947 I several times ascertained and checked the position of the Exodus by means of the ship's compasses and charts as well as by the course and speed of the Exodus compared with the position of the ship off Damietta; and
 - (b) During the period between about 5 p.m. of the 17th July, 1947 and about 2 p.m. of the 18th July, 1947 I saw no land, although I was on the lookout at frequent and short intervals.
7. During the part of the voyage between about 5 p.m. of the 17th July, 1947 until the control of the Exodus was taken over by the members of the British Navy as hereinafter set out the Master of the Exodus in my presence and in my hearing several times ordered his officers and some of the members of his crew to navigate carefully and to reduce speed in order to avoid at all costs the approach before sunrise of the 18th July, 1947 to any point off the Palestine coast nearer than 20 miles off coast.

John S. Grauel

¹. להצהרות נוטוריוניות נוספות של שני אנשי צוות אמריקאים מהאונייה הקש כאן (נמסרו לאתר באדיבות ישראל ויימן)

8. I took a special interest in ascertaining the veracity of the reports of the Emden off the Palestine coast, in view of the numerous reports that had appeared in the press and the past alleging that immigrant ships had been captured in violation of international law by the British Navy on the high seas before reaching the territorial waters of Palestine, and of my desire to ascertain the correctness or otherwise of these reports.

9. On the 18th July, 1947 at about 2:30 a.m. I saw two British destroyers converging on the Emden whereupon I went on to the hurricane deck of the Emden in order to observe closely the ensuing events. I saw and felt the Emden being struck violently both port and starboard in a squashing motion by the five destroyers. At the same time I observed an onslaught of tear gas and other explosives discharged at the Emden, whereupon passengers on the Emden fall down on the deck of the Emden. The Emden was subsequently violently rammed several times by British destroyers.

The attack on the Emden as aforesaid was carried out by a flotilla of British men of war consisting of five destroyers and the cruiser "Ajax".

10. Almost immediately after the Emden was first struck by the destroyers I saw a party of British sailors, who wore gas masks and were armed with pistols and wooden clubs with steel bands around the heads of the clubs, boarding the Emden. Shortly thereafter as I heard that someone on the bridge had been wounded by the boarding party, I proceeded to the bridge and found that the bridge was in the possession of British sailors.

11. Subsequently, as I heard that William Bernstein had been seriously wounded by the boarding party and was lying in the Master's quarters, I attempted to bring a doctor and a nurse of the Emden to the Master's quarters in order to render him medical aid, but a British sailor stationed in the chartroom and in control of both of the chartrooms and the Master's quarters adjacent thereto refused my request to permit a doctor and nurse admission to the Master's quarters.

12. The British sailors used clubs as aforesaid and firearms to establish their control of the Emden; three persons of the Emden were fatally wounded by the British Naval personnel, one of whom, William Bernstein, one of the officers of the Emden, was clubbed and died later of the injuries received and another, a youth of about 15 years, whose name, I believe, was Hirsch Jacobovich, was fatally wounded by bullets. I counted over forty persons of the Emden wounded with some degree of seriousness, at least four of whom, including William Hillman, were suffering from bullet wounds.

13. There was a considerable amount of resistance by the passengers to the establishment of the control of the British Naval personnel over the Emden; in resisting the British, the passengers of the Emden used potatoes and canned food, but no explosives or firearms of any nature whatsoever, save a small number (not exceeding a dozen) of smoke bombs of the usual type required for all lifeboats.

Attorney General

During the said resistance of the passengers of the Exodus which lasted as from about 2.30 a.m. until about 6.45 a.m. of the 18th July, 1947, the control of the Exodus by the British Naval personnel gradually increased until the resistance was completely ended at about 6.45 a.m. of the 18th July, 1947 when the British Naval personnel had complete control and charge of the entire Exodus.

14. I have read the official communique No. 124, July 19th, published in the Palestine Post of the 20th July, 1947 and I say from personal knowledge the following with regard to the description in the said communique of the events which took place on the 18th July, 1947, namely:-

- (a) At no time was tear smoke used by the passengers of the Exodus nor could any of the tear gas bombs thrown at the Exodus be thrown back, since these bombs invariably exploded before striking the Exodus.
- (b) It is untrue that only a "single shot" was fired by the British as they repeatedly used pistols both above and below decks of the Exodus. I heard three lengthy bursts of machine gun fire directed at the Exodus from a destroyer which was alongside.
- (c) I saw the incident of the axe referred to in the communique; it is not true that the man using the axe attempted "to decapitate one of the boarding party" but he was endeavouring to make a hole in the bridge head to secure a passage which was used in attempt to dislodge the British sailors in possession of the bridge of the Exodus. The man using the axe made no attempt whatsoever to use it against any person, whether of British naval personnel or otherwise.
- (d) At no time did I ever see before, during or after the boarding any passenger or any officer or member of the crew of the Exodus in possession of a rifle.

J. Stanley Grauel
DECEASED

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WORCESTERS

SEPTEMBER 20, 1947

Then personally appeared J. STANLEY GRAUEL and made oath that the foregoing AFFIDAVIT by him subscribed is true.

Michael A. Deigo

NOTARY PUBLIC
MY COM'N EXPIRES OCT. 18, 1951