

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

MAIL AND FILES

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

No. 5091/663

AUG 2 1927
OFFICE OF DISTRICT DIRECTOR

EL PASO, TEX.
REGD. BU. OF IMMIGRATION

July 30, 1927.

601
670

~~2-2-27~~
3-2-27



Commissioner General of Immigration,
Washington, D. C.

There are inclosed herewith two copies of a report addressed to this office under date of the 28th instant by the Chief Patrol Inspector at El Paso, Texas, and copies, also in duplicate, of reports of Patrol Inspectors Harrison C. Pugh and W. A. Holt covering a gun battle between the officers named and persons believed to be liquor smugglers, in this city on the 26th instant.

It appears that there were no casualties.

E. C. Wilmoth
District Director

EC

Incl. 48067.

File ^{ed}

in
109

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

IMMIGRATION SERVICE

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

No. 4007/3
4000/85-A
4000/129-A

Office of Chief Patrol Inspector,
El Paso, Texas,
July 28, 1927.

District Director,
U. S. Immigration Service,
El Paso, Texas.



Reference being had to your files Nos. 5005/1835 and 5005/1987, there is transmitted herewith, in sextuplicate, statements of Patrol Inspectors Harrison C. Pugh and W. A. Holt, in reference to a gun battle with liquor smugglers at the foot of Park Street, this City, on the 26th instant.

It will be noted from the reading of the statements before mentioned, that the Patrol Inspectors were fired upon first, by the smugglers in the river, whom they tried to have surrender; and again by the men on the Mexican side of the river. Also, that the Patrol Inspectors in question returned the fire of the men in the river, but not that of the men on the other side of the river.

In view of the circumstances as presented, and basing his opinion on the general actions of smugglers of liquor in this vicinity, the writer is of the opinion that Patrol Inspectors Pugh and Holt were justified in returning the fire of the smugglers in the river.

SEF:ABJ

(Signed) Samuel F. Gray
Chief Patrol Inspector

Copy

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

No.

El Paso, Texas.
July 27, 1927.Chief Patrol Inspector,
U. S. Immigration Service,
El Paso, Texas.

JUL 29 1927

IMMIGRATION SERVICE
EL PASO, TEXAS

On the night of July 26, 1927, Patrol Inspector W. A. Holt and the writer were assigned to duty at the district known as the foot of Park Street. Position was taken at the Stanton Street International Bridge to watch the river in the vicinity of Park Street. This bridge is about 700 yards from the foot of Park Street. This position was taken for the reason that the smuggler's movements, on the Mexican side of the river could be watched without having the officer's whereabouts discovered. At about 7:35 pm., two men were seen entering the river from the Mexican side. They seemed to be carrying a load of liquor on their backs. A run was made on foot to where, in the officer's opinion, the smugglers would emerge from the river. The smugglers caught sight of the writer and his companion before completing the journey across the river. The writer called, "Halt, we are Federal Officers". At this, the loads of liquor were dropped from the shoulders of the smugglers, and one of them opened fire upon the officers, firing 1 shot from a pistol. Then the other man fired two shots. Patrol Inspector Holt fired 4 shots from his shotgun, and the writer fired one shot from his pistol. While this shooting was going on, some men from the other side of the river, opened fire upon the officers with what seemed to be pistols, firing altogether, 3 shots.

The fire from the men in the river was returned, but not that from the men on the Mexican side of the river.

An exhaustive search was made in that vicinity for some liquor that might have been dropped, and then floated to the shore, but none was found. It is believed that no one was hit.


Patrol Inspector.

IMMIGRATION SERVICE

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

No.

El Paso, Texas.
July 27, 1927.Chief Patrol Inspector,
U. S. Immigration Service,
El Paso, Texas.

On the night of July 26, 1927, Patrol Inspector Harrison C. Pugh and the writer were assigned to duty at the district on the Rio Grande River known as Park Street. Both of the Patrol Inspectors above mentioned were watching that territory from the Stanton Street International Bridge. At about 7:35 pm, two men were seen entering the river from the Mexican side, carrying what seemed to be a load of liquor. A run was made along the river bank from the bridge, towards the place where, it was thought, that they would emerge from the river. The smugglers perceived the officers running towards them, and started back across the river, still carrying their loads. At this time, Patrol Inspector Pugh called out "Halt, we are Federal Officers", in Spanish. A load of liquor was heard dropped in the river, and immediately a shot was fired from one of the men in the river. Then the other man fired, from what seemed to be a pistol. This fire was returned. It is not known whether any of the smugglers were hit.

Immediately after the writer's second shot, firing broke out from across the river, on the Mexican side. This was not returned because there was enough to keep the Inspectors busy returning the fire from the men in the river.

A search was made for any liquor that might have been dropped by the smugglers, but it was in vain. It is believed by the writer that the smugglers made good their escape together with the liquor that they were carrying, into Mexico.

W. A. Holt.
Patrol Inspector*W A Holt*