

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

IMMIGRATION SERVICE

MAIL AND FILES

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

No. 5091/774

OFFICE OF DISTRICT DIRECTOR
EL PASO, TEX.

March 15, 1928.

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Commissioner-General of Immigration,
Washington, D. C.

There are transmitted herewith copies of a report made by Patrol Inspector Galitzen N. Bogel under date of March 8, 1928, concerning an encounter had on March 7, 1928, by Patrol Inspectors Bogel and Henry W. Busch with liquor smugglers near San Elizario, Texas, at which time the smugglers shot at the officers who returned the fire. Patrol Inspector Bogel had his cheek grazed by a shot but the wound was not serious. It is not known what injury was inflicted upon the smugglers. The seized liquor was delivered to the Customs Service.

G. C. Wolcott

District Director

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Incl. 39793.
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Immigration Service

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

El Paso, Texas,
March 8, 1928.

Please be advised that Patrol Inspector Henry W. Busch and the writer received information yesterday that approximately 100 cases of liquor would be smuggled into the United States near San Elizario, Texas, on the night of the 7th or 8th. This information was furnished headquarters with a request for more men due to the fact that practically every time liquor smugglers are encountered at San Elizario a gun-fight ensues. Senior Patrol Inspector Crossett and Patrol Inspector Tenney met us on the afternoon of the 7th instant at Clint and arrangements were made for them to work a crossing below San Elizario while Busch and the writer worked one above the town.

About 7 p.m. yesterday evening, shortly following our having gotten into position, Patrol Inspector Busch and the writer heard horses crossing the river at a point about one hundred yards below us. We worked our way down toward where we heard them cross and came into view of five horses - two mounted by smugglers and three loaded with what we presumed to be liquor. The smugglers were halted and advised that we were federal officers but refused to surrender and one of them fired upon us. We immediately returned the fire and in all fired about 20 shots. The horses bolted and escaped. After the fight we found near where the man had fired upon us, a twelve-gauge Winchester pump gun with four shells in the magazine - three of which were loaded with No. 4 duck shot and one with buck-shot. The shell loaded with buck-shot had jammed in the barrel of the gun. One exploded shell was lying on the ground by the gun. About three dozen quarts of tequila was found near the shot-gun. We took up the trail of the smugglers the following morning and trailed them to the river. It is not known whether or not any of them were hit but it is safe to assume that they were for shortly following the fight we returned to San Elizario and Constable Antonio Trujillo had located a horse with three buck-shot in his neck which was loaded with four cases of liquor. In all, 64 quarts of tequila, 6 quarts of cognac, the shotgun and shells were seized.

It might be stated that while we were attempting to apprehend the members of the above-mentioned pack-train, Senior Patrol Inspector Crossett and Patrol Inspector Tenney were apprehending a Mexican above San Elizario who had six gallons of liquor which he had smuggled from Mexico.

One of the pellets from the shot-gun grazed the writer's cheek but did not break the skin.

Galitzen N. Bogel

Patrol Inspector.