

# FRENCHMAN MUST PAY £50 FINE

**A**FTER pleading guilty to fishing within territorial waters, Joseph Le Goff, of Menez Goret Plozevet, Finis-terre, skipper of the French fishing boat L'Amour de L'Humanité, of Audierne, was fined £50 and £20 costs and ordered to forfeit his catch, by the Isles of Scilly magistrates yesterday.

The case was preferred on information laid by Lieut. Richard Walder Kinsey Davies, commander of H.M.S. Squirrel.

Mr. A. J. King, prosecuting for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, told the court that on Sunday, November 5, Lieut. Davies saw seven strings of crab pots in a position from 1.5 miles to 2.4 miles from St. Agnes Island.

## TAKING SHELTER

He saw the fishing vessel L'Amour de L'Humanité there, boarded her, and spoke to le Goff, who admitted that the crab pots were his. Visibility at the time was good. Asked why he was in that position, le Goff said he put in there to shelter from rough weather.

When the crab pots were hauled they were found to contain about 40 crayfish and about 200 crabs. There were also a lot of other fish in the hold. Mr. King said he had been instructed by the Ministry to remind the magistrates of their powers to confiscate the catch and the gear.

Giving evidence through Mr. McMillan Browse, who acted as interpreter, le Goff said he had been working outside the three-mile limit when he received a warning of bad weather from a French radio station and he came as close to the land as he could for shelter.

## BENCH RETIRES

He did not have any mechanical or electronic aids for fixing his position, but he thought he would be complying with the regulations if he fixed his position by taking a point from the nearest house and not from the nearest rock. He said he had 200 crayfish and ten lobsters in the hold.

Mr. King told the bench that le Goff had no previous convictions.

After the bench had retired to consider their verdict, the chairman, Mr. Rodney Ward, said that in view of the fact that this was le Goff's first offence they would not order his gear to be confiscated.

"Amour de L'Humanité"  
Joseph Le Goff  
août 1957

# £75 Fine, Catch and Gear Confiscated

## FRENCH SKIPPER FISHED WITHIN THREE-MILE LIMIT OFF ST. IVES

"YOU are being asked to convict somebody for the bad draughtsmanship of our own Parliament." This was the submission made by Mr. R. V. A. Allbright, when at a special Magistrates' Court on Friday he defended a French skipper on a charge of fishing within British territorial waters. Territorial waters were held to be three miles from the shore or any dependent islands, rocks or banks, and Mr. Allbright thought that not many people in the courtroom could accurately interpret the meaning of the words "rocks and banks."

Pierre le Goffe, master of the vessel 'Cité d'Arvor', of Audierne, France, was found guilty of fishing within the three mile limit off St. Ives on the previous day. Le Goffe, who had one previous conviction at the same court in 1960, was fined £75 ordered to pay ten guineas towards the advocate's fee and interpreter's fee, and his catch and gear were confiscated. He said through his interpreter (Mr. Bevil Catran) "It's a bit stiff." Le Goffe pleaded not guilty.

Mr. J. H. King, Falmouth prosecuting, said that when a bearing was taken by the Fisheries Protection Vessel, H.M.S. Brave Borderer, the le Goffe was 95 of a mile within the limits. The position was established by means of a Decca navigator and radar range, and allowing for the maximum error he was still nine-tenths of a mile inside the limits.

### STRINGS OF POTS

The vessel was boarded by Lt. Gordon Lennox, and le Goffe admitted that strings of pots in the vicinity were his. The officer understood defendant to say that he thought the limits were measured only from the land. That would place his position almost exactly three miles off shore, and in Mr. King's submission if he chose to fish so close to the margin defendant should take the responsibility if he made a mistake.

Lt. Michael Charles Gordon-Lennox said there were certainly four and possibly five strings of pots that defendant identified as his. Le Goffe said he was taking his bearing from Godrevy island, a quarter of a mile off Godrevy Point. In that case he would have been three miles off shore, or if anything a shade less. The fisheries protection vessel established their position by three radar ranges from three conspicuous points, Gull Rock, Godrevy Island and St. Ives Head.

Mr. Allbright asked him whether there were rocks ten miles off the Brittany coast from the Channel Islands to the coast of Spain, and British vessels could fish off them if they chose. Le Goffe might have felt justified in fishing where he was. Witness replied: "Possibly, except that he was fishing off England and not off France."

"Cité d'Arvor"  
Pierre Le Goff  
18 octobre 1962

### ACCURATE INSTRUMENTS

Lt. Comm. John Reginald Vaughtan Lewis, commander of H.M.S. Brave Borderer, said his vessel had a cruising speed of 42 knots and it was imperative that her navigational instruments should read accurately.

Le Goffe said in evidence that he started fishing off the Cornish coast as a cabin boy with his father in 1937, and he had been skipper since 1945. He approached the buoy, turned to the seaward and ran for 15 minutes, which should have placed him four miles off shore. He said three and a half lines of pots with 25 on each line.

Mr. Allbright said he wondered if it was legal for a foreigner to fish within three miles of Wolf Rock or Eddystone, which were some miles off the coast. The evidence showed le Goffe to be more than three miles from the land and three miles from the lighthouse. Mr. Allbright asked the bench to believe that he had done all that could be expected of him in this case.

# NAVY ARRESTS FRENCH CRABBER OFF GODREY

The skipper of the Breton crabber "Etoile des Souvenirs" which was arrested 5.3 miles off Godrey Light by the Fishery Protection vessel H.M.S. Wotton was fined £25 at a special Penzance magistrates court on Wednesday for fishing within the three mile limit the previous day.

He was Michel Normant (aged 24) of Audierne and he pleaded not guilty. The Bench ordered that his catch of crabs, lobsters and crayfish should be confiscated.

Sub-Lieut. R. C. Moody, R.N. said that after taking a bearing from a line of lobster pots belonging to the French vessel, it was found that they were 2.8 miles from the shore.

## SQUALLY WEATHER

Lieut A. R. H. Rogers, R.N. who boarded the French boat, said he asked Normant if he had any navigational gear and the only thing he produced was a depth recorder. He asked to look at the vessel's charts and the only one Normant could produce was one of France.

Normant, who pleaded not guilty, said through an interpreter that if he had wanted to come within the three mile limit he would not have left buoys bearing the name of his boat and the registration number. He said that the pots had been "shot" in squally weather and he was certain they were outside the limit at that time. There was a possibility that the current had carried them inside the limit.

"Etoile du Souvenir"  
Michel Normant  
septembre 1961

# FRENCH SKIPPER FINED £75

## Crab pots within 3-mile limit near Land's End

**F**OR fishing within the three-mile limit near Land's End, Rephael Ansquer, skipper of the French fishing vessel, Nicole No. 2422, of Audierne, Brittany, was fined £75 by Penzance magistrates, as briefly reported in some editions yesterday.

The magistrates ordered his fishing gear and catch to be confiscated and he was ordered to pay £6 6s. costs.

Mr. A. J. King, who prosecuted, said at 8 a.m. on Sunday the fisheries protection vessel H.M.S. Watchful found Nicole hauling crab pots 2.8 miles from the Carrack Rock, and this was supported by officers of the ship who gave evidence from large-scale charts on which the ship's position had been pinpointed.

Lieut. Malcolm Brian Geddes, the commanding officer of Watchful, said that the ship's instruments could fix a position to an accuracy of within 100 yards.

### "POTS DRIFTED" CLAIM

Ansquer said he was fishing from the position that had been indicated to him three years ago by an officer of another British Fishery Protection vessel, H.M.S. Squirrel, as being safely outside the limit. He had laid five strings of crab pots.

The pots on the last two strings were new and buoyant and liable to drift from their position.

He was certain that when he laid them they were outside the limit. It was slack tide and the north-west wind must have caused them to drift farther inshore.

"Nicole"

Raphaël Ansquer

5 mai 1963