

The *St. Louis* had been serving with the Mediterranean Squadron when, in the summer of 1853, she was ordered to look into the detention, by the Austrian Consul, of Martin Koszta, thought to be an American citizen. Koszta was being held in Smyrna harbor in the Austrian brig-of-war SMS *Hussar*. Ingraham demanded, and was allowed, a meeting with the prisoner. Upon hearing his story, Ingraham sent a message to the U.S. Charge d'Affaires at Constantinople.

Koszta, a former Hungarian Infantry captain, had been involved in the political unrest in Austria the previous decade, and had immigrated to America. While he had not lived in America long enough to become a citizen, he had procured the proper paperwork to submit just as soon as he had satisfied the residency requirement. While on a short business trip to Turkey, Austrian agents recognized him and the Austrian Consul hired a gang of armed Greeks to kidnap him off the streets.

Despite his dubious citizenship Koszta was a legal United States resident, and both the Charge and Ingraham felt that official assistance should be extended to him. Ingraham took it upon himself to press the issue. At eight o'clock in the morning of 2 July, he demanded that the Austrian Consul surrender Koszta by four o'clock that afternoon, or he would be taken by force. To back up his threat, Ingraham maneuvered the *St. Louis* next to the sixteen gun *Hussar*. The Austrians responded by having the twelve gun sweep-fitted schooner SMS *Artemisia* lay across his bow so that she could rake the deck of the *St. Louis* with a broadside. They also ordered up two four-gun Austrian mail steamers that happened to be in port, to assist if needed. Ingraham was not intimidated at being outgunned however, and cleared the decks for action and prepared to attack the *Hussar*.

At eleven o'clock the Austrian Consul-General offered to release Koszta to the French Consul to be held until his situation could be determined. This was acceptable to Ingraham and Koszta was released and soon made his way back to America.

The United States Government gave its official approval of Ingraham's actions and Congress ordered a medal struck in his honor. In addition, the working class people of England, by penny subscription, presented Ingraham with a fine chronometer. It was inscribed, "Presented to Captain Ingraham, of the United States Navy, by some thousands of the

British working classes, for his noble conduct in rescuing Koaxta, the Hungarian refugee, from the Austrian authorities."

Ingraham was appointed Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography of the Navy Department. In 1861 he was in command of Mediterranean Squadron flagship *Richmond*. After resigning his commission, he entered Confederate service and was appointed Chief of Ordnance, Construction and Repair before taking charge of the naval forces at Charleston as Commodore. When he died 10 October 1891, he was the last of all those who had joined the U.S. Navy in 1812.