

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

114391

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
IN 093.112/499

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
March 23, 1943
Sydney, Australia February 26, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable the Secretary of the Navy and encloses for the United States Coast Guard a copy of despatch no. 631 from the American Consulate General at Sydney, Australia enclosing a copy of a letter received from the Master of the American S.S. Admiral Halstead commending certain members of the crew of that vessel.

Enclosure:

From American Consulate
General, Sydney, Australia,
no. 631, February 26, 1943.

RECEIVED ST. PAUL
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ROUTE 10- 21.8.C.G.
NO. 100 P15/281
NO. 1 of 1

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COPY

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

NO: 631

CONFIDENTIAL

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Sydney, Australia February 26, 1943

SUBJECT: Commendation of certain members of the crew
of the American S.S. Admiral Halstead.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to forward herewith in copy a letter received at the Consulate General from the Master of the American S.S. Admiral Halstead in commendation of certain of the members of the crew of that vessel during an enemy attack on Port Darwin, Australia, on February 19, 1942 when the vessel was lying in that port.

The personnel mentioned in the letter have been identified as far as possible as follows:

1. Albert E. MILBOURNE, Chief Officer, age 33, born in Canada, naturalized in the United States, Continuous Discharge Book No. 056599, License Serial No. 166519. Next of kin: Mother, Mrs. Sarah E. Milbourne, 1408 California Street, San Francisco, California.
2. Dael BAIRD, Second Mate, age 33, born in Colorado. Address: 244 Eleventh Street, San Francisco, California.
3. Alan CURRIE, Third Mate, age 28, born in Massachusetts. Next of kin: Wife, Mrs. A. Currie, 710 Broderick Street, San Francisco, California.
4. John HAFFARD, A.B. (later Boatswain), age 38, born in Illinois. Certificate of Identification No. Z243699. Next of kin: Mrs. L. B. Haffard, 4730 Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

5. Fred

CONFIDENTIAL

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5. Fred ARCHIBALD, Chief Steward, age 44,
born in Colombia and citizen of Colombia.
Next of kin: Wife, Mrs. M. Archibald,
2722 Pine Street, San Francisco, California.

All of the above named seamen were discharged and repatriated from Australia in August, 1942 except for Mr. Haffard, who was discharged in January, 1943 and repatriated shortly thereafter. It should be noted, however, that Mr. Milbourne has now returned to Australia and is serving again on the Admiral Halstead.

Although this commendation may not appear to entitle the seamen to awards for heroism within the purview of the Department's mimeographed circular instruction of June 9, 1942 (File no. 093.112/468), it may be of value or assistance to the Commandant of the Coast Guard and to the Recruitment and Manning Division of the War Shipping Administration.

Respectfully yours,

Albert Milbourne, First Mate
Osael Baird, Second Mate
Alan Currie, Third Mate
John Haffard, A.P. (later Boatswain)
Fred Archibald, Chief Steward.

Ely E. Palmer
American Consul General
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RHH:ml

Yours truly,

Enclosure:

1. Letter of January 15, 1943 signed by the Master of the Admiral Halstead.

(Signed) E. E. JOHNSON,
Master.

Original and hectograph to Department.

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch no. 631 of February 26, 1943,
from the American Consulate General, Sydney, Australia.

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

Sydney, Australia
January 15, 1943

The American Consul General,
Sydney, Australia.

Sir:

In reply to an inquiry at the Consulate General yesterday, I should like to place on record my commendation of the following members of the crew of the American S.S. Admiral Halstead for their outstanding devotion to duty under enemy attack at Port Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, on February 19, 1942 and subsequently:

Albert Milbourne, First Mate
Dael Baird, Second Mate
Alan Currie, Third Mate
John Haffard, A.B. (later Boatswain)
Fred Archibald, Chief Steward.

The above-named men stuck to their guns and manned the ship with determination and real valor during the enemy bombings of the port, although many of their shipmates reacted in a far different manner.

Yours truly,

(Signed) E.E. JOHNSON,
Master.