

No. 763

I.O.F.

L-7 Fairbank

C. E. Macy  
R.H.

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
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1944 FEB AMERICAN CONSULATE

Karachi, India, January 21, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL -- SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

Subject: Relief and Hospitalization of American Seaman,  
George V. SIMONS.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

File  
I have the honor to enclose herewith a memorandum giving the particulars of the discharge from his vessel and hospitalization at Karachi of the American merchant seaman, George V. SIMONS (Z-DI-149117). Simons arrived at Karachi as a wiper on the American vessel, S. S. African Dawn, December 29, 1943. This ship is operated by the American-South African Line, Inc., 26 Beaver Street, New York, and its local agents were Cooper and Company, Karachi. Captain A. R. MORTENSON was in command when the vessel called at Karachi.

It is suggested that copies of this despatch and memorandum be transmitted to the War Shipping Administration, Coast Guard, and operators of the African Dawn, as of possible use in connection with the settlement of the seaman's final wage account.

Respectfully yours,

C. E. Macy  
American Consul

## Enclosures:

## 1. Memorandum

- (a) Copy of Wage Accounting
- (b) Statement of Payments made by Cooper and Company

886.3

PMD/dxm

Original and hectograph copy to the Department  
Copy to the Consulate General Calcutta

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Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 763,  
January 21, 1944, from the American  
Consul, Karachi, India, Re Relief of  
American Seaman, George V. SIMONS.

MEMORANDUM

Merchant Seaman George V. SIMONS was employed by the master of the S. S. African Dawn at Gibraltar on November 6, 1943 as a wiper at base wages of \$87.50 a month. Captain MORTENSON said that according to Simons' story he had at various times been a third engineer on British and Norwegian ships and immediately previously had been employed ashore in North Africa as an automobile driver. Simons reached Gibraltar where his funds became exhausted. He pleaded with Captain Mortenson to take him aboard the African Dawn which the Captain consented to do.

The African Dawn proceeded to Karachi via the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. While at Abadan, Simons said, he lost all of his American seaman's papers including his engineer's license. Captain Mortenson informed the Consulate that he had seen these papers and was able to furnish the seaman's "Z" number, Z-DL-149117. As the ship had entered no port with an American consul after its departure from Gibraltar it was necessary for this office to validate Simons' position on the articles.

The African Dawn arrived at Karachi on December 29, 1943. Following an examination by a United States Army physician, Simons was hospitalized at the United States Army hospital here on December 30. His illness was diagnosed as "balanitis, mild, type, and cause undetermined". There was no indication that this illness was the result of the man's own misconduct. As it was improbable that Simons would be released from the hospital in time to accompany the vessel, it was necessary to discharge him as of December 29. Both the Master and Simons agreed to this as apparently Simons' services on the African Dawn had not been very satisfactory. The balance of wages due, equal to \$234.61, was paid by the Master, and a copy of the account for this sum is enclosed. The African Dawn left Karachi on January 5, 1944.

Simons was discharged from the hospital on January 13 and was lodged at the McHinch Memorial Marine Club. During his stay in Karachi he passed himself as an officer of the American merchant marine and spent much of his time at the American and British officers' clubs. On January 18 he was informed that an American vessel then in port, and soon returning to the United States, was in need of a messman. He interviewed the master, but did not accept the position saying that he had had no experience as a messman. Later he informed the Consulate that he would never take such a job as long as he had money, and that he had only accepted the position of wiper on the African Dawn because he was

without/



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without funds. The case was discussed with Captain Getchell, Special Representative of the War Shipping Administration at Karachi, who stated that the man had no right to decline to be repatriated as a messman, and that through his refusal he forfeited any right he might have had to wages and bonus during repatriation.

As it seemed unlikely, in view of Simons' attitude, that any master could be persuaded to repatriate him from Karachi, it was decided to send him to Bombay where he hoped to find a position as third engineer on a British or Norwegian vessel at that port. In the event that no employment became available at Bombay, Simons could return to the United States as a passenger on a military transport. Captain Getchell concurred in this decision and Simons left for Bombay by rail on January 20. Prior to his departure the full balance of wages received from the African Dawn was turned over to him.

Amounts paid by Cooper and Company on behalf of the African Dawn for Simons' board and lodging at Karachi and transportation to Bombay totaled Rs. 113/4/-, an account of which sum is enclosed.

American Consulate,  
Karachi, India,  
January 21, 1944

886.3  
PMD/dxm

Enclosure No. 1(a) to despatch No. 763,  
January 21, 1944, from the American Consul,  
Karachi, India, Re Relief and Hospitalization  
of American Seaman, George V. SIMONS.

COPY

U.S. of America  
War Shipping Administration

STATEMENT OF WAGES AND DEDUCTIONS  
AND/OR RECEIPT FOR WAGES PAID

American-South African Line, Inc., Agent  
26 Beaver St., N.Y.C.

S/S "AFRICAN DAWN" Voy FOUR

Date of Payment JAN. 1944

Name GEORGE SIMONS SS No. \_\_\_\_\_ Rating WIPER Art. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address 875 WEST 180 St. N.Y.C.

Wages From Nov. 6, 1943 to Dec.29, 1943	1 Mo. 24 Day	\$87.50 per mo:	157.50:	
Bonus From Nov. 6, 1943 to " " "	1 Mo. 24 Day		180.00:	
Area Bonus Nov.6,1943 to Nov.22, 1943	17 days \$5 a day		85.00:	
				Overtime
				Column
Overtime 17 Hrs @ \$ .85				14.43
TOTAL EARNINGS			422.50:	
DEDUCTIONS * This is your receipt for tax deductions.				
*F.O.A.B.- On Earnings Plus \$64.80 Room & Board - 1% of		\$487.30	4.87:	.14
*Withholding Tax - Per Gov't. Table			62.10:	2.88
Allotments None				
Advances			71.30:	
Slop Chest			37.70:	
Fines			23.34:	
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS			199.31:	3.00
WAGES PAID			223.19:	11.42

Approved

(s) A. R. Mortenson  
Master

Received Above Amounts

(s) Geo. V. Simons



Enclosure No. 1(b) to despatch No. 763,  
January 21, 1944, from American Consul,  
Karachi, India, Re Relief and Hospitaliza-  
tion of American Seaman, George V. SIMONS.

PAYMENTS BY COOPER AND COMPANY FOR BOARD AND FOOD AND  
TRANSPORTATION TO BOMBAY FOR AMERICAN SEAMAN  
GEORGE V. SIMONS.

1944

January 14.	Reservation fee for one berth reserved on January 14, 1944 19 Up but not utilized -- amount not refundable . . . . .	Rs. 0- 8-0
January 19.	Charges for one second class rail accommodation from Karachi to Bombay . . . . .	62-12-0
January 20.	Board and lodging at Marine Club from January 13 to January 14 at Rs. 5/- per day and from January 15 to January 19 at Rs. 8/- per day . . . . .	50- 0-0
	TOTAL	<u>Rs. 113- 4-0</u>