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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

INTELLIGENCE & LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
ROUTING SHEET

FILE
I.P.B.

Memorandum No. 3866

Date 12-23-46

Report by American Consulate, Merida, Yucatan,
Mexico re American motor vessel "ALBATROSS."

State Department
Originator of Material

Subject of basic material

December 17, 1946

Material dated

Classification

ROUTING ORDER

To	Initial	Out date	To	Initial	Out date
(1) Assistant Commandant	MDH	24/12	(6)		
(2) Chief, Office of Operations	ECR	12/26/46	(7)		
(3) Chief, Int. & Law Enf. Div.			(8)		
(4)			(9)		
(5)			(10)		

REMARKS:

- The attachment contains items of general interest to commissioned officers. Circulation to such officers within the various offices and divisions of HQ is left to the discretion of the addressees.
- ~~Attention is directed to the classified character of the attachment and the necessity for safeguarding its contents.~~
- No copying or dissemination of any of the information contained therein is authorized. If deemed necessary, dissemination shall be made by the Intelligence & Law Enforcement Division, after the latter has obtained authority therefor.
- To be of the greatest value to all concerned the attachment should move rapidly. Therefore, please do not hold it beyond the close of business of the day following that on which received.
- The ultimate return of the attachment to the Intelligence & Law Enforcement Division for safekeeping is requested. A copy of this Report has been forwarded to Chief, Merchant Marine Personnel Division for his retention.

S. Y. Hammond
S. Y. HAMMOND
Chief, Intelligence & Law
Enforcement Division

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was arrived at Contoy Island (Territory of Quintana Roo) about 9:00 a.m. on December 8, 1946. Crew worked on engine all that day

and

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNRESTRICTED

American Consulate,
Merida, Yucatan, Mexico,
December 17, 1946.

Subject: American motor vessel "ALBATROSS".

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to telegram no. 21 from this office dated December 14, 1946, concerning the American motor vessel "ALBATROSS".

The following members of the crew of the "ALBATROSS" arrived at the port of Progreso on December 14, 1946:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nationality</u>
Lewis Clanton	American
Freddie Gold	American
Elden Phillips	American
Juan Ramirez	Mexican
Encarnacion Lastra	Mexican

They were brought to Merida on December 14, 1946, and Consulate arranged for food and lodging. Mr. Lewis Clanton, the engineer aboard the "ALBATROSS", reports as follows:

"The 'ALBATROSS' sailed from Alvaro Obregon (State of Tabasco) on or about December 5, 1946, with a cargo of coconuts, bound for Miami, Florida. We encountered heavy seas after crossing the bar at Alvaro Obregon and the cargo of coconuts (148,000) shifted. Some time later, presumably when off the coast of Yucatan, an excessive quantity of fuel oil was found in the bilges and the master decided to take shelter at Contoy Island in order to repair fuel line. Engine trouble developed before arrival at Contoy Island. Three of fuel injectors failed to function and lines from fuel pump to injectors split under heavy pressure.

"We arrived at Contoy Island (Territory of Quintana Roo) about 9:00 a.m. on December 6, 1946. Crew worked on engine all that day

Coast Guard
Maritime
War

FE
CIG
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and

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Despatch no. 323, December 17, 1946, from Merida, Mexico.

and until late at night. An effort was made to obtain food from lighthouse keeper, since our supply got wet during storm off Alvaro Obregon, but without success.

"Early on December 9, 1946, vessel was dragging anchor. Another anchor had been rigged but before it could catch the vessel was blown ashore. Engine was useless. Master decided that five members of crew should abandon ship and try to reach Isla Mujeres. We set out in lifeboat and spent first night on beach. Wind shifted and we decided to sail towards Cabo Catoche. We reached Cabo Catoche during afternoon of December 10, 1946, where we were fed by lighthouse keeper. Lifeboat left at Cabo Catoche and we were taken to Holbox in a small sailboat. While at Holbox we were fed and given shelter by some person who was being financed by Angel Ordaz, a merchant.

"We left Holbox about 10:00 p.m. December 12, 1946, on motor schooner "LIBRADA" and reached Progreso about 3:00 a.m. on December 14, 1946.

"Owner and master of "ALBATROSS" is William Pond of 230 Salamanca Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida. Through radio operator at Holbox we learned that he had been taken off "ALBATROSS" by a United States Coast Guard boat on December 12, 1946. Radio operator at Holbox received this information from Isla Mujeres. Official number of "ALBATROSS" is 244,549."

Encarnacion Lastra of Mexican nationality was taken aboard at Alvaro Obregon and he is not a bona fide seaman. He was advanced 61.00 pesos on December 16, 1946, to cover passage to Alvaro Obregon via Campeche. Juan Ramirez, also of Mexican nationality and a former bracero, claims to have joined the "ALBATROSS" in Miami.

In a telegram dated December 15, 1946, Mrs. William Pond informed this office that her husband was en route to Miami aboard the Coast Guard vessel "MADRONA". It is presumed that Captain William Pond has the ship's papers. Lewis Clanton also reports that the "ALBATROSS" was leaking at time of his departure.

If airplane passages to Miami for four members of crew (now in Merida) are not authorized by Captain William Pond they will be repatriated on the Norwegian S.S. "BERTHA BROVIG" which should depart for New Orleans later in the week.

Respectfully yours,

Stephen

Despatch no. 323, December 17, 1946, from Merida, Mexico.

Stephen C. Worster
American Vice Consul

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S.C. Worster/jas
Hectograph to the Department.
Copy for the Embassy.
Copy for the Consular Section
of the Embassy.