

C.S. B753

L.O.F.
Colombo, Ceylon, November 4, 1943

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*too late -
Vessel left San Francisco
22 Nov. for Hawaii & on next voyage.*Misconduct of Seamen and/or Sailors of the
s.s. Christy Mathewson

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C. 25

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter addressed to this Consulate under date of September 7, 1943, by K. M. Mohamed Rasheed, and also a copy of a letter received by the Consulate on November 2, 1943, from Mr. F.I.M. Irwin, Port Security Officer, Colombo, regarding the loss of property to the value of Rs.40 (\$12) sustained by K. M. Mohamed Rasheed at the instance of certain members of the crew of the s.s. Christy Mathewson.

This Consulate hoped to be able to collect the damages directly from the Master of the vessel, but it has been ascertained that the s.s. Christy Mathewson will not return to Colombo.

On the basis of the enclosed letter from the Port Security Officer, substantiating the amount of the damages claimed by Rasheed, it is felt that an effort should be made to collect the amount of the damages claimed from the wages of the seamen responsible and forward them to this office for payment to Rasheed.

It will be appreciated that American seamen should not be encouraged to believe that they can irresponsibly cause injury to persons residing in foreign ports of call or damage to their property and evade the penalties therefor. Such an attitude on the part of American seamen is prejudicial to good order and discipline not only ashore but also aboard their vessels and casts a reflection upon the prestige of the United States Merchant Marine.

The Department will no doubt wish to convey the

foregoing

Feb 27

2 or 3/10

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foregoing information to the Coast Guard for investigation upon the arrival of this vessel at a United States port.

Respectfully yours,

Robert L. Buell
American Consul

Enclosures:

1. Copy of letter from K.M. Mohamed
Rasheed
2. Copy of letter from Mr. I.I.R.
Irwin

File no. 886.3

KU/ef

Enclosure no.1 to despatch no.229 dated November 4, 1943,
from Robert L. Buell, American Consul at Colombo, Ceylon,
on the subject: Misconduct of Seamen and/or Sailors of
the s.s. Christy Mathewson.

Colombo, 7.9.43

To the American Consul,
Colombo.

Honoured Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I am a passenger
boatman at Passenger Jetty. My boat no.J32, I beg to say Sir,
on the day of 5th inst., about 10 p.m. six sailors came from
shore to go to ship at the time I am on duty boat. Got into
my boat at Passenger Jetty and asked me to take to ship Christi
Mathewson. Same I was taken them to the ship. When my boat
side to the ship as sooner the sailors pushed me out to the sea
with my crew. Myself and my two crews are seamen on the sea
water at the night and the boat at the ship side as sooner I
swam and got into boat the boat and I found the damaged my boat
and lost lamp and the tools. As sooner I complained to Harbour
Police next morning the ship left harbour before police go to
the ship. Sir I am a poor familiated man. My crew also familiated
were lost. Our clothes also from the boat. Now we lost with
the boat repair total about Rs.40/-.

I therefore beg that your honour will be pleased to grant
me help for the damage and to get repair my boat.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I remain, Sir,

Your obediently,

Sgd: K.M.Mohamed Rasheed

Tondal of Passenger Boat no.J3:

Passenger Jetty, Colombo.

Enclosure no.2 to Despatch no.229 dated November 4,
1943, from Robert L. Buell, American Consul at Colombo
Ceylon, on the subject: Misconduct of Seamen and/or
Sailors of the s.s. Christy Mathewson.

My no.P.S.1675/43

Your no.845.3 RUC/af

The American Consul,
Colombo.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of 26th October, 1943, with
which you enclosed a letter dated 7th September, 1943, from
K.M.Mohamed Rasheed, regarding property losses which he claims
to have suffered at the hands of some American sailors, I have
made enquiries into this matter.

The articles lost on September 5th, 1943, are as follows:-

- (1) Two second hand oars valued Rs.15/-
- (2) One second hand lamp valued Rs.4/-
- (3) One post for the lamp valued Rs.4/-
- (4) Wooden gratings and floor boards Rs.19/-

The estimate of K.M.Mohamed Rasheed would appear to be fair
and reasonable.

Yours faithfully,

Sgd: P.I.L.Irwin

Port Security Officer

Colombo, 2nd November, 1943.