

No.: 161

O.F. *CB*

AMERICAN CONSULATE 1943 MAR 6 PM 2 45

Pará, Brazil, February 25, 1943

SUBJECT: Report on Survivors of M. V. "Dona Aurora".

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a short memorandum prepared by Vice Consul Willard R. RAY regarding four survivors of the M. V. "Dona Aurora", operated by the De La Rama Steamship Company, 17 Battery Place, New York City.

Respectfully yours,

Edward D. McLaughlin  
American Consul

886.7  
WRP/lm

Enclosure:  
As stated.

Original and hectograph  
copy to the Department.  
One copy to the Embassy  
at Rio de Janeiro.

*File noted*

MEMORANDUM

About 2:30 on February 4th four survivors of the L. V. "Dona Aurora" were delivered to this office by a member of the local police force. These men, after 30 days on a life raft, reached the mouth of the Pacatuba River to the west of Pará. They were first cared for by the Chief of Police of the town of Pacatuba which they reached after an all-day tramp through the jungle. Of the five men who originally started out on the raft, one was drowned in an attempt to reach shore after the raft had run aground on a sandbar some three miles off the mainland. They were transferred to the police station at Chaves and from thence to Belem where they were given medical attention, clothed, lodged in a hotel and subsequently repatriated. At no time was the Consulate advised of either the sinking or the survivors reaching shore; the first advice being when the men appeared at the Consulate.

The names of the four survivors are: Arthur DODRILL, Seaman 2nd class, Leo SCHOPPEAN, Coxswain, both of U. S. N. gun crew and Bernardo FALLICIDO and Cresencio SENDIN, both mechanics and both Philippine-Americans. Earl G. Ward, Seaman 2nd class, U. S. N., was drowned and to date the body has not been recovered.

One raft bearing at least seven other survivors of this ship arrived at some port to the east of Belem, probably Fortaleza. The men were repatriated directly from there. They passed through Belem in transit to Miami on about January 24. This Consulate was not notified and only learned this fact upon the receipt of a bill from the A. T. C. here in the amount of U. S. \$12.00 for one night's food and lodging.

At the time the four men mentioned above arrived in Belem, the U.S.S. "Humboldt" was in port. During a discussion of the torpedoing of the "Dona Aurora" with the Captain of the "Humboldt", he told me that about ten days or two weeks previously he had picked up two life rafts with survivors from the same ship. Their names and number are not known to this office.

The Department and the Embassy were advised by telegram on February 4.

Willard R. Ray  
American Vice Consul

Pará, Brazil.