

EXCERPT FROM OIC JICAME, MIDDLE EAST, BOARDING REPORT, SS HARRY LANE, 16 DEC. 43.

Upon arrival in Aden, Captain Carroll B. Byrne immediately sent out the ship's laundry without waiting to receive his sailing orders from the Naval Control Boarding Officer, which, if it had not been for the fact that the original orders were later changed, would have meant that the sailing of the ship would have been delayed thirty hours merely waiting for laundry.

From conversation with Lt.(jg) W. J. Oldfield, U.S.N.R., Commanding Officer of the Armed Guard unit on board this ship and others, it appears that conditions on board are unsatisfactory due to the variable personality and unusual attitude of Carroll B. Byrne, Master. It is suggested that a U. S. Coast Guard Examining Officer arrange to board this ship immediately upon arrival in an American port for the purpose of investigating the actions of the master with respect to the following:

1. Failure of Master to comply fully with Wartime Merchant Marine Shipping Instructions relative to blackout control, signal procedure, establishment of lookouts and compliance with convoy Commodore's orders when sailing in convoy.
2. Failure of Master to keep the Naval Officer, ship's officers and radio operator informed of the ship's position at sea.
3. Failure of Master to cooperate fully with Naval Officer with regard to emergency signals received and signals received while sailing in convoy, and refusal to allow the Naval Officer on the navigation bridge.
4. Trouble between the Master and the merchant crew in regard to payment for overtime work.

Details covering some of the violations of the Wartime Merchant Marine Shipping Instructions by the Master were included in the voyage report forwarded to the Department by Lt.(jg) W. J. Oldfield via the U. S. Naval Liaison Officer, Basra. In accordance with instructions received from the U. S. Naval Liaison Officer at Suez, Basra and Aden, Lt.(jg) Oldfield is currently preparing detailed information for submittal to the U. S. Coast Guard Boarding Officer upon arrival in the United States.

Dissemination: Coast Guard; COMINCH F-20.

Op-16-B-5
MFM/mg
10 Jan. 44.

File Basra
File SS Harry Lane (2)
File X Naval Lt. Officer (7)
min.

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