

CONFIDENTIAL

EXCERPT FROM 8ND BOARDING REPORT, SS JAMES RUMSEY (U.S.), 30 NOV. 1943.

CREW:

Theodore G. Jacobsen, Master of subject vessel, Z-107024, residence 7050 7th Ave., N. W., Seattle, Washington, was reported by Ensign C. M. Adams, USNR, Armed Guard Officer and P. L. Houser, radio operator, as having been intoxicated on several occasions while on duty, and as having been negligent in the handling of confidential papers:

20 Nov 43 the Master went to the Port Director's office, at Port of Spain, Trinidad, after considerable heavy drinking, to get his sailing orders.

22 Nov 43 the Captain was drunk at fire and boat drill.

Mr. Houser, radio operator, reported that on the evening of 20 Nov 43 the master took him with him to the Port Director's office. At that time it was not anticipated that subject vessel would sail for another two or three days, as it was waiting for a convoy. For this reason, the Armed Guard Officer did not accompany the master to the Port Director's office. After arriving at the office, the master, who had been drinking rather heavily aboard ship, prevailed on the Port Director's Office to allow him to proceed alone. He was, therefore, given the routing instructions and other confidential papers at that time in order that he might take his ship out the following morning. From the Port Director's office, the Captain and Radio Operator took a taxicab to a hotel bar, name unknown, where they went in for a drink with a representative of the ship's local agent, Furnace & Withy. When they went into the bar, this being at about 2100, the master handed the parcel of confidential papers which he had secured from the Port Director's office to the taxicab driver and asked him to take good care of them while he was inside. Approximately 15 minutes later the master left Mr. Houser and the agent at the bar and said that he would be back shortly. He left in the cab and returned two hours later and picked up Mr. Houser and the agent, and they went on to the ship. The master still had the above-mentioned papers with him at that time, but it was presumed by Mr. Houser that the master undoubtedly left the papers with the taxicab driver during a good portion of this two hours while he attended to whatever personal business he had. Mr. Houser told a very straightforward story, and according to him and also according to the Armed Guard Officer, he drinks very sparingly. His reliability appears to be very good. (DCGO-ND8 cognizant)

Dissemination: Coast Guard; COMINCH F-20; SC&RO, GSF-ND7; ND7; PD-ND8; B-7,ND8.

Op-16-B-5
MFM/mg
14 Dec. 43.

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