

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Post Office Box 147
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

MERCHANT VESSEL BOARDING REPORTConfidentialConfidentialDATE BOARDED: 2-15-45 BOARDED AT: Sav. Ga. DATE OF REPORT: 2-15-45.VESSEL: S.S. "JOHN H. McINTOSH" NO. IN CREW: 40CREW CHECK: NEGATIVE: the SUBJECT POSITIVE: (See Below) XXXXXOPERATIONS IN PORT: DischargingITINERARY: Arrived from India on 15 February, 1945.

SUBJECT: COLEMAN, Michael Yagle, Z-197622-D1,
Messman aboard S.S. "JOHN H. McINTOSH".

1. DCGIO, 6ND, Charleston, South Carolina, advised by letter dated 13 February, 1945 that information received from Hqtrs., reveals that SUBJECT was discharged from U.S. Army on 15 January, 1943 because of chronic alcoholism and drug addiction. Further information from another agency indicates the following:

"COLEMAN, Michael, Z-197622, Utilityman aboard the SS "HAMLIN F. McCORMICK", E-263695, age 26, height, 5'10", next of kin, Mother, Maude COLEMAN, 1202 Dauphin St., Mobile, Ala., reported by the master to be a mental case and suffering delusions of persecution. SUBJECT requested to be paid off during last voyage and is reported to have put lye in his shoes to burn his feet so he could be hospitalized. Instead, however, he suffered an attack of appendicitis when he reached port. Subject reported that he had lost his birth certificate, his identification papers, his service certificate, and his Coast Guard papers in a park in Port of Spain, Trinidad, last April, but that he reported the loss to the American Consul and the War Shipping Administration at Port of Spain."

DISSEMINATION: CIO (1)
DIO, 6ND (2)
DCGIO, 6ND (1)
File (1)

BOARDING OFFICER: J.P. Klein & J.R. ToddAPPROVED: HARVEY F. JOHNSON, JR.,

District CG Intelligence
Officer, 6th NavDist.

February, 1945.

2. The SUBJECT has been aboard the SS "JOHN H. McINTOSH" since 1 October, 1944 signing foreign articles as a messman in the Port of New Orleans. Captain Lee R. ARNOLD, master, stated that the SUBJECT was sober during the entire voyage and described his conduct as exemplary. Captain ARNOLD was entirely satisfied with SUBJECT'S work and would not have any objection to having him continue serving aboard the ship.

3. Jesse WILLIAMS, Jr., Z-113903, Steward, stated that he was very satisfied with the SUBJECT'S performance of work and conduct and would be willing to have him sail again on the ship. WILLIAMS stated that the SUBJECT, at times showed signs of being quick-tempered such as when dropping a cup one time he purposely dropped several other dishes he was holding in hand in order to vent his feelings, but otherwise he was reasonably pleasant in his relations with others of the crew. To Mr. WILLIAMS knowledge, the SUBJECT never took an alcoholic drink, acting sober at all times and never gave any indications of taking drugs.

4. Lieut.(jg) O.L. LEE, USNR, Naval Gunnery Officer, stated that his men had splendid relations with the merchant crew, the latter standing battle stations and assisting in cleaning the guns. In regard to the SUBJECT, informant advised that he seemed to be on pleasant terms with others, performed his work well, acted sober at all times, showed no evidence of taking drugs. The only unusual thing about the SUBJECT'S conduct was a tendency to try to avoid contact with other members of the crew and when not on duty he would invariably be in his bunk.

5. Robert RABB, Z-559939, and John TILIMAN, Z-470392, messmen sharing the same quarters with the SUBJECT advised that they found him to be a "good fellow" and could not offer any criticism regarding him. The SUBJECT did not drink any liquor during the entire trip and when the informants accompanied him ashore on a sightseeing trip at Calcutta he drank soft drinks only even though his companions were drinking beer and liquor. There was no evidence of the SUBJECT taking drugs.

6. The SUBJECT was questioned about his Army discharge, stating that he received a bad conduct discharge in January 1943 because of continuously being "over the hill". Upon direct questioning he admitted that he was also charged with being a chronic alcoholic and drug addict. The SUBJECT claimed that he had not smoked more than two marijuana cigarettes in his life, but when confronted with a charge of being a drug addict he readily admitted it so that he would get out of the Army. Interrogation brought out the fact that in January 1944 while aboard the SS "HENRY BALDWIN", the SUBJECT became involved in an argument with the chief cook, a colored man, about the latter bragging that he had sex relations with white Italian women. The cook allegedly chased the SUBJECT with a meat cleaver but somehow, (a point not clear in the SUBJECT'S explanation) the cook was later found unconscious on the floor with a wound on one side of head.

COLEMAN, Michael

15 February, 1945

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The master of the ship had the SUBJECT brought up before an Army Board charged with (1) assault and battery and bodily harm, and (2) drunk and disorderly. He was exonerated of the first charge and found guilty of the second, being fined \$100.00 and sentenced to two months in the Army prison. A statement dated 8 September, 1944, by the Merchant Marine Inspection at Mobile, Alabama, shows that the SUBJECT was given a hearing for failing to join the S.S. "BARREN HILL" and placed on nine months probation.

137. March, 1945 The SUBJECT states that since he became married last year and with the responsibility of caring for his mother he has stopped drinking entirely as evidenced by his reputation aboard the present ship. He claims that he has reformed his habits and is resolved to stay out of further trouble. This certificate was examined and cleared for security on the 14th day of March, 1945.

Encls:

(A) Form NCG 2515

(B) Form NAVCG 2765 For:

Light. HARVEY F. JOHNSON, JR.,
District CG Intelligence
Officer, 6th NavDist.

Retain this and present to Coast Guard Intelligence Officials upon return to United States with certification by Master of Vessel that no crew changes have been made since above dated clearance.

CC: File