

No. 257

I.O.F.

E.G.

1944 FEB 28 CONSULATE  
Suez, Egypt, February 8, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Present Incarceration at Port Sudan by the Local Civil Authorities of American Merchant Seaman Raymond P. MULCAHY, Boatswain of the s.s. Joseph McKenna.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose copies of certain documents furnished to this Consulate in connection with the arrest and sentencing to a two months' term of imprisonment at Port Sudan of American Merchant Seaman Raymond P. MULCAHY, Boatswain on board the s.s. Joseph McKenna. This material was furnished to this office by the Master of the vessel named, and includes a confidential report made up for official use only concerning the activities of the incarcerated seaman.

It is respectfully requested that the enclosures to this despatch be brought to the attention of the interested authorities and that enclosure no.1, the confidential report rendered by Captain Larride of the s.s. Joseph McKenna, be not employed in any fashion which would bring it to the knowledge of Mr. Mulcahy.

This Consulate possesses a copy of the account of Mr. Mulcahy with his vessel. It is understood, however, that the same record is being forwarded to the United States by the agents at Suez of the s.s. Joseph McKenna.

Respectfully yours,



Oscar C. Holder  
American Vice Consul

(For Enclosures, see next page)

File

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Enclosures:

- No.1 Confidential report from the Master, s.s. Joseph McKenna, dated January 31, 1944.
- No.2 Copy of certificate from District Commissioner, Port Sudan, dated January 26, 1944;  
Copy of certificate from Superintendent, S.G., dated January 26, 1944;  
Copy of letter from Mr. Mulcahy dated January 26, 1944.
- No.3 Copy of letter from Senior Medical Officer, Port Sudan Civil Hospital, dated January 27, 1944.
- No.4 Copy of letter from American Consulate, Suez, to American Legation, Cairo, dated February 3, 1944.
- No.5 Copy of certificate dated January 31, 1944, from the American Consulate, Suez, Egypt.

Original and Hectograph to the Department  
One copy to the American Legation, Cairo  
File no. 886.3  
OCH/ubr

A true copy of the signed original *fff*

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Subject: Raymond P. Mulcahy  
Occupation: Merchant Seaman  
Identification: Certificate of Identification Z 225376  
Height 6' 3"  
Weight 235 lbs  
Age 22  
Hair Brown  
Eyes Brown

Nationality: Native Born American  
Next of Kin: Father - Patrick Mulcahy - 6791 Delta Avenue -  
Long Beach California

Report: Concerning behavior - character - ability  
and reason for failing to join vessel on her  
departure from the Port of Sudan - Anglo-  
Egyptian Sudan - Africa.

BEHAVIOR:

The subject signed United States Shipping  
Articles with me in the City of New York on  
the 21st day of October, 1943 aboard the  
vessel S.S. Joseph McKenna as Bos'n for a  
period of twelve months. I have no knowledge  
as to his background and as it is known, it is  
impossible to obtain this information under any  
circumstances during these times.

At the outset of the voyage, the subject appeared  
to be cooperative and willing in his work.  
During the latter part of the month of October  
it was necessary that I have a substitute Third  
Officer in view of illness and nervousness of  
my second Officer. The then Third Officer was  
promoted to Second Officer and the Bos'n assumed  
the watches of the Third Officer until such time  
as I could replace him with a licensed officer.  
In his duties in this respect he was quite satis-  
factory, however, on certain occasions he had  
trouble with members of the Armed Guard (U.S. Navy)  
on the bridge. To avoid this difficulty, arrange-  
ments were then made with Armed Guard Commander  
Ensign Harold W. Halling Ensign U.S.N.R. to have  
this member of the Armed Guard removed to another  
battle station where he would have no contact with  
the subject. Little undercurrents still prevailed  
on the Bos'n watch. During the day-light hours,  
while he was performing his regular duties as Bos'n  
he appeared to have trouble with the crew. Nothing  
happened to my knowledge, that could be tied down to  
him and therefore my hands were tied. After his  
removal from the bridge by the hiring of a Norwegian  
subject in Port Tewfik, Egypt, the Bos'n complained.  
Again his actions were not open and above board.  
He again caused unrest with the crew. There were  
times, too many to mention, when he threatened  
various members of the crew. He, on many occasions  
reverted to vulgar language in his orders to them.  
He had the crew "Buffaloed" and he knew it. He is  
a large man, towering over the whole crew.

Just before our arrival at Port Sudan, a little trouble developed in the Engine Department which was caused by the replacement of the Chief Engineer in view of his illness and necessary hospitalization in Aden, Arabia. Due to promotions among the officer complement, it was necessary to promote one of the unlicensed members to the position of Third Assistant. One of the oilers named Millard Fizer wanted the job and thought that he had the same. After consultations with the officers of the engine department another oiler was promoted to fill the existing vacancy. This aggravated Fizer and he immediately proceeded to cause trouble among the crew. He insulted the New Chief by showing utter disrespect in front of the whole crew on deck. The Bos'n took his side and also insulted the Chief in the same manner. Upon reaching the Port of Sudan, this trouble was at its ebb. Fizer and the bos'n went ashore together. Their first difficulty was a public brawl wherein a messman of the S.S. Joseph Holt was hit for no apparent reason by the Bos'n. Then later, he the Bos'n, assaulted the Second Officer of the S.S. Samuel Gorton. For this he was prosecuted and sentenced as can be seen by the attached statement of the Commissioner of Sudan. Later, the same evening, Fizer became drunk and was taken to the local hospital by the Bos'n. The attached report from the Doctor in charge is self-explanatory.

CHARACTER:

In my estimation, this man has a weak character and a weak mind. He is overgrown for his age and his mental qualities have never followed the progress of his physique. He is, in his own mind, a big man. To use the old phrase "Bully". There is no doubt that he is a trouble maker promoting dissention among crew members and a menace to American Merchant Ships who have a much larger and important task before them than to educate and tolerate imbecils. He is a "smooth talker" and one must be warned in this respect.

ABILITY:

His ability is average. On numerous occasions I have seen him do things that are known to be incorrect to the Ordinary Seaman. He is not qualified, in my opinion, for the duties required of a Bos'n.

CONCLUSIONS:

Since his removal. This ship has had no dissention among the crew. There are no arguments about work and it appears like a new business after a reorganization. His removal has been a benefit to the ship.

(Signed) PAUL H. McBRIDE

Paul H. McBride  
Master, S.S. Joseph McKenna

On Board  
Lat X Long X  
January 31, 1944

A true copy of the  
signed original, 111

enclosure No.2 to Despatch No.257 dated February 8, 1944,  
from the American Consulate, Suez, Egypt.

COPY

This is to declare that

Raymond Patrick Mulcahy

of ss "Joseph Mc.Kenna" was to-day found guilty of causing hurt  
without provocation, and summarily convicted under Section 277  
of the Sudan Penal Code and sentenced to 2 months imprisonment  
in the Second Division; and he is now being held for the alleged  
offence of Criminal intimidation, triable under Section 441 of  
the Sudan Penal Code.

(Signature illegible)

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER,  
PORT SUDAN.

26.1.1944. (Rubber stamp: COMMISSION-- Port Sudan  
1 26 1944 No. \_\_\_\_\_)

A true copy  
of the signed  
original *TR*

COPY

S.G.

(Illegible)

26.1.44

Certified that Raymond Patrick Mulcahy was  
handed over to my custody on the 26-1-44.

(Signature illegible)

Supt.

A true copy of the  
signed original *TR*

COPY

GRACE LINE 26 January 1944 Agency \_\_\_\_\_

From: Raymond P. Mulcahy  
To: Any United States Counsel or Shipping Commissioner.

Subject: Sign off from articles from Vessel SS Joseph McKenna

1. This is to certify, that I, Raymond P. Mulcahy appearing on shipping articles dated October 18, 1943 signed in the City of New York with Master Paul H. McBride, am voluntarily signing off said articles due to necessity occasioned by particular circumstances which make it impossible for me to join the vessel at this port.
2. Arrangements have been made by the Master for my maintenance and shipment to the United States or to the nearest American Consulate. My wages will be settled in full in the United States upon my return there.
3. Kindly acknowledge my signature on said articles.

(Signed) RAYMOND P. MULCAHY  
Raymond P. Mulcahy

Witnessed:

(Signature illegible)

A true copy  
of the signed  
original *TR*

Enclosure No. 3 to Despatch No. 257 dated February 8, 1944  
from the American Consulate, Suez, Egypt.

COPY

(Rubber Stamp: "Civil Hospital  
Port Sudan  
27.1.1944  
P.S.C.H./\_\_\_\_\_")

TO the Master  
J.C. Joseph McKenna

Dear Sir,

I beg to report the following against sailor Raymond Mulcahy.

On the night of 24/1/44 at 11 pm. this sailor entered the Civil Hospital at Port Sudan with three other American sailors.

I was, as the Medical Officer on duty, called to see them but immediately I entered the hospital compound I found all the Staff on night duty running and being chased by this sailor Raymond who was carrying a knife and threatening their lives. When I saw that I returned took a car and reported matter to police as it was impossible to speak on the phone posted within the hospital.

Three policemen arrived but unfortunately they could not quieten him. When I heard him shouting for the Doctor to see a friend of his lying inside a Taxi car I came near and introduced myself. He asked me in a very rude way to see the sick man inside the car but I suggested to him to take the man inside and see him under light but he stubbornly refused that, and threatened to cut my head off with the knife he was carrying in his hand. He then caught me from the lip of my overcoat drew his knife out and pushed me ahead towards the car with the knife on my back piercing my skin. I was forced to follow and obey his orders and felt the pulse of the sick man inside the car.

After that he accepted to have the man carried on a stretcher and taken inside to the emergency room. The staff then carried the patient and he walked behind them with his knife drawn out. On reaching the entrance gate I found a good opportunity to escape. But as soon as he saw me again he ran after me fiercely with his knife out. Anyhow I could hide myself somewhere and went immediately to the Police Station to call for more police forces. After a while 16 policemen arrived and caught him with his other two friends.

In conclusion my life was threatened twice by sailor Raymond and I could say I had a very narrow escape on either occasion. Also the life of the other staff was threatened.

Raymond though drunk but was not completely under the influence of alcohol, he did not lose command of his senses.

27.1.1944

(Signed) L.H. Sherif  
Senior Medical Officer

(Rubber Stamp: Civil Hospital. Port Sudan Civil Hospital.  
Port Sudan 27.1.1944 P.S.C.H./\_\_\_\_\_)

a true copy of the signed original

Enclosure No.4 to Despatch No.257 dated February 8, 1944  
from the American Consulate, Suez, Egypt.

COPY

F86.3-OCH/jc

Port Tewfik (Suez), Egypt, February 3, 1944.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that American Merchant Seaman Raymond P. Mulcahy, Boatswain on the American s.s. Joseph McKenna, operated by the Grace Line, Incorporated, is at the present moment serving a jail sentence at Port Sudan, having been sentenced to two months imprisonment for causing hurt without provocation and also for the offence of criminal intimidation. The sentences, it is understood, are to run concurrently.

There are enclosed certain documents pertaining to Mr. Mulcahy's present situation.

A confidential report on the behavior of Mr. Mulcahy is in the process of preparation here on the basis of certain records and statements available to this office.

Should the Legation desire this Consulate to report Mr. Mulcahy's incarceration to the Department of State, instruction to that effect will be immediately carried out. However, the confidential despatch presently to be forwarded concerning this seaman might be considered adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully yours,

Oscar C. Holder  
American Vice Consul

Enclosure as above stated

The Honorable  
Alexander Kirk,  
American Minister,  
Cairo.

A true copy of the  
signed original.

(Note - For enclosure referred to above,  
see Enclosure No.2 (sections I  
and III) and Enclosure No.5 to  
this despatch)

enclosure No.5 to Despatch No. 257 dated February 8, 1944  
from the American Consulate, Suez, Egypt.

COPY

AMERICAN CONSULATE

SUEZ, EGYPT, JANUARY 31, 1944.

I certify that it has been reported to me this 31st  
day of January, 1944 by Captain Paul H. McBride, Master  
of the American s.s. JOSEPH MCKENNA that Raymond P. Mulcahy,  
Bos'n on board his vessel, was, on January 26, 1944, arrested  
and placed in custody by the Sudanese authorities.

(Signed) OSCAR C. HOLDER

Oscar C. Holder  
American Vice Consul

(Seal of the American Consulate,  
Suez, Egypt.)

A true copy of the  
signed original