

Colombo, Ceylon, September 1, 1943

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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*CWA*

Breach of Photographic Regulations in force in Colombo Harbor by the Master of the s.s. Knute Nelson.

*(Handwritten mark)*

*copying my file  
Ceylon file*

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington, 25, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority EO 12958  
By MLL NARA Date 5/2/99

I have the honor to enclose, for the information of the United States War Shipping Administration, and for such action as may be deemed appropriate, a copy of a self-explanatory letter which has been addressed to this Consulate by the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Harbor Police, Colombo, in regard to a breach of photographic regulations in force in Colombo Harbor by the Master of the s.s. Knute Nelson, a vessel belonging to the War Shipping Administration, of which the South Atlantic Steamship Lines, 17 Battery Place, New York City, are the operators. Since the incident has been reported to the Consulate subsequent to the departure of this vessel for the United States, an investigation of the alleged breach in the existing regulations has not been possible.

Respectfully yours,

Robert L. Buell  
American Consul

Enclosure:  
Copy of letter dated  
September 1, 1943.

File no. 685  
RLB/ef

Distribution:  
Copy to Legal Representative, War Shipping Administration, Bombay.  
Copy to Representative, War Shipping Administration, Colombo.

*File Buell*

The American Consul,  
Colombo.

Breach of photographic regulations in Harbour  
by Captain of s.s. 'Knute Nelson' on 28th  
August 1945.

On 28th August 1945 at about 1.15 p.m. the Harbour constable on board ss 'Fernifield M Simmons' saw a rowing boat some distance from the ship, in which there were three American seamen taking photographs of shipping in the Harbour. It was later found that these men were from the ss 'Knute Nelson'.

As you are aware the possession of a camera without a special permit within the Port Area of Colombo is strictly prohibited. On entry into territorial waters Masters of ships should place all cameras in possession on board the vessel under seal until such time as the vessel leaves such waters.

A memorandum to this effect is handed to the Master by the Pilot when the latter boards the ship.

On entry into Harbour the Master is also handed a declaration form by the Passport Officer, which has to be signed. Item 12 on this declaration asks whether cameras are under seal.

The camera referred to above was owned by W.S. Yocman, Ordinary Seaman, of ss 'Knute Nelson' who admitted taking photographs within the Harbour Area without a permit, but pleaded ignorance of the local regulations with regard to photography.

The Captain on being questioned why this camera was not under seal stated that he was never informed of the regulations relating to cameras when he entered Port on 22nd August 1945.

The declaration form for this ship however shows that the Captain has stated that the two cameras on board the ship were under seal. This declaration is signed by Captain J. Jensen.

It would appear that Captain Jensen signed the above mentioned declaration without reading it and thereby made a false declaration, resulting in a serious breach of the Defence Regulations relating to the Port of Colombo.

I shall be glad if this error might be brought to the notice of Captain Jensen by the proper authority, as this ship sailed before proceedings could be taken against him.

The declaration referred to above is with me should you desire reference.

I attach herewith a copy of the form handed to Captains of all vessels on entry into Harbour by the Pilot.

(Sgd): .....

Assistant Superintendent of Police, Harbour.  
Colombo, 1st September, 1945.