

UNITED STATES  
WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION

BOMBAY MUTUAL BUILDING,  
SIR PHIROZSHAH MENTA ROAD,  
BOMBAY, INDIA.

TELEPHONE 26078

28 March, 1944

Lt. Comdr W. Ney Evans,  
Chairman, Crew Disciplinary Committee,  
War Shipping Administration  
WASHINGTON

Dear Sir:

S.S. MEYER LISSNER

For your information there are enclosed the following documents relating to a Summary Court Martial of two seamen of the s.s. Meyer Lissner

1. Report of Regional Representative, Recruitment and Manning Organization, Mr. C.B.G. Murphy to Calcutta office.
2. Charge Sheet dealing with the Court Martial.

Very truly yours,

*Burton H. White*  
Burton H. White,  
Legal Representative.

Enc:

APR 13 1944



NAVY DEPT. 1944 IDENTIFICATION

DECLASSIFIED
Authority <u>NN 3-26-83-11</u>
By <u>DHS</u> NARA. Date <u>6/27/17</u>

*mal*

Data as to restrain of accused: No restraint. (Give date, place, and initial date of any restraint of accused)



March 23, 1944.

TO: Calcutta Office.

Attention Mr. K.S.O'Keefe.

Dear Sirs,

On March 17th 1944 the U.S. Army held a Trial by Summary Court of two merchant seamen of the crew of the s.s. Meyer Lissner for violation of the 96th Article of War on the following charges:-

"In that Sidney (msd) Lederman, Steward, United States Merchant Marine Service, did, at Calcutta, India, on or about 11 March 1944 receive, have and conceal one (1) Waterman Fountain Pen and two (2) Rowson Lighters, a total value of approximately \$9.30 of the goods and chattels of the United States Government, then lately before feloniously stolen, taken and carried away from the cargo hatch of the s.s. Meyer Lissner, he the said Sidney (msd) Lederman well knowing the said goods and chattels to have been so feloniously stolen, taken and carried away."

"In that Emory L. McElroy, Chief Cook, United States Merchant Marine Service, did, at Calcutta, India, on or about 11 March 1944 receive, have and conceal one (1) Waterman Fountain Pen and four (4) Rowson Lighters, a total value of approximately \$ 14.60 of the goods and chattels of the United States Government, then lately before feloniously stolen, taken and carried away from the cargo hatch of the s.s. Meyer Lissner, he, the said Emory L. McElroy then well knowing the said goods and chattels to have been so feloniously stolen, taken and carried away."

Both men pleaded guilty and were each fined the sum of \$100 or in lieu thereof to be confined to hard labor at such place as the Reviewing Officer might direct for 30 days. The fine was paid. This court martial together with the verdict and sentence was approved by Brigadier General G.L.Chever, Commanding Base Section # 2, U.S.A.F., S.O.S., CBI.

After a preliminary investigation by the C.I.D., U.S. Army, it was decided to visit the ship in force. Accordingly I boarded the vessel about 5.30 p.m. Sunday March 19th in company with Major Wadsworth, Base Provost Marshal, Major Fardon, Officer-in-Charge, C.I.D., U.S. Army, Calcutta, other officers of their staffs and some 40 Military Police. This action was taken after your approval and in answer to a request from this Administration that the Army take firm investigative action.

Data as to restrain of accused: **No restraint.**  
(Give date, place, and initial date of any restraint of accused)

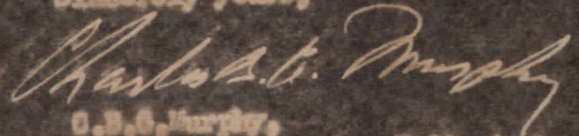


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On reaching the vessel I obtained concurrence of the Master, Captain MacDonough, who ordered all shore leave stopped and all hands, except the engine room watch, to report on the Flying Bridge. McElroy and Lederman were the only two men of the merchant crew who were found implicated in the theft of a considerable quantity of Ronson Lighters, Parker fountain pens and beer.

The Unlocked deck houses of the vessel were found full of empty beer bottles, unopened cases of beer, lighters and pens together with some boxes of drugs - all apparently from the cargo of the vessel. In Tween decks there were empty beer bottles all round the bulkheads. I found one box of empty beer bottles in the L of the alleyway behind the linen locker on the starboard side second deck.

Sincerely yours,



C. S. Murphy,  
Regional Representative, India Area,  
Recruitment and Manning Organization,  
War Shipping Administration.

CBGM:bro.

Data as to restraint of accused: **No restraint.**  
(Give date, place, and initial date of any restraint of accused)



(WRITE NOTHING ABOVE THIS LINE)

## CHARGE SHEET

Name, etc., of accused Calcutta, India 17 March 1944  
 (McIlroy, Emory L., Chief Cook, Z-391985, number, grade, company)

United States Merchant Marine Service, (Give names, etc., to follow in same manner).

Age 43 Pay, \$ 275.00 per month. Allotments to dependents, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month.  
 (Base pay, plus pay for length of service).

Government Insurance deduction, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month.

Data as to service: Entered United States Shipping Articles  
 (Give date, place, and initial date of service and organization in which serving at  
4 January 1944 termination, give the initial date and the term thereof. Give similar data as to service not under  
 an enlistment).

Data as to witness, etc.:  
 (Give names, addresses and note if for accused. Last documentary evidence and note where each item thereof may be found)

Against the Accused:

<u>Major William S. Ferdon, S.C.</u>	<u>C.I.D. Calcutta, India</u>
<u>Captain Robert S. Fuchs, Inf.,</u>	<u>C.I.D. Calcutta, India</u>
<u>S/Sgt. William F. Keith.</u>	<u>C.I.D. Calcutta, India</u>
<u>M/Sgt. Harold Downes.</u>	<u>C.I.D. Calcutta, India</u>
<u>1st Lt. W.B. O'Hanley, NMB.</u>	<u>Hq. Base Sec 2, Calcutta, India</u> <u>(value of goods)</u>

For the Accused:

None as known

Data as to restrain of accused: No restraint.  
 (Give date, place, and initial date of any restraint of accused)







I have served a copy hereof on (each of) the above named accused, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_, Trial Judge Advocate.

(Grade and organization)

(SPACE FOR USE WHERE TRIAL IS BY SUMMARY COURT)

CASE No. **10**

SPECIFICATIONS AND CHARGES	PLEAS	FINDINGS	SENTENCE OR ACQUITTAL AND REMARKS
<p><b>Spec. 1: Charge I</b> <b>Charge I</b></p>	<p><b>Guilty</b></p>	<p><b>Guilty</b></p>	<p>No previous convictions considered. Sentence - Accused is fined the sum of \$100.00, or in the alternative sentenced to confinement at hard labor at such place as the reviewing authority may direct for 30 days.</p>
			<p><b>Fine Paid.</b></p>

Place **Calcutta, India**, Date **17 March, 1944**

*Gilbert E. Johnston*  
**GILBERT E. JOHNSTON, Major, TC, Hq. Base Section #2** Summary Court.

Headquarters **Base Section 2, SOS, Calcutta, India, 17 March 1944.**

**Approved and ordered executed.**  
(Action of reviewing authority)

*Earl B. Swarner*  
**EARL B. SWARNER,** Commanding.  
Major, J.A.G.D.  
Staff Judge Advocate.  
Entered on service record in cases of conviction

s/- *G. X. Cheves*  
(Signature, grade and organization)  
**G. X. CHEVES,**  
Brig. Gen. U.S. Army.  
(Initials of personal adjutant)



CHARGE: Violation of the 96th Article of War

Specification:

In that Emory L. McElroy, Chief Cook, United States Merchant Marine Service, did, at Calcutta, India, on or about 11 March 1944 receive, have and conceal one (1) Waterman Fountain Pen and four (4) Ronson Lighters, a total value of approximately \$14.60 of the goods and chattels of the United States Government, then lately before feloniously stolen, taken and carried away from the cargo hatch of the SS ~~REVE~~ Lissner, he, the said Emory L. McElroy then well knowing the said goods and chattels to have been so feloniously stolen, taken and carried away.

(Additional sheets, if necessary, for charges and specifications will be attached here. Ordinary 8 by 12 1/2 inch paper will be used for additional sheets.)

(2)

(WRITE NOTHING BELOW THIS LINE)