

No. 157

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE AMERICAN CONSUL  
Colombo, Ceylon

Colombo, Ceylon, August 26, 1943.

Subject: Misconduct of Three Seamen of the S.S. Moses Rogers personally  
and jointly *file*

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose for such action as may be deemed appropriate an affidavit by Gordon H. Spencer, Master of the S.S. Moses Rogers, regarding the misconduct of three members of his crew.

Respectfully yours,

(s) Robert L. Buell

Robert L. Buell  
American Consul

Enclosure:

Affidavit by Gordon H. Spencer,  
Master of the S.S. Moses Rogers

File no. 986.3  
REU/nbp

Hectograph to Department

CONFIDENTIAL

To safeguard the security of the information contained herein, please initial and return to Intelligence for filing when it has served its purpose.

Before me, Robert L. Buell, Consul of the United States of America, in and for the district of Colombo, Ceylon, duly commissioned and qualified, personally appeared G. H. Spencer, Master of the S.S. Moses Rogers, who being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

1. I am the Master of the S.S. Moses Rogers;
2. On August 17, 1943 I granted shore leave to the crew on the understanding that the members of each watch in the Deck Department would return to the vessel and stand their respective watches as fire guards because of having had a fire in No. 5 hold which, though extinguished, was liable to flare up again at any time due to the nature of the cargo involved (jute);
3. I granted this liberty due to the fact that all hands were not needed as fireguards were provided by the Colombo Fire Department and that three men on watch and civilian fireguards, together with a mate on watch would be sufficient to cope with any emergency that might arise;
4. Amongst those granted shore leave on August 17 were: Gene Kestemont, A.B., C.R. Hathaway, A.B., and T.H. McLaurin, A.B.;
5. That Gene Kestemont who had the 12 midnight to 4 a.m. watch, C. R. Hathaway who had the 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. watch and T.H. McLaurin who also had the 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. watch, failed to appear in time to stand their respective watches on the morning of Wednesday August 18;
6. Hathaway and McLaurin came on board the ship some time after the watches were over on the morning of August 18 and stated that they could have come on board on time but that they had gotten drunk and failed to do so;
7. That Gene Kestemont did not appear until the morning of Thursday August 19, at which time he stated that he had been in a fight on the night of August 17-18 and had been hit on the head with a chair and had been out of his mind ever since;
8. As a disciplinary measure I picked up their passes and refused them further liberty;

And further deponent saith not.

(s) G. H. Spencer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this twenty-fifth day of August, 1943.

(s) Robert L. Buell  
Consul of the United States of America