

FOLDER # 28

M/S "PRINCESA"

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 889078

SOUND

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Authority NND 889078

REPORT OF CLAIMS OFFICER, CLAIMS SERVICE, PHILRYCOM, APO 707

Forwarded to Commission No. _____ Date 11 March 1948
Claimant Felix T. Poblete Type Wage Claim
Address Opon, Cebu Amt. claimed ₱300.00
Date filed 10 March 1948

Date and Place of Incident 1 to 10 April 1942
Cebu

Nature of Damage Unpaid Wages

Statement of facts and opinion (attach additional sheets if necessary):
(LIST OF EXHIBITS ON SEPARATE SHEET)

FACTS:

From December 1941 up to the early hours of 10 April 1942, claimant worked as 1st Engineer of motor ship "Princesa", an interisland vessel owned and operated by the Insular Navigator Co., Cebu City, and which was taken by the United States Army Transport Service by virtue of a contract of charter. This vessel was scuttled by order of the military authorities on 10 April 1942 at Cebu, Cebu, to prevent its capture by the enemy. Claimant seeks to recover the amount of ₱300.00 representing his unpaid wages from 1 to 10 April 1942 at the rate of ₱900.00 per month.

FINDINGS:

Exhs "B" and "C" support the employment of the claimant as 1st Engineer of M/S "Princesa".

Exh "D" shows that the M/S "Princesa" was scuttled at 6:00 AM on 10 April 1942 at Cebu, Cebu and that the crew thereof were paid up to include 31 March 1942. This exhibit further shows that the rate of pay of the captain of the ship was ₱1,100 per month.

A copy of the contract of charter executed between the military authorities and the owner of the M/S "Princesa" shows the following:

"That the Charterer, at its election, may engage the present complement of said M/S "Princesa" and compensation paid to said complement as per

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REPORT OF CLAIMS OFFICER, CLAIMS SERVICE, PHILRYCOM, APO 707

Forwarded to Commission No. _____ Date _____
Claimant _____ Type _____
Address _____ Asst. claimed _____
Date filed _____

Date and Place of Incident _____

Nature of Damage _____

Statement of facts and opinion (attach additional sheets if necessary):
(LIST OF EXHIBITS ON SEPARATE SHEET)

schedule of the Army Transport Service for
this class of vessel."

This contract of charter is available in file
CC-5-X-4851 in the claim of Insular Navigator Co.
over the M/S "Princesa".

Rate of pay claimed in this case is fair and rea-
sonable because claimant is entitled to double rate of
pay plus bonus and other emoluments as per statements
of Col. Roger and Capt. Jurica, available in the files
of Team #7. He was the 1st Engineer of M/S "Princesa"
and the rate of pay should be as that of the master of
the ship. It is believed claimant is entitled to pay-
ment at the rate of P900.00 per month from 1 to 9 April
1942 because the ship was scuttled very early in the
morning of 10 April 1942.

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Recommendation: It is recommended that this claim be paid the amount
of P270.00 in its full settlement.

I (do) (not) concur.

FITZGERALD N. SALTER
Asst Director, Team No. 7

Albino Z. D'Inglis
ALBINO Z. DINGLAS
Investigating Officer
Claims Investigator

Action of Commission: APPROVED _____ DISAPPROVED _____
Amount _____ Date _____

Date _____ Commission No. _____

DISTRIBUTION:

Original attach to file; cc attach to file to be forwarded to CS by Commission;
cc forward to DES; cc to Branch Office.

A F F I D A V I T

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, on this day personally appeared RAFAEL FERRER who, after being duly sworn, upon oath states:

That I am a Filipino citizen, 54 years of age, married, and a resident of the City of Cebu, Philippines.

That I am a holder of a Masters Navigator, any ocean, any size vessel, license and I have held this license since 1922. That for three years prior to January 1, 1942 I was employed by the Insular Navigator Co., Inc.

That around January 1, 1942 I left the employment of the Insular Navigator Co., Inc. and became First Chief Officer of the Motorship "Dumaguete", and I remained in this position until March 1, 1942, at which time I returned to the employment of the Insular Navigator Co., Inc. as a Captain of the Motorship "Princesa" which ship was then under CHARTER to the government of the United States and in the services of the ARMY TRANSPORT SERVICES. For my services as Captain of the Princesa I was paid a monthly salary of \$550.00 by the USAFFE. I received all my instructions from Major C. Z. BYRD, QMC, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF ARMY TRANSPORT SERVICE of Cebu.

That from March 1, 1942 until April 10, 1942 Motorship Princesa was used in the services of USAFFE in transporting supplies and troops between the various islands of the Philippines. There was on board a total crew of thirty three men, six USAFFE soldiers and one USAFFE Officer.

That on April 9, 1942 the Princesa was in the harbor of Cebu, Cebu, P.I. and I received instructions to bring her alongside of Pier No. 1 which I did. We were loaded with miscellaneous cargoes.

That at about ten AM on this date a Major (name unknown) of the USAFFE boarded ship and told me to stand by as we might receive sailing orders at any moment but it might be necessary to destroy the ship. He then placed explosives in the hold of the ship. On April 10, 1942 at 6 AM he told me to abandon the ship as it would be necessary to blow up the ship. We abandoned ship and then I saw the Princesa blown up and she sunk at the Pier No. 1, in Cebu.

That I was paid by the USAFFE for my services up to April 1, 1942 and I have not been paid for my services from April 1, to April 10, 1942.

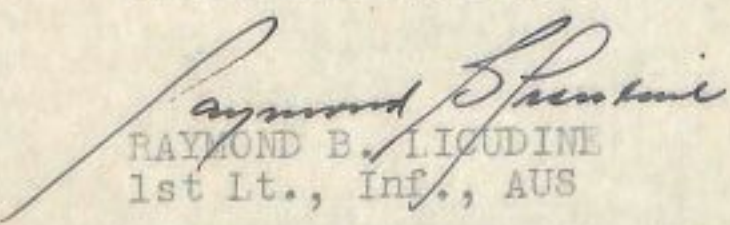
That I have made the above statements and they are true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/t/ RAFAEL FERRER

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 11th day of June 1945, at Cebu City, Cebu.

/s/t/ EMMETT L. WHITSETT, JR.
1st Lt., J A G D
Investigating Officer
Claims Service, USAFFE

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


RAYMOND B. LICUDINE
1st Lt., Inf., AUS

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