

BOBAT & ASSOCIATES**REGISTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS****CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (S.A.)****Y. BOBAT : B.compl.(Hons), C.A.(S.A.) H Dip Tax Law (Wits)****S. A. BOBAT : B.compl.(Hons), C.A.(S.A.) H Dip Tax Law (Wits)****5 REIGATE STREET****BRIXTON 2092****P.O. BOX 651****CROWN MINES 2025****TELEPHONE : (011) 837-0928****FACSIMILE : (011) 837-1679****CELLULAR : 082- 554- 6864**

24th September 2001

Haroon Tar Mahomed

Fax 012 327 6621

As Salaamo Alaikum

Dear Haroon

I refer to our telcon of today's date. I am pleased that you have taken the time and trouble to highlight the plight of the passengers of the SS Tilawa.

My late father Ahmcd Essop Bobat was a passenger on that ill fated ship. He urged me to write his story to the readers digest, but I never got down to it. I will detail below what he told me.

My father was about 25 years old when he was travelling from India to South Africa. He remembered that a Japanese submarine wanted to search the ship but the captain would not allow it. After firing one warning a second shot was fired which hit the ship. Thereafter, it was chaos. My father could not swim but nevertheless jumped into the sea. He told me that he went down twice, and struggled up the third time managing to get hold of a lifeguards belt. The guard tried to push him away. My father said if you don't help me I will pull you with me. Thereafter he was helped onto a huge piece of timber probably a part of the ship. There were about fourteen people on the timber. They were adrift from I think Monday until they were picked up by a British ship on Wednesday evening. He told me that the waves came in as high as three to four storey buildings, huge sharks circled the raft and their toes were nibbled at by fish. He did not know whose prayers were answered but they were ever thankful to God for saving them. The saddest moment for my father was when an old man who was on the raft with them died on deck out of sheer joy at being rescued.

Thereafter, my father remained in Bombay for a few years. In the meanwhile he had applied to the Indian Government for compensation for loss of personal effects etc.

I am faxing you the reply to his letter but detail the contents should the fax not come out clear.

Salaams


Yoosuf Bobat

No.0.1225-MI/43
Government of India

Department of Commerce.

New Delhi, 7th September 1943.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

With reference to his memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy dated the 19th July 1943, Mr Ahmad Esoof Bobat is informed that the Government of India regret that they are unable to pay him any compensation for loss of his personal effects, etc., as a result of the sinking of the S.S. "Tilawa" through enemy action.

Signed

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

To Mr Ahmad Esoof Bobat,
C/o Messrs. M.E. Bhaiyat and Sons (India) Ltd.,
Bombay.

No. C. 1225-MI/13.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.New Delhi, 7th September 1943.

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A. Chandra
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

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C/o Messrs. M.E. Bhaiyat and Sons (India) Ltd.,
Bombay.