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607696/4

AM.

 **KIRKCALDY BURGH POLICE.**

30th October, 1931.

From P.S. Smith.

To the Chief Constable.

MOHAMED ZAMAN,
c/o. Mrs. J. Peters,
31, Duncan Street,
Kirkcaldy.

COLOURED SEAMAN.

With reference to communication of 27th October, 1931, (Ref. 607,696/4) from the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, regarding marginally noted, the certificate of nationality and identity enclosed with said communication has been completed where necessary and handed over to Zaman and his receipt therefor obtained on the back of application form.

He is not registered in accordance with the provisions of the Special Restriction (Coloured Seamen) Order, 1925.

The circumstances of his arrival in this country are as follows -

Zaman joined the crew of the "S.S. City of Lahore" as a coal trimmer, at Bombay, and admits he deserted the ship at Glasgow, during June, 1929, and that he had been in possession of a Seaman's Certificate issued by the Board of trade, but had left it behind him when he deserted ship.

He admitted his purpose for joining above ship at Bombay was to gain immediate admittance to this country and thereafter act as a pedlar for a livelihood, also that he had had instructions, by letter to his home in India, on how to act in respect of entering the country without a passport or other certificate of identity, through a Mohammedan Lodginghouse keeper - Dwan Ali, then carrying on business at Gilburn House, Shotts, Lanarkshire.

Dwan /

Dwan Ali's address is now said to be Pinda, Post Office - Mirpur, Punjab, India.

Zaman states he paid Dwan Ali the sum of about 44 rupees (£3) to receive him into his (Ali's) home. Zaman immediately commenced work as a labourer in an iron works at Shotts, and remained there for about seven months.

Since leaving Shotts he has resided with compatriots at Rosyth, Dunfermline, and elsewhere, but, during the past year, has resided at 31 Duncan Street, Kirkcaldy. Since leaving Shotts, and particularly during the period of his stay in Kirkcaldy, he has been maintained by his cousin, a Mohammedan pedlar named Bagah Ali, who has no fixed residence but moves about between Glasgow and Falkirk. Zaman receives from Bagah Ali from 15/- to 20/- per week to provide himself with board and lodging.

It is Zaman's desire to remain in this country to earn a livelihood by acting as a pedlar.

SW.
C. C.

These documents illustrate one of the impacts of the '1925 Coloured Seamen's Order'. Issued after WW1, the aim of the order was to encourage sailors who had played a vital role in Britain's defence to return home rather than stay in Britain. Despite the men originating from British colonies, the Order referred to them as 'aliens'. The sailors worked on 'Lascar articles', a form of contract that kept them on lower wages and with less beneficial terms and conditions compared to British and European seafarers. This treatment led to some sailors jumping ship at British ports, and seeking better work and pay conditions using their networks of established contacts.