

In the Matter of Merchant Mariner's Document No. Z-367220 and all
other Seaman Documents
Issued to: Joseph Brown

DECISION OF THE COMMANDANT
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

1317

Joseph Brown

This appeal has been taken in accordance with Title 46 United States Code 239b and Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations 137.11-1.

By order dated 22 November 1961, an Examiner of the United States Coast Guard at Philadelphia revoked Appellant's seaman documents upon finding him guilty of the charge of "conviction for a narcotic drug law violation." The specification found proved alleges that, on 23 September 1957, Appellant was convicted by the United States District Court, Brunswick Division, Savannah, Georgia, a court of record, for violation of 18 U.S. Code 1407, a narcotic drug law of the United States (failure to register a prior narcotic conviction upon entering or leaving the United States).

At the hearing, Appellant voluntarily elected to act as his own counsel. Appellant entered a plea of guilty to the charge and specification. No evidence was introduced.

On appeal, Appellant contends that he did not know about the law (of 18 July 1956) which required him to register his conviction in 1950 for smoking marijuana. Appellant also has submitted three letters of recommendation and requests that the examiner's order be revoked.

OPINION

The order of revocation is based solely on the fact of Appellant's conviction for failure to register the 1950 offense. Revocation is the only order permitted after proof of the conviction alleged in the specification.

Although not material to this decision, it is noted that ignorance of the law requiring registration is not a good defense. Reyes V. United States (C.A. Calif., 1958), 258 F. 2d 774.

ORDER

The order of the Examiner dated at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,

22 November 1961, is AFFIRMED.

A. C. Richmond
Admiral, United States Coast Guard
Commandant

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 23rd day of May 1962.