

CG-6614 (INT)

27 August, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMODORE KEESTER

Subj: M.T. BACOI; investigation of pilferage aboard

1. This memorandum is submitted in response to your request for analysis of the accompanying documents relating to the subject.
2. The M.T. BACOI exploded in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts on 20 May, 1945 and subsequently was abandoned to the underwriters. Complaints reached Admiral Chalker as to alleged pilferage by Coast Guard personnel who had been engaged in fighting fire aboard the vessel, and Admiral Chalker indicated that an immediate investigation should be made to determine the culpability, if any, of members of the Coast Guard.
3. An investigation was conducted by Captain C. G. Roemer, USCG between 30 July and 10 August, 1945. The conclusions reached by the investigating officer may be summarized as follows:

The following articles were illegally taken away from the M.T. BACOI between 1745 and 1900 on 20 May, 1945: Linen; blankets, etc.; galley and saloon gear; barometer; binoculars; medicine chest; paint and deck stores; 13 large oscillating fans; 4 large brass clocks; clothes and personal effects of seamen. The estimated cost of these articles is approximately \$5,000.

No persons in the United States Coast Guard have any knowledge of this alleged pilferage, and are in no way concerned with it.

That while certain equipment and stores from the M.T. BACOI were taken on board the CG-38691, this was not done illegally but was at the request of the Master of the BACOI. All these articles were delivered to the Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Barracks, State Pier, Bourne, Massachusetts, except a small amount of foodstuffs removed for the use of the 38691 under authority of the steward of the M.T. BACOI.

An affidavit of the second cook of the M.T. BACOI, R. B. Bryne, regarding a Coast Guard vessel having on board cooking utensils, knives and cutlery, the property of the M.T. BACOI, is subject to questioning as both Coast Guard and Naval vessels were then moored alongside the M.T. BACOI and as Bryne was unable to state the name of the vessel which allegedly had on board the articles above stated.



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Crews of the Coast Guard KAW, HORRIBEAM, and 64301 lay alongside and fought fire on the M.T. BACOI from 1215 to 1700 on 20 May, 1945 when relief was made by the Naval YTB-179. The YTB-179 was relieved by the USS WANDANK (Navy) at 1900. No personnel from the Coast Guard vessels was below decks on the M.T. BACOI at any time.

The testimony indicates that the alleged pilfering of articles and stores from the M. T. BACOI took place between 1700 on 20 May, and 1900, 20 May, when the YTB-179, Lieut. C. G. Thompson, USNR was COMSUR, and had charge of the M. T. BACOI. Hence, all future inquiries regarding this matter should be addressed to that officer and the Coast Guard should take no further action in this matter.

4. There is support for the foregoing conclusions in the attached record of proceedings.

F. E. FOLLIO

Incl.  
Record of proceedings and  
correspondence on subject.

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