



Merchant Marine Hearing Unit
United States Coast Guard
Third Naval District
New York, New York
21 February, 1945

IN THE MATTER OF OIL POLLUTION OF THE SS BEACON HILL

SOURCE OF COMPLAINT: Letter from Port Security Command dated 14 February, 1945.

FACTS: This Unit was notified on 15 February, 1945 that said vessel had occasioned an oil pollution while in New York Harbor on 13 February, 1945 at 1615. The vessel departed this port before an investigation could be commenced to determine culpability on any of the Merchant crew aboard for this offense.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Since it is not possible to determine whether this vessel will return to this port, it is recommended that this report be forwarded to Headquarters in an effort to interrogate the Merchant crew aboard said vessel.

EMANUEL M. WEBER
Ensign, USCGR
Examining Officer

Incl
Copy of Harbor Patrol Fleet Report

FEB 24 1945

Ind-1
21 February, 1945

To: The Commandant (OMP)

Forwarded, approved.

JOHN I. DUGAN
By direction

CG-692
HARBOR PATROL FLEET

14 February, 1945

To: Commanding Officer Port Security Command.

Subj: Oil Pollution Act; violation of

1. I, Donald Forsdick, BM2c., Officer-in-Charge of the CG-38633, did, while on patrol, in the vicinity of the St. George, Staten Island, N. Y. Ferry slip, saw an oil slick and traced it to the American Tanker BEACON HILL, underway, between St. George Ferry and Constable Hook, she was en-route from Federal Anchorage 28A to Seawarren, N. J. I went along the port side and saw oil on water which was running from the port deck scuppers. The oil was being carried off the deck and through the unplugged scupper by melting snow and water. I went aboard and spoke to the watchman. This ship was underway and picking up speed and I was doubtful that I could keep alongside due to her being of faster speed than my boat so did not get much information. However, I observed that they had had an oil spill and there was still some oil on deck though it showed signs of having been partially cleaned up. Took a sample from the side of the vessel as the oil was running down the side and into the water. There was a fairly large slick upon the water and oil was still going overboard when I went alongside and boarded her.

2. Subject vessel is owned and operated by the Standard Oil Co., of N. J., Master, J. H. O'Kelly; Chief Engineer, W. A. Gillam; Chief Mate, Paul Daley. Agents: B. B. Howard, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, N. Y.

3. Time: 1615, 13 February, 1945.

4. Witnesses: Donald Forsdick, BM2c., Francis Daley, Slc., and H. Schambaugh, MoMM2c., all of the CG-38633.

/s/ Donald Forsdick, BM2/c
Donald Forsdick, BM2c.,
Officer-in-Charge, CG-38633
o