

SEP 18 1945



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MERCHANT MARINE  
INSPECTION DIVISION

8-7  
2-17  
C-8

Ind-2  
DCGO, 11ND (1)  
MIN C-1330  
25 August, 1945

To: The Commandant (OMI)

Subj: Oil spill on SS CHARLES L. WHEELER on 21 July, 1945, at Berth 195, Los Angeles Harbor; preliminary investigation.

Forwarded, approved.

- RECOMMENDATION -

It is recommended that the case be closed.

J. TREBES  
Acting

W. C. HAYS  
Acting Officer

25 August, 1945  
Approved:

William S. Brown  
William S. Brown  
Lt. Comdr., USCGR  
Senior Hearing Officer

Ind-4  
MIN C-1330  
20 August, 1945

To: The Commandant (OMI)

Via: DCGO, 11ND

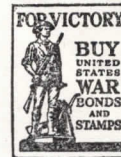
Subj: Oil spill on SS CHARLES L. WHEELER on 21 July, 1945 at Berth 195, Los Angeles Harbor.

Forwarded, approved.

Lloyd P. Kennedy  
LLOYD P. KENNEDY  
Acting OIB, Marine Inspection

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

LONG BEACH 2, CALIF.



ADDRESS REPLY TO:

DISTRICT COAST GUARD OFFICER oml

ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT

REFER TO FILE: MIN C-1330

20 August, 1945

To: The Commandant (OMI)

Via: 1. OIC, Marine Inspection, 11ND  
2. DCGO, 11ND

Subj: Oil spill on SS CHARLES L. WHEELER on 21 July, 1945 at Berth 195, Los Angeles Harbor.

1. Pursuant to a report of oil spill on the SS CHARLES L. WHEELER, received on 21 July, 1945 from the COTP, the undersigned Examining Officer boarded the vessel upon her return to Los Angeles Harbor on 13 August, 1945.

- PERSONS INTERVIEWED -

2. L. Jorgensen, Master, 2321 - 4th Avenue, Seattle, Washington  
William J. Doyle, Chief Mate, 7210 - 5th Avenue, N.W. Seattle, Washington

- FINDINGS OF FACT -

3. The SS CHARLES L. WHEELER is a freight vessel of 2205 gross tons, Official No. 216656, owned by the War Shipping Administration and operated by McCormick Steamship Company of Wilmington, California.

4. On 21 July, 1945 at approximately 1500 PWT, the SS CHARLES L. WHEELER was at Berth 195, Los Angeles Harbor, taking on fuel oil from a Richfield Barge at a rate of approximately 900 barrels per hour. On the ship the operation was being handled by a chief engineer new to the ship, one W. Wood, and a completely green third assistant engineer, one J. D. Sherman. Wood was discharged four days later for another reason and Sherman was hospitalized the next day; thus neither of these persons was available for an interview when the Examining Officer was aboard. The master stated, however, that the spill, which was six to eight barrels, three to four barrels of which reached the water, occurred as a sole result of the inexperience of the then chief engineer and third assistant. The oil, being taken into the ship's No. 2 tank, backed up into the forepeak tank and overflowed, both from the vent and tank top. A Martin Ship's Service clean-up gang of twenty-five men was secured immediately and the spill cleaned up by the use of straw.



DCGO, 11ND  
Case No. MIN C-1330  
20 August, 1945

- CONCLUSIONS -

5. The oil spill on the SS CHARLES L. WHEELER at Berth 195, Los Angeles Harbor on 21 July, 1945 resulted from the fact the personnel in charge were new to the ship and one of them had just obtained a license as third assistant engineer. There was no real evidence of negligence. Prompt and efficient measures were taken to rectify the pollution.

- RECOMMENDATION -

6. It is recommended that the case be closed.

*Robert C. Hays*  
ROBERT C. HAYS  
Lt. (jg), USCGR  
Examining Officer

20 August, 1945  
Approved:

*Addison S. Elliot*  
ADDISON S. ELLIOT  
Lt. Comdr., USCGR  
Senior Hearing Officer

Ind-1  
MIN C-1330  
20 August, 1945

To: The Commandant (OMI)

Via: DCGO, 11ND

Subj: Oil spill on SS CHARLES L. WHEELER on 21 July, 1945 at Berth 195,  
Los Angeles Harbor.

Forwarded, approved.

*Lloyd B. Kennedy*  
LLOYD B. KENNEDY  
Acting OIC, Marine Inspection