

Address Reply To
District Engineer,
U.S. Engineer Office,
P.O. Box 5180 - Metro. Station,
Los Angeles 55, Calif.

WAR DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE
751 SOUTH FIGUEROA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

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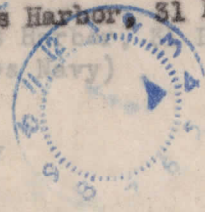
13 February 1946

13 February 1946

Reply
Reference: PALGB

SUBJECT: Oil Pollution, Los Angeles Harbor, 31 December 1945
(USS COMFORT - United States Navy)

TO: Commanding Officer
USS COMFORT
c/o Postmaster
San Pedro, California



Dear Sir:

1. Report has been received by this office that on 31 December 1945 the USS COMFORT polluted the navigable waters of the United States with oil in the vicinity of Berth 88, Los Angeles Harbor. This is a violation of the Federal Oil Pollution Act of 7 June 1924 (33 U. S. Code, Sections 431-437) as well as State law and local regulations. A copy of this report is inclosed for your information.

2. Because of the great danger to commercial shipping and harbor facilities involved in pollution violations, the District Engineer desires to emphasize the seriousness of this offense.

3. Particular attention is directed to Section 17 of River and Harbor Act, approved 3 March 1899, relative to the protection and preservation of the navigable waters of the United States and the responsibility of Officers and Agents of the United States in charge of river and harbor improvements. (See extract herewith inclosed.)

4. A supply of booklets and notices prepared by this office concerning the prevention of pollution of the navigable waters of the United States and the laws pertaining to violations thereof are inclosed, and it is requested that copies be furnished to responsible crew members in order that they may be thoroughly informed as to the laws and, therefore, govern themselves accordingly.

1. Copy of report dated 4 January 1946
2. Copy ltr. FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:
3. Copy ltr. to District Coast Guard Officer

cc: District Coast Guard Officer (In dup.) C. B. BEBOUT
Chief, Engineering Division

- 4 Inclosures (In dup.)
1. Copy report dated 4 January 1946
 2. Extract R & H Act
 3. Pollution Booklets
 4. Pollution Notices

cc: The District Coast Guard Officer (IN dup.)

Address Reply To
District Engineer,
U.S. Engineer Office,
P.O. Box 5180 - Metro. Station,
Los Angeles 55, Calif."

WAR DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE
751 SOUTH FIGUEROA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90014

8-15
COPY
13 February 1946

ADDRESS REPLY TO
Reply
Reference: **CT PALGB**
DISTRICT COAST GUARD OFFICER
ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT (1)
REFER TO FILE: 661

SUBJECT: Oil Pollution, Los Angeles Harbor, 31 December 1945
(USS COMFORT-United States Navy)
9 January, 1946

TO: The United States Attorney
Federal Building
Los Angeles 12, California

Subj: Report of Oil Spill from USS COMFORT, 31 December, 1945; forwarding of

Dear Sir: Report of the above pollution case has been received from the District Coast Guard Officer, Long Beach 2, California, duplicate copies of which are inclosed for your information.

Inasmuch as there were no Federal witnesses to the spill, no physical evidence was obtained, and the oil dispersed rapidly due to the out-going tide, prosecution is not recommended.

Copies of all letters pertaining to the case are inclosed for your files.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

Very truly yours,

G. B. BEBOUT
Chief, Engineering Division

- 3 Inclosures (In dup.)
1. Copy of report dated 4 January 1946
 2. Copy ltr. to CO USS COMFORT
 3. Copy ltr. to District Coast Guard Officer

cc: District Coast Guard Officer (In dup.)

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

8-15



LONG BEACH 2, CALIFORNIA
Wilmington, California

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DISTRICT COAST GUARD OFFICER
ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT (1)
REFER TO FILE: 661

9 January, 1946

To: The Commandant

Subj: Report of Oil Spill from USS COMFORT, 31 December, 1945; forwarding of

Subject report is forwarded in compliance with instructions set forth in Headquarters letter of 26 October, 1945. Original copy of same was forwarded to the U.S. Army District Engineer, Los Angeles, this date.

JAN 4 2 15 PM

COPY

Edwin S. Campbell

EDWIN S. CAMPBELL
By direction

Incl
Oil spill report on
USS COMFORT (1/4/46)

Investigation by COTPIA... was made and report of investigation showed that the... was Captain Rintoul T. Whitney and the Engineering Officer was Lt. Edward Stuckrath. The spill was caused by oil siphoning through vent on Tank 507F, on the starboard side of ship, while loading Special Navy Fuel bunkers. An area of 100 feet by 10 feet was covered. Tide was going out, and

Engineering Officer, Lt. Stuckrath, stated the spill was caused by ship's gangway catching on to the dock, tilting and then slipped, causing ship to lurch suddenly to starboard. Tank 507F which was already full and secured, bubbled up through vent and spilled into harbor.

/s/ G. B. GELLY

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
Wilmington, California

Address reply to
THE CAPTAIN OF THE PORT
LOS ANGELES
REFER TO FILE: 629.1

COPY

4 January, 1946

To: DCGO, 11ND

Subj: Oil spill; USS COMFORT, 31 December, 1945

1. At approximately 1235, 31 December, 1945, NFA, San Pedro, advised COTPLA of an oil spill while bunkering the USS COMFORT, Berth #88, San Pedro.
2. Investigation by COTPLA Oil Pollution Detail was made and report of investigation showed that the Commanding Officer was Captain Rintoul T. Whitney, and the Engineering Officer was Lt. Edward Stuckrath. The spill was caused by oil siphoning through vent on Tank 507F, on the starboard side of ship, while loading Special Navy Fuel bunkers. An area of approximately 100 feet by 10 feet was covered. Tide was going out, and oil dispersed rapidly.
3. Engineering Officer, Lt. Stuckrath, stated the spill was caused by ship's gangway catching on to the dock piling and then slipped, causing ship to lurch suddenly to starboard. Tank 507F which was already full and secured, bubbled up through vent and spilled into harbor.

/s/ G. B. GELLY