

FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

RESS THE COMMANDANT, U. S. COAST GUARD  
AND REFER TO NO. CG-IOF-64



HEADQUARTERS

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

14 November, 1942.

Subject: Fire, S. S. EDMUND B. ALEXANDER, Baltimore, Maryland.

Reference:

Enclosure: (A) Fire report, Baltimore City Fire Department.

Summary of Information: The following summary of fire in Subject vessel is quoted from an official report from the District Coast Guard Officer, 5th Naval District:

"The S. S. 'Edmund B. Alexander' was damaged by fire starting shortly after midnight, October 23, 1942, while undergoing conversion as an Army transport and cargo carrier at the Key Highway Yard. Cause of the fire is believed to have been heat from an electric welding operation on "A" deck below. This room was known to have been open, but other nearby staterooms had been locked by Army officials in charge, who were in possession of the keys. The fire had apparently gained much headway before discovery, and when subsequently breaking out of staterooms, the built-up heat spread fire rapidly through various passageways on "A" deck. Fire-fighting equipment and number of firemen (fire watch) assigned to the ship were adequate. The fire was extinguished in approximately two hour by combined efforts of the Yard fire department and employees, Baltimore City Fire Department and Coast Guard. The damage is estimated by the Yard to be \$125,000 maximum."

Place of Origin:

Course of Fire:

Witnesses to:

Charge of Fire:

Distribution:

DNI 5410  
C.G. Operations

Evaluation:

Source: Reliable  
Information: Reliable