

CONFIDENTIAL

CG-IOF-661

26 April, 1943

MEMORANDUM:

Subject: Panamanian vessel *ML ESTERO*; report of fire on board.

Reference: (a) My memorandum this date (CG-IOF-661), re subject.

1. Admiral Parker telephoned me at 1410 this date and gave me the following information:

- (a) WSA has asked Merritt, Chapman & Scott to raise the vessel.
- (b) A 5-man Board of Investigation (Coast Guard) is in session and will work all day today and late this evening and hopes to be able to adjourn some time tomorrow. The record of investigation will probably be at Headquarters by Wednesday.
- (c) Testimony thus far appears to indicate that the fire was caused by negligence or accident. An open oil valve, from which sludge flowed, may have contributed to the fire. The man in charge of the boiler room left the valve open when he went to the engine room for a brief period of time.

2. Admiral Parker indicated the necessity for more attention on the part of the Coast Guard to internal security of vessels, such as the inspection of boiler rooms and inspection of the fire room bilges. He indicated that he is considering the advisability of assigning trained Coast Guard personnel to inspect these compartments and to be prepared to take measures to combat such things as flarebacks, etc.

3. Admiral Parker may send the Board of Investigation down by an officer who would be familiar with the circumstances and in a position to answer inquiries.

F. R. POLLIO

cc: Admiral Waesche ✓
 Admiral Gorman ✓
 Captain Park
 Commander Coombs
 Lieutenant Commander Gulick

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Authority	NW 3-26-83-11
By	AV NARA Date 4/6/17