



HEADQUARTERS

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

WASHINGTON 23 October, 1942

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: **Fire, SS FREEMAN HATCH**

cross

Reference:

To:

Summary of Information:

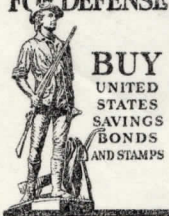
The following is the substance of an official report from the DCGO, Chicago, 9th ND:

On September 15, 1942 fire occurred on Subject vessel, in No. 2 hold, which was extinguished by fire extinguishers, without reported damage. The fire is said to have resulted from a leak in a hose connection in an acetylene tank being used for cutting on the vessel. The report indicates the fire was accidental.

DIO, Chicago, 9th ND is cognizant.

CG/ Headquarters

FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

Distribution:

DNI *5388*
Operations, C.G.

Evaluation:

Source: Reliable
Information: Reliable

2003. mabR.

COP-661-630
CONFIDENTIAL

Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin
30 September, 1942
RECEIVED
CHICAGO DISTRICT

2nd Indorsement
From: Captain of the Port, Sturgeon Bay, Ninth Naval District
To: District Coast Guard Officer, Chicago, Ninth Naval District

1. Forwarded, for your records.

21 October, 1942

2. As indicated by the first indorsement, a new procedure has been instituted in the form of a thorough investigation, not only of causes, but of possible preventative measures for the future.

From: District Coast Guard Officer, Chicago Ninth Naval District
To: Commandant, Ninth Naval District (District Security Officer)

Subject: Security of Naval vessels under conversion.

Reference: (a) ComVine letter May 4, 1942 (ND9-22 RCW:vs S28-1 Serial No. 6862-42)
(b) Report Captain of the Port, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 15 September, 1942 (COP-661-630)

Inclosure: (A) Copy of reference (b).

1. While there is no indication that subject vessel in reference (b) is a Naval vessel, inclosure is transmitted for information and record of the District Security Officer.

A. F. GLAZA,
By direction.

CC/ Headquarters

COP-661-630
Captain of the Port

NAVY DEPARTMENT
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin
30 September, 1942

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1. Forwarded, for your records.

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Subject: Report of fire on cargo ship, FREEMAN HATCH, on 15 September, 1942 at the Smith Shipyards.
Millard L. Midonick

Inclosure: Ward report of subject fire.

1. HADENSON, Charles S. (03-336) Seals, reports of helping extinguish a fire on the cargo ship, FREEMAN HATCH, lying in the water under construction at the Smith Shipyards on 15 September, 1942 at 0215.

2. The fire was in the #2 hold forward of the ship and was extinguished immediately with a foamite extinguisher.

3. The fire was caused by a leak in the hose connection of an acetylene tank used in cutting.

4. No damage whatsoever resulted from the fire.

Robert Gill

Robert Gill

COP-661-630
COP Detail

Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin
24 September, 1942

1st Indorsement

1. After a very thorough and careful investigation of the above matter it has been determined that the fire mentioned in this report was purely accidental, there being no sign of sabotage or negligence.

2. I talked this matter over with Edward J. Hines, in charge of personnel, who is very familiar with matters pertaining to operations within the yard. He stated that this is the first time that a fire had been started through a leak in a hose connection of an acetylene tank. Due to the great number of men using torches, there is bound to be an occasional fire even though everything reasonably possible is done to prevent fires of any kind.

William H. ...
Special Investigator

NAVY DEPARTMENT

RECEIVED
CHICAGO DISTRICT

~~XXXXXX~~
CAPTAIN OF THE PORT DETAIL
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin

1492 OOTIN Street 46
15 September, 1942

U.S. COAST GUARD
From: Officer in Charge, COP Detail, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.
To: Commanding Officer, COP Detail, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.
Subject: Report of fire on cargo ship, FREEMAN HATCH, on 15
September, 1942 at the Smith Shipyards.
Inclosure: Guard report of subject fire.

1. HANSEN, Charles S. (303-336) Sea. Ic. reports of helping extinguish a fire on the cargo ship, FREEMAN HATCH, lying in the water under construction at the Smith Shipyards on 15 September, 1942 at 0215.
2. The fire was in the #2 hold forward of the ship and was extinguished immediately with a foamite extinguisher.
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Robert Gill
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COP-661-630
COP Detail

Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin
24 September, 1942

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1. After a very thorough and careful investigation of the above matter it has been determined that the fire mentioned in this report was purely accidental, there being no sign of sabotage or negligence.
2. I talked this matter over with Bernard J. Mienau, in charge of personnel, who is very familiar with matters pertaining to operations within the yard. He stated that this is the first time that a fire had been started through a leak in a hose connection of an acetylene tank. Owing to the great number of men using torches, there is bound to be an occasional fire even though everything reasonably possible is done to prevent fires of any kind.

William Metzong
William Metzong C.P.M.
Special Investigator