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EXCERPT FROM BOARDING REPORT WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO COAST GUARD:

"On April 19, 1943, at 1700 convoy time, the convoy Commodore ordered several changes in the ships' stations; such changes to be made on the following day. On the morning of April 20, 1943, these changes were made. During the manouevering the starboard bow of Subject vessel struck the bow of the SS LENA LUCKENBACH on the port side. The SS LENA LUCKENBACH was badly damaged and had to be beached. The Chief Mate of the Subject vessel states that the SS LENA LUCKENBACH was going in exactly the opposite direction to the course of the convoy; and that he gave no signal at any time concerning his intentions. There was no way whatsoever, he asserts, to tell what he was going to do next. On May 2, 1943, he says, there was a hearing in Glasgow to determine the cause of this collision. There had been no decision as yet. The Chief Mate stated that Captain McDonagh, Master of the Subject Vessel, has attempted to hold him responsible for this collision and has gone so far as to influence several members of the crew to testify improperly against him. The following record of events is an extract from the official log of Subject vessel for April 20, 1943, the day of the collision.

0400-0800 moving ship #124 in convoy to #13 across stern of convoy, ship center rear fell out and across bow, wheeling in right circle. Our starboard bow struck her port bow. 0606 - wheelhard left, general alarm. Began shifting position daylight, 0540, flying "13" and "BI" from "Mersigs" to pass astern all ships. Astern bell at 0603 various other bells as per bell book. While inspecting damage, locking device on anchor windlass broken, anchor $3\frac{1}{2}$ fathom chain brought up. Bow at stem, starboard side, stove in, deck plate #1 hold, starboard, forward cracked. Various ship stores intact. Soundings in all bilges every 15 minutes showed no water - no immediate danger."

SOURCE: 3ND Boarding Report, SS JAMES FENIMORE COOPER (US), 6/16/43.

cc: Judge Advocate General
COMINCH F-11

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Authority	NIV3 36-93-11
By	DKS NARA. Date 5/4/77

CP-10-D-3
JRT/ks
6/28/43

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