

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT  
WILMINGTON, CALIFORNIA, 1945

Address reply to  
THE CAPTAIN OF THE PORT  
LOS ANGELES

Finished topping off Diesel Tank aft. Disconnected the hose, I  
Refer to file: 629.1 off the fore deep--had 25'6" ullage. Went to speak  
661 tank watch yelled & man on deck shut valve off.  
Lost approximately 2 barrels over side - 3 or 4 all together.

19 December, 1945

/s/ L. Whitaker, nite mate

To: DCGO, LLND

Subj: Oil spill from SS KEKOSKEE in Long Beach Harbor, 18 December, 1945

1. In compliance with HQ letter of 26 October, 1945, subject, "Oil Pollution; peacetime law enforcement by U.S. Coast Guard," the following is reported to you as a violation of the Federal Oil Pollution Act of June 7, 1924 (33 U.S. Code, Section 431-437).
2. At about 2315, 18 December, 1945, oil (apparently second structure gasoline) was permitted to be discharged into the navigable waters of Long Beach Harbor from the tanker SS KEKOSKEE, while this vessel was moored at Berth 76, Long Beach Harbor. This vessel is of United States Registry, is owned by the Richfield Oil Company, Los Angeles, Calif., is of approximately 5,200 gross tons and 3,200 net tons, and is approximately 392 ft. in length, uses oil for fuel, and her local agent is Richfield Oil Co., Long Beach, California. At the time of the spill, her master was C. B. Austin, first mate was M. Harrison, and in charge of loading operations at the time of the spill was L. Whitaker, Night Mate. The spill was from #1 tank overflowing onto deck and through leaky scuppers into the water, while loading gasoline from shore facilities. Mr. Whitaker was interviewed and copy of his statement is inclosed.
3. There were no other witnesses than L. Whitaker. R.E. Rexer, Cox., USCGR, attached to COTPLA, arrived at the scene at 0010, 19 December, 1945. While he did not acutally witness the spill, he saw the oil on the water near the ship. The Long Beach Fire Boat had been called and had arrived at approximately 2340 and was dispersing the spill with high pressure fire hose, and Rexer was unable to obtain sample from the water. An area approximately 100 ft. by 700 ft. was covered, but dispersal was completed and the fire boat secured at approximately 0230, 19 December.

G. B. GELLY

Incl.

1. Copy of statement by  
L. Whitaker
2. 2 copies of Report of  
Violation, Form NCG 2636

COPY OF STATEMENT MADE BY L. WHITAKER

18 December, 1945

Finished topping off Diesel Tank aft. Disconnected the hose, I came up fwd & topped off the fore deep--had 25'6" ullage. Went to speak to man on dock & then tank watch yelled & man on dock shut valve off. Lost approximately 2 barrells over side - 3 or 4 all together.

/s/ L. Whitaker, nite mate