

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
U. S. COAST GUARD
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

7208



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
CAPTAIN OF THE PORT (1)
GALVESTON, TEXAS
AND REFER TO
6614

1944 DEC 14 AM 8 06

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PORT SECURITY SECTION

5 December, 1944

To: The Commandant

Via: DCGO, 8ND

Subj: Oil Pollution Act of 1924, 33 USC, 431-437; violation by
SS LITTLE BUTTE, on 1 December, 1944.

- Refs: (a) HQ ltr to all DCGO's 18 August, 1943 (CG-100.18 Min)
- (b) DCGO 8ND ltr to COTP, Galveston, 18 September, 1943, (6614) Enforcement of the Oil Pollution Act.
- (c) HQ Dispatch to all DCGO's 231920 (October).

In accordance with references (a), (b) and (c), inclosure is forwarded.

Leo A. Welsh
LEO A. WELSH

Incl. ✓
Copy of file in subject case.

Ind-1
DCGO, 8th Naval District (ops)
11 December, 1944

To: The Commandant (OPS)

Forwarded.

J. J. Gidiere
J. J. GIDIERE
By direction



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AKK

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NW 3-26-83/1
By [Signature] NARA. Date 6/14/17

Texas City, Texas

CAPTAIN OF THE PORT

CAPTAIN OF THE PORT (1)
GALVESTON, TEXAS

6614

5 December, 1944

District Engineer, U. S. Army,
Galveston, Texas

Sir:

Here is a report of a violation of the Oil Pollution Act of 1924, 33 USC, 431-437 by the SS LITTLE BUTTE, at the Republic Oil Refining Company's Docks, Texas City, Texas, on 1 December, 1944. The facts in the case are as follows:

The SS LITTLE BUTTE is owned by the U. S. Maritime Commission and is operated by the American Petroleum Products Company, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York. The local agents are Collins and Gissel, Houston, Texas. At about 9:20 p.m., on the date above mentioned, about 100 barrels of 80 octane gasoline overflowed from the No. 9 main tank onto the deck of the vessel and spilled overboard on both the port and starboard sides into the water of Texas City harbor. Upon investigation it was found that the Chief Mate, John A. McCrary, who was in charge of the loading operations at the time of the spill, was up forward topping off the No. 3 tank and that he had pinched down the valve to the No. 9 main tank so that the No. 3 tank would be finished before the No. 9 main tank, and for that reason he had not been watching the No. 9 main tank as he should have, as he figured that the No. 3 tank should have topped off first. He states that he did not know of the spill until he heard someone shout from the dock that one of the tanks was overflowing. The overflow was stopped by Mr. A. A. Beckman, dockman for the Republic Oil Refining Company, who turned off the valve on the dock. This case was reported to the Officer in charge, Marine Inspection, U. S. Coast Guard, for his information and action.

Statements were taken from Chief Mate John A. McCrary and Deck Cadet Bennie G. Christian, of the SS LITTLE BUTTE, Mr. A. A. Beckman, dockman for the Republic Oil Refining Corporation, Coastguardsmen Michael J. Bilec, boatswain's mate second class, Ennis B. Whatley, seaman first class, and Cloyd C. Wisdom, seaman first class. Copies of these statements, together with a copy of the investigator's report are attached for your information. Samples of gasoline were taken from the deck of the vessel by Michael J. Bilec, boatswain's mate second class and from the water near the bow of the vessel by Cloyd C. Wisdom, seaman first class. These samples together with the original of the statements taken, will be retained by this office for use by the U. S. Attorney.

Very truly yours,

LEO A. WELSH

Incls.

- 1 - Copy of investigator's report.
- 2 - Copy of statement by Chief Mate McCrary.
- 3 - Copy of statement by Deck Cadet Christian.
- 4 - Copy of statement by Dockman A. A. Beckman.
- 5 - Copy of statement by Michael J. Bilec.
- 6 - Copy of statement by Ennis B. Whatley.
- 7 - Copy of statement by Cloyd C. Wisdom.

Texas City, Texas

Texas City, Texas
1 December, 1944

ASS'T. CAPTAIN OF THE PORT

6614

XXXXXXXX

Oil Pollution Violation

S/S LITTLE BUTTE

Caused by U. S. Maritime Commission

1 December, 1944

To: Ass't. Captain of the Port, Texas City, Texas

By name is J. A. Mc Crary, Chief Mate, 1614 Webster St., Houston, Texas.
Subj: Oil Pollution Violation, S.S. LITTLE BUTTE, 1 December, 1944, report of U.S. Maritime Commission and is operated by American Petroleum Products Co., 630 - 5th Ave., New York, N.Y.

1. I was notified at 1130 this date that there had been a gasoline spill aboard the S.S. LITTLE BUTTE docked at the Republic dock, Texas City harbor. This vessel is owned by the U. S. Maritime Commission and is operated by American Petroleum Products Co., 630 - 5th Ave., New York, New York. The local agents are Collins and Gissel. The pumps were cut off on shore and stopped the overflow. I then transferred part of

2. I arrived at the scene of the spill at 1125. Upon investigation I found that the # 9 main tank had overflowed onto the deck of the S.S. LITTLE BUTTE and ran overboard on both the port and starboard sides into the water of Texas City harbor. I would estimate approximately one hundred (100) barrels of gasoline spilled into the water of Texas City harbor.

3. I contacted John A. Mc Crary, Chief Mate, and he stated at the time of the spill he was up forward topping off the # 5 tank. He stated the valve to the # 9 main tank was pinched down and the # 5 tank should have topped off before the # 9 tank. Mc Crary admitted that he was not watching the # 9 tank as he should have. He did not know of the spill until he heard someone on the dock yell that one of the tanks was overflowing.

inattention by 1st Mate

4. A. A. Beckman, dockman for Republic Oil Refining Company stopped the overflow by closing the valve on the dock.

5. A sample of gasoline was taken from the deck of the S.S. LITTLE BUTTE by M. J. Bilee, BME, and from the water near the bow by Gloyd C. Wisdom, S Ic. These samples were signed, sealed, and delivered to the Galveston Fog Station by Bilee and Wisdom.

80 Octane

Eldon C. Purvis, Sp. 1/c
ELDON C. PURVIS, Sp. 1c.

Texas City, Texas
Texas City, Texas
1 December, 1944

S T A T E M E N T

Oil Pollution Violation

S/S LITTLE BUTTE

Owned by U. S. Maritime Commission

Owned by U. S. Maritime Commission

My name is J. A. Mc Crary, 1218 Webster St., Houston, Texas. I am employed as Chief Officer on the S/S LITTLE BUTTE. This vessel is owned by U. S. Maritime Commission and is operated by American Petroleum Products Co., 630 - 5th Ave., New York, N.Y.

About 1115 this date we were loading a cargo of 80 Octane gasoline at Republic dock, Texas City harbor. At this time I was up forward topping off the # 3 center tank. The dockman called out that one of the tanks aft was overflowing. The pumps were cut off on shore and stopped the overflow. I then transferred part of this cargo to another tank. The valve to the # 9 main tank which overflowed was pinched down and the # 3 center tank should have topped off before the # 9 tank. However the # 9 tank topped off first. Approximately fifty barrels of gasoline overflowed the # 9 main tank.

/s/ WALTER G. CHILDS

/s/ JOHN A. Mc CRARY

Texas City, Texas
1 December, 1944

STATEMENT

Oil Pollution Violation Commission
S/S LITTLE BUTTE
Owned by U. S. Maritime Commission

My name is A. A. Beckman, 7244 - 34th St., Galveston, Texas.
I am employed as deckman for Republic Oil Refining Co.

My name is Bennie G. Christian, Rayville, La. I am employed
as deck cadet on the S/S LITTLE BUTTE.

About 1115 I was standing on the dock near the hose when someone said
one of This morning about 1115 as we were loading a cargo of gasoline
at Republic dock, I was up forward when I heard someone on the dock
say that one of the hatches aft was running over. I ran aft and saw
the # 9 center tank was overflowing. I started to open the valve to
the # 9 wing tank, port side, to let the cargo flow into this tank.
The Third Mate told me not to bother about opening the valve, that
the dock man could shut off from the shore. In approximately 30 seconds
the pumps on shore were closed and stopped the overflow.

/s/ BENNIE G. CHRISTIAN

Texas City, Texas
1 December, 1944

STATEMENT

Oil Pollution Violation
S/S LITTLE BUTTE
Owned by U. S. Maritime Commission

My name is A. A. Beckman, 724 1/2 - 23rd St., Galveston, Texas.
I am employed as dockman for Republic Oil Refining Co.

Today we were loading the S/S LITTLE BUTTE with gasoline.
About 1115 I was standing on the dock near the hose when someone said
one of the hatches was overflowing. I ran over to the other loading
hose and closed the valve as soon as possible. The overflow was not
stopped until I closed the valve on the dock. I do not know whether
anyone was watching the # 9 tank or not. I was with the forward load-
ing hose when the spill occurred.

I took a sample of gasoline from the deck of the S/S LITTLE
BUTTE, witnessed by Sp. 1c. Whalley, /s/ A. A. BECKMAN of gasoline
was taken from the water near the bow of the vessel by Cloyd U.
Wisdom, S. 1c.

Lt. (j.g.), J. B. Paul and Sp. 1c. Alden C. Purvis arrived at
the scene of the spill about 1135. Statements were obtained from the
crew.

Michael J. Biles, P.M. & C.
MICHAEL J. BILES, P.M. & C.

Texas City, Texas
1 December, 1944

STATEMENT

Oil Pollution Violation
S/S LITTLE BUTTE
Owned by U. S. Maritime Commission

My name is Ennis B. Whatley, S lc., of the Texas City Port Security I, Michael J. Biles, RM2c., was on Port Security watch at 1115 on December 1, 1944. I was notified by Cloyd C. Wisdom, S lc., that a spill had occurred on the S/S LITTLE BUTTE, docked at the Republic Loading dock.

I arrived at the scene of the spill about 1115 and saw gasoline on the deck. I immediately went to the Republic Loading dock and boarded the S/S LITTLE BUTTE. I saw that the number 9 center tank had overflowed with gasoline and the gasoline poured into the Texas City harbor. Approximately one hundred (100) barrels of 80 octane gasoline poured into the Texas City harbor.

I took a sample of gasoline from the deck of the S/S LITTLE BUTTE, witnessed by Ennis B. Whatley, S lc.. A sample of gasoline was taken from the water near the bow of the vessel by Cloyd C. Wisdom, S lc.

Lt. Paul and Sp. Lt. Eldon C. Purvis arrived at the scene of the spill about 1125. Statements were obtained from the crew.

Michael J. Biles RM2c
MICHAEL J. BILES, RM. 2c.

Texas City, Texas
1 December, 1944

S T A T E M E N T

Oil Pollution Violation
S/S LITTLE BUTTE
Owned by U. S. Maritime Commission

My name is Ennis B. Whatley, S lc., of the Texas City port security detail. While on patrol the morning of December 1, 1944, a spill occurred on the tanker S/S LITTLE BUTTE, docked at the Republic docks.

I arrived at the scene of the spill about 1115 and saw gasoline on the deck of the S/S LITTLE BUTTE and in the surrounding water. Our Commanding Officer, Lt. (j.g.), J. B. Paul, E. C. Purvis, Sp. lc., and section leader M. J. Biles, BM2c., arrived about 1125. M. J. Biles took a sample of the gasoline from the deck of the S/S LITTLE BUTTE and Cloyd C. Wisdom, S lc., took a sample from the water near the bow of the S/S LITTLE BUTTE.

Approximately one hundred (100) barrels of gasoline spilled into the waters of Texas City harbor.

Lt. Paul and Sp. lc. Eldon C. Purvis obtained statements from the crew.



ENNIS B. WHATLEY, S lc.

Texas City, Texas
1 December, 1944

S T A T E M E N T

Oil Pollution Violation
S/S LITTLE BUTTE
Owned by U. S. Maritime Commission

My name is Cloyd C. Wisdom, Slc., U. S. Coast Guard of Texas City, Texas. While on port security watch on December 1, 1944 at 1112 I noticed a spill of eighty octane gasoline on the S/S LITTLE BUTTE.

I immediately notified the office of the spill by telephone. Lt. (j.g.), J. B. Paul, E. C. Purvis, Sp. lc., and M. J. Biles, RM. 2c., came aboard the S/S LITTLE BUTTE docked at the Republic Oil docks and took charge of the investigation. About one (1) hundred barrels of gasoline had overflowed the number nine main tank and most of this ran overboard into the water of Texas City harbor.

I obtained a sample of the gasoline from the water about fifteen feet from the bow of the S/S LITTLE BUTTE. M. J. Biles, RM2c., obtained a sample from the gasoline spill on the deck. Witness of the sample being taken from the deck was Ennis B. Whatley, S lc.

Cloyd C. Wisdom S/lc
CLOYD C. WISDOM, S lc.