



**SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA COLLECTION
MC 007**

Records

1958-1971

Bulk: 1971

1 linear ft. (4 boxes)



*Structural Failure and Sinking of the SS Texaco
Oklahoma off Cape Hatteras on March 27, 1971,
with the Loss of 31 Lives.*

Voyage 7 – 1971

Pt. Arthur, TX to Boston, MA



Processed by Peggy McMullen
2005

**Jack K. Williams Library
Texas A&M University at Galveston
Pelican Island
Galveston, Texas**

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INTRODUCTION

The collection of copies of testimony and exhibits of the Marine Board of Investigation concerning the loss of the SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA and 33 lives on March 27, 1971 was donated to Texas Maritime Academy by Lt. R.B. Harden, USCG, Acting Chief, Casualty Review Branch By direction of the Commandant in May 1979. The Hearings were held in New York City, March 31 – April 21, 1971 and reconvened on July 1 & 2, 1971 in New Orleans, LA. This voyage no.7 /1971 began at 1600, March 22, 1971 departing from Pt. Arthur, TX en route to Boston, MA, manned by a crew of 44.

Among the survivors was Texas Maritime Academy graduate, C. Michael Bandy, who graduated in May 1970 with a B.S. degree in Marine Engineering. His testimony is found in the collection. Among the deceased was Albert E. Merrikin, Radio Officer who died at his post. He received the **1990 Marconi Memorial Scroll of Honor** (*posthumously*).

The SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA was built in 1958 at Sparrows Point, Maryland by Bethlehem Steel Co. It was formerly the S/T ATLANTIS and owned by Petrol Shipping Corporation of New York City. It was a screw steel tanker with length of 632', breadth 90.4' and depth of 54.4'. Registered gross tonnage: 20,084 with net tonnage: 12,385. The S/T ATLANTIS was chartered from Petrol Shipping Corporation to Texaco, Inc. of Port Arthur, TX via a bareboat charter dated October 27, 1960 for a period of 18 years. She was renamed the SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA. Official No. 275882. Radio call & signal letters: KAHM. The OKLAHOMA was sold to Wilton Shipping Corporation on April 24, 1964. The charter contract with Texaco, Inc. remained in full force and effect.

The collection is open for research. Materials are in English. Please contact the archivist in charge regarding the photocopying policy for this collection.

The following citation is suggested:

**SS Texaco Oklahoma Collection. MC 007. Series ____ . Jack K. Williams
Library. Texas A & M University at Galveston, Galveston, Texas.**

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The papers in the SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA Collection span the years from 1958 to 1971, with the bulk of material dating in the year 1971. The transcripts of proceedings are typed, carbon copies; the exhibits are photocopies of the documents submitted at the hearings; and the Casualty Reports series includes photocopies of the Coast Guard document CG 924E for each missing crew member.

The collection is divided into three series: 1. Transcripts of Proceedings; 2. Exhibits; and 3. Casualty Reports. The collection housed in four boxes (1 lin.ft.) with oversized exhibit material in Box 4.

Some exhibits are missing as well as pages 913-1019 from the testimony. There is some water damage to a few pages of testimony. The complete crew list of the SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA is found in Exhibit 88, Box 2. The names of the missing crew members are found in Series 3, Box 3.

NAMES INCLUDED IN THE COLLECTION

Testimony from:

<p>Avila, Prisciliano, steward's dept., chief cook Bandy, Clyde Michael, 3rd Assistant Engineer Bell, Eddie R., 1st Assistant Engineer Bourneuf, Augustin, Jr., surveyor for American Bureau of Shipping Corbett, Robert Carl, supervisor of Marine Representatives Fitch, James Frederick, Vessel Master Granada, William, AB, deck maintenance Johnson, Roy, ordinary seaman Leppek, James, Chief Mate & relieving skipper</p>	<p>Martinez, Jorge, galleyman Merrall, John H., Capt. Miller, John J., Mackay Radio Corp. Morgan, Gard Anthony, oiler Newsome, Vernice, fireman water tender Perello, Antonio, chief pumpman Queen, Lt. Wm. F., USCG, material inspector-hull Small, Weston C., Port Capt./Texaco Tonnesen, Olaf T., Capt., Master of SS PASADENA</p>
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Marine Board of Investigation:

RAMD Wm. A. Jenkins, USCG, Chairman
 Capt. Edward P. Boyle, USCG, Member
 Capt. Emerson Hayes, Jr., USCG, Member
 CDR. Forrest E. Stewart, USCG, Member and Recorder

Others

Aakvik, S., Radio Officer – M/S BOUGAINVILLE
 Aitkenhead, W.L., USCG
 Bender, C.R., Commandant, USCG
 Corbet, R. Carl
 Danielsen, D., Capt, Master - M/S BOUGAINVILLE
 Doe, W.S., USCG, Commander, 7th CG District
 Engel, CWO L.E., USCG
 Ewels, R.F., USCG Marine Inspection Office, Pt. Arthur, TX
 Hansen, Luois, Chief Engineer – M/S BOUGAINVILLE
 Luck, K.A., AMVER
 Mead, Lt. Stanley W., USCG, Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, Philadelphia, PA
 Newman, C.T., USCG, Traveling Inspector Staff
 Sørli, T, Chief Officer – M/S BOUGAINVILLE
 Woods, Matthew, USCG, Commanding Officer, CG Marine Inspection Office, Jacksonville, FL

Ships (cited in the collection)

M/S BOUGAINVILLE
S/T ATLANTIS
S/T ERNA ELIZABETH
SS AMERICAN EAGLE
SS CITIES SERVICE
 BALTIMORE
SS CITIES SERVICE
 MIAMI
SS CITIES SERVICE
 NORFOLK
SS GULFKING
SS GULFKNIGHT
SS GULFPRINCE
SS GULFQUEEN
SS HANSISBRANDTSEN
SS J.E. DYER
SS PASADENA
SS PENN CHALLENGER
SS SASSTOWN
SS SISTER KATINGO
SS TEXACO NEBRASKA
SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA
SS TEXACO WISCONSIN

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Internet Resources

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<http://iancoombe.tripod.com/id18.html>

www.bethsteel.com

www.coltoncompany.com/shipbldg/usshipbldrs.htm

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www.vwoa.org/Awd1990_1995.htm

OUTLINE

Series 1: Transcript of Proceedings

Correspondence
Transcripts

Box 1

Series 2: Exhibits

Box 2, 4

Series 3: Casualties

Correspondence
CG 2692
CG 924E

Box 3

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 1: Transcripts of Proceedings **.33 lin.ft.** **Date: 1971**
Box 1

This series contains typed carbon copies of the official transcripts of the proceedings before the Marine Board of Investigation, March 31, 1971 – July 2, 1971. Pages 378-495 and 913-1019 are missing. Arranged by date of each testimony. Included in this series is the letter from the Commandant of the US Coast Guard, C.R. Bender to RADM Wm. A. Jenkins, USCG establishing the Marine Board of Investigation for this hearing.

Series 2: Exhibits **.40 lin.ft.** **Date: 1958-1971**
Box 2, 4

Included in this series are photocopies of the exhibits entered into the record of the proceedings. The following exhibits are included: #31-52, 57-66, 68, 70-97 and arranged by exhibit number. The exhibits include reports, correspondence, inspection books, receipts, logs, certificates, sections from the *Merchant Marine Safety Manual*, crew list, and press releases. Oversized exhibits are filed separately.

Series 3: Casualty Reports **.25 lin.ft.** **Date: 1971** **Box 3**

The reports are photocopies of the originals and include the following: **1.** correspondence from the USCG Marine Inspection Office, Pt. Arthur, TX to the USCG Marine Inspection Office, Battery Park, NY transferring the CG 924E forms; **2.** GC 2692 form – report of vessel casualty; and **3.** CG 924E forms for each missing crew member. Unlicensed crew members are filed alphabetically; licensed officers are filed by position held on the ship.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

Folder:

- 1 Finding Aid
- 2 Bibliography
- 3 Support materials (fl1 of 2)
- 4 Support materials (fl 2 of 2) "Marine Casualty Report"

Series 1: Transcripts of Proceedings

5. Correspondence: From: Coast Guard – Commandant, C.R. Bender
To: RADM Wm. A. Jenkins, USCG 1971 Mar 29
6. *Official Transcript of Proceedings before a Marine Board of Investigation. Case No. Marine Board. In the Matter of: SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA, O.N. 275882, Involving Loss of Life. AUTH: Order of Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, dated 29 March 1971. NYC* 1971 Mar 31
7. *Official Transcript of Proceedings before a Marine Board of Investigation...SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA.... NYC* 1971 Apr 1
8. *Official Transcript of Proceedings before a Marine Board of Investigation...SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA.... NYC* 1971 Apr 2
9. *Official Transcript of Proceedings before a Marine Board of Investigation...SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA.... NYC* 1971 Apr 6
10. *Official Transcript of Proceedings before a Marine Board of Investigation...SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA.... NYC* 1971 Apr 7
11. *Official Transcript of Proceedings before a Marine Board of Investigation...SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA.... NYC* 1971 Apr 8
12. *Official Transcript of Proceedings before a Marine Board of Investigation...SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA.... NYC* 1971 Apr 13
13. *Official Transcript of Proceedings before a Marine Board of Investigation...SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA.... NYC* 1971 Apr 14
14. *Official Transcript of Proceedings before a Marine Board of Investigation...SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA.... NYC* 1971 Apr 21
15. *Official Transcript of Proceedings before a Marine Board of Investigation...SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA.... New Orleans, LA* 1971 July 1
16. *Official Transcript of Proceedings before a Marine Board of Investigation...SS TEXACO*

OKLAHOMA.... New Orleans, LA

1971 July 2

Box 2
Folder:

Series 2: Exhibits

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Exhibit 31: Inspector's Report (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | 1971 Mar 15 |
| 2. | Exhibit 32: Inspector's Report (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | 1971 Jan 21 |
| 3. | Exhibit 33 (A-D): U.S. Coast Guard reports. Information from Rescue coordination Center Controller re: MS BOUGAINVILLE | 1971 Apr 5 |
| 4. | Exhibit 34: ETA of SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | n.d. |
| 5. | Exhibit 35: Report of American Bureau of Shipping (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | 1968 June 5 |
| 6. | Exhibit 36: Report of American Bureau of Shipping (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | 1967 June 1 |
| 7. | Exhibit 37: American Bureau of Shipping – Status of surveys & outstanding recommendations – SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | 1970 June 28 |
| | Exhibit 38 (A-C) [oversized storage – see Box 4] | |
| 8. | Exhibit 39: Coast & Geodetic Survey Chart (locating point of sinking) | n.d. |
| 9. | Exhibit 40: Gauge & Inspection report (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | 1971 Mar 20 |
| 10. | Exhibit 41: Radio message from U.S. Coast Guard | 1971 Mar |
| | Exhibit 42: [oversized storage – see Box 4] | |
| 11. | Exhibit 43: Hull Inspection Book – Lt. Queen (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | 196(9) Apr 21 |
| 12. | Exhibit 44: Hull Inspection Book – Mr. Denini (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | 1969 Apr 23 |
| 13. | Exhibit 45: U.S. Coast Guard Marine Inspection Office. "Inspection other than Annual – Hull Inspection (SS TEXACO WISCONSIN) | 1971 Apr 10 |
| 14. | Exhibit 46: U.S. Coast Guard Marine Inspection Office. "Inspection other than Annual – Special Report (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | 1970 Oct 26 |
| 15. | Exhibit 47: U.S. Coast Guard Marine Inspection Office. "Inspection other than Annual – Special Report (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | 1970 Nov 13 |
| 16. | Exhibit 48: Hull Inspection Book-Marine Inspection Office, Phila. (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | 1969 June 31(?) |
| 17. | Exhibit 49: Boiler Inspection Book-Marine Inspection Office, Phila. (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | 1970 June 17 |

Box 2 (cont'd)**Folder:****Series 2: Exhibits (cont'd)**

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|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 18. | Exhibit 50: Drydock Examination Book-Portsmouth, VA (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | 1970 Jul 10 |
| 19. | Exhibit 51, 51a: Texaco Bunker receipt & Shore Tank Ullages (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | 1971 Mar 21 |
| 20. | Exhibit 52: Owner's Record of Repairs to SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | n.d. |
| 21. | Exhibit 57: Correspondence: <u>From:</u> Master, M/S BOUGAINVILLE (Searsport, ME)
<u>To:</u> U.S. Coast Guard (NY) | 1971 Apr 9 |
| 22. | Exhibit 58: Reports of the SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA to AMVER (<i>Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System</i>) | 1971 Apr 20 |
| 23. | Exhibit 59: Fifteen (15) Situation Reports | 1971 Mar 29-Apr 4 |
| 24. | Exhibit 60: Radio Logs of SS SASSTOWN
<i>See also</i> Box 4 [oversized] for Deck Logs of Exhibit 60 | 1971 Mar 22-29 |
| 25. | Exhibit 61: U.S. Coast Guard cutters & radio stations: weather messages | 1971 Mar 26-28 |
| 26. | Exhibit 62: Loading Report of SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | 1971 Mar 20 |
| 27. | Exhibit 63: Radio-Telephone & Radio-Navigation licenses SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | 1969 Aug 11 |
| 28. | Exhibit 64: Stress Numeral Calculations prior to last voyage of SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA (Pt. Arthur, TX). | n.d. |
| 29. | Exhibit 65: Stress Numeral Calculations of every other voyage of SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA (Voy 25-70) | 1970 Nov-1971 Mar |
| 30. | Exhibit 66: Available ballast sheets for the voyages of the SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA 1969-70-71 | 1969-71 |
| 31. | Exhibit 68: Inventory of the equipment in the inflatable life raft when it was recovered. (SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA) | n.d. |
| 32. | Exhibit 70: Preliminary Longitudinal Strength Study | [1971 June 4] |
| 33. | Exhibit 71: Study of Transfer Stresses | [1971 June 8] |
| 34. | Exhibit 72: Correspondence: <u>From:</u> Capt. C.T. Newman, USCG (traveling inspector)
<u>To:</u> Chief, Merchant Vessel Inspection Div.
RE: Inspection of SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA class tankships | 1970 May 14 |
| 35. | Exhibit 73: Excerpts from Reports of Structural Condition of 8 vessels in SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA class | n.d. |

Box 2 (cont'd)**Folder:****Series 2: Exhibits (cont'd)**

- | | | |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 36. | Exhibit 74: Collision report of 14 vessels | n.d. |
| 37. | Exhibit 75: Cargo Ship Safety Radio Telegraphy Certificate including attachments on SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | 1970 Jul 14,15
1971 Apr 22 |
| 38. | Exhibit 76: Inspection report of SS TEXACO WISCONSIN | 1971 Apr 10 |
| 39. | Exhibit 77: Correspondence: <u>From:</u> R. Carl Corbett, Texaco Marine Repair Rep.
<u>To:</u> Cdr. Matthew Wood, USCG
RE: SS TEXACO WISCONSIN | 1971 Apr 12 |
| 40. | Exhibit 78: Statement of Coast Guard Marine Inspector at Portsmouth, VA
RE: SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA inspections | 1971 Apr 29 |
| 41. | Exhibit 79: Correspondence: <u>From:</u> Lt. S.W. Mead, USCG
<u>To:</u> Marine Board of Inspections
RE: SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA hull inspection | 1971 May 3 |
| 42. | Exhibit 80: Gas Free Certificate from Newport News | 1970 Jul 6 |
| 43. | Exhibit 81: Drydock Examination Book: SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | 1960 Dec 11 |
| 44. | Exhibit 82: Drydock Examination Book: SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | 1963 May 22 |
| 45. | Exhibit 83: Drydock Examination Book: SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | 1968 June 3 |
| 46. | Exhibit 84: Correspondence: <u>From:</u> Capt. J.F. Fitch, master SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA
<u>To:</u> Merchant Marine Inspector, USCG | 1970 Jul 19 |
| 47. | Exhibit 85: Instructions from Merchant Marine Safety Manual RE: Reinspections | 1970 Mar 2 |
| 48. | Exhibit 86: Prior Instructions from Merchant Marine Safety Manual
RE: Drydocking | 1965 Oct 1 |
| 49. | Exhibit 87: Coast Guard Inspection Regulations RE: inspections & certifications-tank vessels | n.d. |
| 50. | Exhibit 88: Composite crew list: SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | 1971 Mar 28 |
| 51. | Exhibit 89: Press release from Public Information Officer 1 st Coast Guard District
News broadcast by station WHDH in Boston | 1971 Mar 27 |
| 52. | Exhibit 90: Report of test analysis of steel from SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | 1971 June 8 |
| 53. | Exhibit 91: Consolidated certificate of Enrollment & License: SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | 1969 Mar 20 |

Box 2 (cont'd)

Folder:

Series 2: Exhibits (cont'd)

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 54. | Exhibit 92: Cargo ship safety equipment certificate: SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | 1969 Apr 21 |
| 55. | Exhibit 93: Cargo ship safety construction certificate: SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA | 1969 Apr 21 |
| 56. | Exhibit 94: Class certificate: S/T ATLANTIS Bareboat Charter | 1960 Oct 27 |
| 57. | Exhibit 95: Correspondence: <u>From:</u> American Bureau of Shipping, NY
<u>To:</u> Texaco, Inc.
RE: SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA & SS TEXACO WISCONSIN | 1967 Jan 18 |
| | Exhibit 96: [oversized storage – see Box 4] | |
| | Exhibit 97: [oversized storage – see Box 4] | |

Box 3

Folder:

Series 3: Casualty Reports

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Correspondence: <u>From:</u> Coast Guard Marine Inspection Office – Pt. Arthur, TX
<u>To:</u> Coast Guard Marine Inspection – Battery Park, NY | 1971 Apr 29 |
| 2. | Document: Report of Vessel Casualty or Accident – CG-2692 | 1971 Apr 21 |

Crew [Missing] (*See also* Exhibit 88 – Crew List – Box 2)

Licensed Officers:

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 3. | Doc-CG 924E: Hopkins, Richard B., Master | |
| 4. | Doc-CG 924E: Cannell, Harry H., Chief Mate | |
| 5. | Doc-CG 924E: Koenig, Joseph W., Chief Engineer | |
| 6. | Doc-CG 924E: McKinney, Darlyn, 2 nd Assistant Engineer | |
| 7. | Doc-CG 924E: Meadows, Julian W., 2 nd Mate | |
| 8. | Doc-CG 924E: Merrikin, Albert E., Radio Officer/Clerk | |
| 9. | Doc-CG 924E: Paul, Robert C., 3 rd Mate | |
| Unlicensed crew: | | |
| 10. | Doc-CG 924E: Andrezzi, Lawrence, AB (able bodied seaman) | |
| 11. | Doc-CG 924E: Bakula, Stanley, Chief wiper | |
| 12. | Doc-CG 924E: Bombasi, Ulpiano, Oiler | |
| 13. | Doc-CG 924E: Carvajal, Heriberto, Wiper | |
| 14. | Doc-CG 924E: Contreras, Andy, Chief steward | |
| 15. | Doc-CG 924E: Garnet, Nathaniel, Wiper | |
| 16. | Doc-CG 924E: McFadden, James C., Quartermaster | |
| 17. | Doc-CG 924E: Molina, Candido E., Quartermaster | |
| 18. | Doc-CG 924E: Monteiro, Arthur, Officers mess | |
| 19. | Doc-CG 924E: O’Leary, William J., Utility (Bedroom) | |
| 20. | Doc-CG 924E: Parker, Charles W., AB | |
| 21. | Doc-CG 924E: Person, Roosevelt, FWT (Fireman, Water, Tender) | |
| 22. | Doc-CG 924E: Pierce, Arnold F., Oiler | |
| 23. | Doc-CG 924E: Polite, Ernest L., Deck Maintenance (AB) | |
| 24. | Doc-CG 924E: Price, Oliver, 2 nd Cook & baker | |
| 25. | Doc-CG 924E: Ross, James C., Deck Maintenance (AB) | |
| 26. | Doc-CG 924E: Tenney, Harry R., Quartermaster | |
| 27. | Doc-CG 924E: Thomas, Wilbert, Steward (utility) | |
| 28. | Doc-CG 924E: Thompson, Euins H., AB | |
| 29. | Doc-CG 924E: Tifre, Lorenzo, Deck Maintenance (AB) | |
| 30. | Doc-CG 924E: Truell, Charles E., FWT | |
| 31. | Doc-CG 924E: Weeks, Joseph G., Bos’n | |
| 32. | Doc-CG 924E: White, Leland J., OS (ordinary seaman) | |
| 33. | Doc-CG 924E: Yturregui, Ricardo, Utility (pantry) | |

Oversized Documents

Box 4

Series 2: Exhibits

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Exhibit 38a: Deck Log. SS PASADENA | 1971 Mar 26 |
| 2. | Exhibit 38b: Deck Log. SS PASADENA | 1971 Mar 27 |
| 3. | Exhibit 38c: Deck Log. SS PASADENA | 1971 Mar 28 |
| 4. | Exhibit 42: <i>Certificate of Inspection</i> . DOT/USCG.
SS TEXACO OKLAHOMA
Apr 21 | (expires)1971 |
| 5. | Exhibit 60: (a)Deck Log SS SASSTOWN
(b)Deck Log SS SASSTOWN | 1971 Mar 26
1971 Mar 27 |
| 6. | Exhibit 96: <i>Certificate of Classification for Hull</i> . American Bureau of Shipping.
S/T ATLANTIS | 1958 Mar 3 |
| 7. | Exhibit 97: <i>Certificate of Classification for Machinery</i> . American Bureau of Shipping.
S/T ATLANTIS | 1958 Mar 3 |