

ACTION OF ENEMY

Name of Vessel AFRICAN STAR
 Date of Casualty 7-12-43

ONI

"At 0520 G^{MT} the sub surfaced approximately 1000 yards on the starboard quarter. The survivors trailed cars in an effort to elude the sub but #2 boat was quickly located by the sub which hailed them. Immediately someone in the boat flashed a light on the sub which answered by the command in English, 'Put out that light.' All subsequent questions were asked in English. First was, 'Are there any officers on board?' No one answered so a light was played over the boat and the Third Officer, recognized as such because of his officer's cap, was directed to go aboard the submarine. The next question was, 'Does anyone speak Dutch or German?' An Ordinary Seaman stated that he did and was likewise directed to come aboard. According to these men the following comment and questions were offered: 'This is unfortunate; are you Americans or British; what is the name of your ship; what was your course, speed, dimensions, destination; where is your captain; what do you get to eat; what do you think about the war; do you hear war news regularly; who are your owners; would you like to go to Africa; how do you get along with the British; don't you fight with them now and then; have you ever been in Germany; what state are you from; what aircraft have you seen; is this a Grace Line Ship?'

Third Officer reported he gave the right name of the ship and owners but gave its course as 100 degrees true and its destination as Santos and then the United States; its tonnage as 15,000, speed 15 knots, that the captain went down with the ship, that he had had roast turkey to eat last, that he was from New York, that he had very little information concerning the war, that he had last seen a plane one hour out of Rio, and asked at the conclusion of the interview how near they were to land. Both questions appeared to have fluent command over English, one of which stated he was in New York in 1936. Other comments such as: 'There's no doubt Germany is going to win the war; we, too, have turkey and ice-cream; we don't get much news; we can take you to Africa if you like, it's too bad your captain went down with the ship; why did it take you so long to get off the ship, we were waiting for you to get off before firing the second torpedo; if you were going to the states you were a little off your course!' (To which the Third Officer stated, 'A wide sweep was made for evasive purposes'). The seaman was asked substantially the same information and questions concerning where he had learned his Dutch; to which he replied 'Africa'. After which he was asked if he would like to go back as they could take him there but he replied in the negative. The two interrogators were described as being approximately 25 and 23 years of age respectively; the first was about 6'3" tall; full, dark beard; dark hair; had heavy guttural accent; wore green khaki uniforms;

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CONFIDENTIALACTION OF ENEMY

Name of Vessel AFRICAN STAR (Cont'd)
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heavy single-breasted jacket with fur collar; over-seas cap of same khaki; no emblems visible. The second was approximately 5'10" tall, more fluent in English (this is the one stated he had been in New York in 1936), wore green khaki trousers, brown khaki shirt open at collar, leather jacket, officer's cap with a circular, non-lustrous metal Nisk emblem. The interrogation was concluded upon the command heard from within the conning tower uttered in an impatient tone in English, 'Tell them to stop.' At this time the elder interrogator slipped a package of cigarettes unobtrusively into the Third Officers hands and whispered in a low voice, 'The nearest point of land is Santos, two-hundred miles away. Good luck.'; and pointed in the direction which the land lay. They were put into the boat immediately thereafter and all agreed that the submarine dashed away on the surface in a northerly direction full throttle kicking up a spray as it did so."

Name of Vessel ROBERT BACON
Date of Casualty 7-14-43

ONI

"Sub surfaced at 0200 GMT, came alongside #3 lifeboat and asked for Captain. Commander of sub was told that Captain must be in another lifeboat as he was not in that one. Sub Commander then asked name of vessel, tonnage and nationality. He then told survivors that they were about 50 miles from land and wished them luck. Captain stated that from speech of crew, sub appeared to be German. Sub circled scene of sinking for about 30 minutes and was last seen submerging and steaming in southwest direction."

Name of Vessel RICHARD CASHELL
Date of Casualty 7-16-43

Chief Engineer

"A few moments after the ship disappeared the submarine surfaced a few hundred yards away from us on the life raft, and pulled up right alongside of us. There were about 4 men in the conning tower, and an officer behind them who was probably the commander. He left the tower and walked along the deck with a tommy gun in his right hand and a megaphone in his left hand until he was right alongside of us, then he asked if that was an American ship. We said yes, it was. He asked us the name of the ship and he got the wrong name, one of the boys yelled PHILLIP MORRIS. He asked where we came from, and we said from Bahia, and he asked where we were going, and we told him Rio -- although we

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