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UNI MAIL ROOM

BOARDING REPORT

COMMERCE AND TRAVEL SECTION OF D. I. O.--FOURTH NAVAL DISTRICT
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

NOV 24 4 PM 12 23

Vessel: S/S AMERICAN FISHER Date Boarded: 25 November 1944
 Flag: American Boarded at: Philadelphia, Pa.
 Captain: NILSSON, N. K. Boarding Officer: D. HOLLISTER, Lt., USNR
 Int. Call Letters: WHCM Owner: War Shipping Administration
 Gross Tonnage: 4,779 tons Operator: Tankers Company, Ltd.
 Normal Speed: 9 knots Agent: Lavino Shipping Co.
 Cargo: 1,200,000 gals. - molasses No. of Passengers: None
 Routing Instructions: received from Port Director, Philadelphia.

(1) ITINERARY:

<u>PORT</u>	<u>ARRIVED</u>	<u>DEPARTED</u>
Philadelphia		9 Nov. 1944
Puerto Vita, Cuba	14 Nov. 1944	16 Nov. 1944
Puerto Padre, Cuba	16 Nov. 1944	17 Nov. 1944
Philadelphia	25 Nov. 1944	

(2) GROUNDINGS:

On entering into and departing from Vita Bay, Subject Vessel went aground at Pta. Gorda (H.O. Chart #5166). The following is quoted from the secret log of Subject Vessel:

(14 Nov.) "2:12 PM Arrived off Bahia Vita. 3:15 Pilot C. Cisco on board. At 5:22 PM let go Port Anchor, one shackle in the water, to assist the vessel to make the turn at Point Gorda. The tide caught the ship and caused the stern to swing up against the West Bank of the channel. Mooring lines were run out to the opposite side of the channel and at 8:30 PM the vessel was all clear and proceeded to the dock. At 10:00 finished with engines. Sounding was taken of the double bottoms and no leak was found.

(16 Nov.) "At 10:25 AM all clear off dock. Proceeded Pilot Cisco on board. At 10:32 let go starboard anchor, 15 fms. shackle in the water at 10:38 AM. Ship touched bottom on port side forward on Bank at Point Gorda. At 10:40 anchor up. 10:47 Pilot left. 10:54 Departure. The bottom at Pt. Gorda is soft clay and will not hold the anchor fast. Pilot Cisco informed me that the three previous vessels went aground at the same point. The pilot at Puerto Padre told me that a vessel of this size would always have difficulty entering Vita Bay."

The Master reported that he did not believe any damage had been done to Subject Vessel as a result of these groundings.

DISSEMINATION:

ONI (2); NRO; File.

W. P. Wear
 W. P. WEAR,
 Lieut. Comdr., USNR

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