

27 April 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

SUBJECT: Supplement to Summary of Statements by Survivors of the SS ATLANTIC STATES, U. S. Tanker, 8535 G.T., owned and operated by Atlantic Refining Company.

Ref: (a) Op-16-B-5 Memo for File, dated 17 April 1945, same subject.

1. The ATLANTIC STATES was taken in tow by the ATR-14, ATR-89, and WANDANK (ATO-26), docked at Pier No. 1, Simpson's Yard, East Boston 7 April 45, and was drydocked the same yard 10 April.
2. No additional information.
3. Upon drydocking examination of the damage caused by the explosion revealed that the propeller and rudder were blown off, rudder post snapped off approximately at the water line, remainder of the rudder post driven upwards into the steering engine room, end of the skeg broken off, extensive damage caused to the hull plating around the stern, two breaks in the sternpost above the propeller shaft and a crack in the hull plating from the after end of the bilge keel extending forward and inboard toward the keel a distance of approximately 50'. This latter crack, it may be assumed, was caused by the strain from the explosion. It is expected that complete repairs rendering the tanker ready for sea will take approximately 5 months.
4. No additional information.
5. Search of the tanker's engine room and shaft alley in the vicinity of the damage failed to disclose any fragments not identifiable as part of the ship's machinery.
6. Interviewing officer stated that it is believed that the tanker was struck by an acoustic torpedo, which exploded upon contact with either the rudder or propeller or both.

BARBARA CONARD
Lt.(jg) USNR

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