

To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

Ship S/S BENJAMIN HARRISON

Service OCEAN FREIGHT

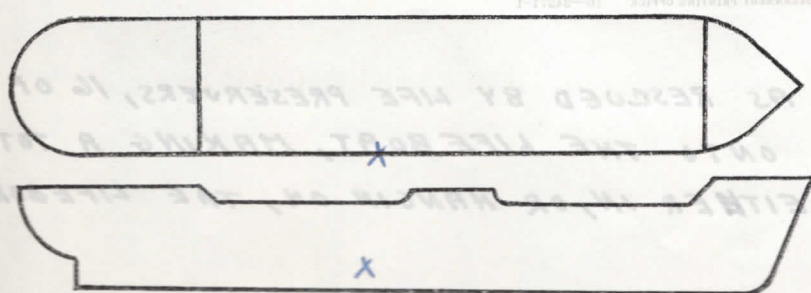
Owner WSA

Operator CALMAR SS CORP.

Information furnished by MASTER

Date 27 SEPTEMBER 1944

LINE No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	Year built and propulsion	Built <u>1942</u> Propulsion <u>STEAM</u>
2	Tonnage	Gross <u>7191</u> Net <u>4389</u>
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed)	Fwd <u>27'07" (M)</u> Aft <u>27'07"</u>
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd <u>21'06" (M)</u> Aft <u>22'00"</u>
5	Cargo on board (any deck)	Nature <u>GENERAL</u> Tons <u>4250</u>
6	Voyage	From <u>NEW YORK</u> To <u>NORTH AFRICA</u>
7	Were routing orders followed	<u>YES</u>
8	Any criticism of orders	<u>NO</u>
9	Weather at time of attack	Weather <u>OVERCAST</u> Sea <u>CHOPPY</u>
10	Was enemy sighted? When	<u>NO.</u>
11	Any friendly ships in sight	<u>YES; CONVOY</u>
12	Were navigation lights on	<u>NO</u>
13	Date and time of attack	Date <u>3/16/45</u> Time <u>1850</u>
14	Position	Latitude <u>39° 09' N</u> Longitude <u>24° 15' W</u>
15	Nature of attack (Give data)	<u>TORPEDOED</u>
16	Number of hits	<u>1</u>
17	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<u>1 - AFT # 5 - S</u>
18	Effect of hits	<u>SANK SHIP NOTED</u>
19	Was ship armed? What type	<u>YES</u>
20	Was armament used? State result	<u>NO</u>
21	Any explosions or fires*	Ship <u>NO</u> Cargo <u>NO</u>
22	Was deck ruptured	<u>NO</u>
23	Did ship break in two	<u>NO</u>
24	Was SOS sent	<u>NO</u>
25	Ship's speed	Normal <u>10.5</u> When attacked <u>8.0</u> When abandoned <u>4.0</u>
26	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <u>1930 (40 min.)</u> Sunk <u>1930 (40 min.) NOTED</u>
27	Was ship reboarded	By whom <u>NO</u> When <u>—</u>
28	Was ship brought in	How <u>NO</u> Approximate damage <u>SUNK</u>



*Fill in this diagram to show attack hits, fires, etc.

NOTE ① SINCE VESSEL WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED, AN ESCORT VESSEL HASTENED HER SINKING (BY) SHELLFIRE

Indicate by star (*) rafts, floats, or suits used as temporary refuge in water before rescue by lifeboats.

LINE No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
29	Lifeboats.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>1</u>
30	Lifeboats.....	Number lost <u>3</u> How <u>1 - TORPEDO EXPLOSION</u> <u>2 - INEFFICIENT LAUNCHING</u>
31	Life rafts.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>3 - NOT RELEASED</u> <u>0</u>
32	Life rafts.....	Number lost <u>4</u> How <u>1 - TORPEDO EXPLOSION</u> <u>3 - NOT RELEASED</u>
33	Life floats.....	Number carried <u>2</u> Which used <u>1</u>
34	Life floats.....	Number lost <u>1</u> How <u>DRIPTED AWAY</u>
35	Lifesaving suits.....	Number carried <u>44</u> Number used <u>0</u>
36	Were boats, etc., attacked.....	Attacked <u>NO</u> Casualties <u>0</u>
37	Time in each boat, raft, etc.	<u>1</u> Boat <u>3-HRS</u> Raft <u>1</u> Float <u>3-HRS</u>
38	Rescued by and where <u>1B+1F</u>	By <u>ALLIED SHIP</u> Where <u>AT SCENE</u>
39	Number of gun crew carried (military).....	Officers <u>1</u> Enlisted men <u>26</u>
40	Number ship's crew carried.....	Officers <u>8</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>34</u>
41	Number passengers and others carried.....	Passengers <u>1</u> Others <u>0</u>
42	Total on board.....	<u>71</u>
43	Number gun crew injured (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>0</u>
44	Number ship's crew injured.....	Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>0</u>
45	Number passengers and others injured.....	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u>
46	Number gun crew lost (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>0</u>
47	Number ship's crew lost.....	Officers <u>2</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>0</u>
48	Number passengers and others lost.....	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u>
49	Total casualties.....	Injured <u>0</u> Lost <u>2</u>
50	Persons lost by (Specify).....	Drowning <u>2</u> Fire <u>0</u> Shell or torpedo <u>0</u>
51	Total rescued.....	Gun crew <u>27</u> Officers <u>8</u> Radio operators <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>34</u> Passengers <u>1</u> Others <u>0</u> Total <u>69</u>
52	Persons saved by.....	Boats <u>35</u> Rafts <u>0</u> Floats <u>3</u> Suits <u>0</u> Preservers <u>31</u> Other means <u>0</u> No aid <u>0</u>
53	Engineering watch below.....	Number on watch below <u>3</u> Number lost below <u>0</u>
54	Number of look-outs.....	<u>8</u>
55	Any defective material.....	<u>NO</u>
56	Any personnel fault.....	<u>NO</u>

COMMENTS, CRITICISMS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The comments, criticisms, or recommendations of survivors with respect to safety of seamen and ships involved in war actions are earnestly solicited by Headquarters in order that the fullest provision possible may be made for the safety of American ships and seamen.

NOTE - OF THE 31 LISTED AS RESCUED BY LIFE PRESERVERS, 16 OF THIS NUMBER, HUNG ONTO THE LIFEBOAT, MAKING A TOTAL OF 51 WHO WERE EITHER IN, OR HANGIN ON, THE LIFEBOAT.