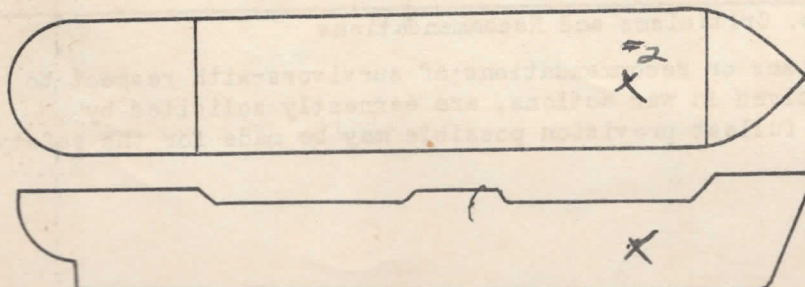


(Feb. 1943)
NCG 924d-1CONFIDENTIAL
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT VESSEL WAR ACTION CASUALTY

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

Ship S/S BIENVILLE Service OCEAN FREIGHT
Owner WATERMAN SS CORP Operator AMERICAN EXPORT LINES
Info. furnished by MASTER Date 22 JULY 1944

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1.	Year built & propulsion	Built 1920 Propulsion STEAM
2.	Tonnage	Gross 5492 Net 3467
3.	Draft loaded (max. allowed)	Fwd. 26'03" (M) Aft
4.	Draft when attacked	Fwd. 25'06" (M) Aft
5.	Cargo on board (any deck)	Nature GENERAL (1/2-MANGANESE) Tons 7500
6.	Voyage	From CALCUTTA, INDIA To COLOMBO, CEYLON
7.	Were routing orders followed	YES
8.	Any criticism of orders	NO
9.	Weather at time of attack	Weather CLEAR Sea SMOOTH
10.	Was enemy sighted - (when)	YES; BEFORE ATTACK
11.	Any friendly ships in sight	NO
12.	Were navigation lights on	NO-DAYLIGHT.
13.	Date and time of attack	Date 4/6/42 Time 0713
14.	Position	Lat. 17° 50' N Long. 84° 50' E
15.	Nature of attack (Give data)	AIR BOMB; 7 SHELLS
16.	Number of hits	1-BOMB; 10-SHELLS
17.	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	1-BOMB-FOR'D; 10-SHELLS - ALL OVER PORTSIDE
18.	Effect of hits	SANK SHIP.
19.	Was ship armed (What type)	NO
20.	Was armament used (State result)	-
21.	Any explosions or fires*	Ship NO. Cargo YES; FIRES
22.	Was deck ruptured	YES
23.	Did ship break in two	NO
24.	Was SOS sent	YES
25.	Ship's speed	Normal 10.0 When attacked 9.5 When abandoned STOP.
26.	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned 0750 (37 min) Sunk 0800 (47 min)
27.	Was ship reboarded	By whom NO When -
28.	Was ship brought in	How NO Approx. damage SUNK



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

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

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
29.	Lifeboats	No. carried 4 Which used 1
30.	Lifeboats	No. lost 3 How SHELL FIRE
31.	Life rafts	No. carried 4 Which used 3*
32.	Life rafts	No. lost 1 How SHELL FIRE
33.	Life floats	No. carried 0 Which used 0
34.	Life floats	No. lost 0 How 0
35.	Lifesaving suits	No. carried 0 No. used 0
36.	Were boats, etc. attacked	Attacked NO Casualties 0
37.	Time in each boat, raft etc.	1 Boat 26 HRS — Raft — Float Boat — Raft — Float
38.	Rescued by & where	By MADE SHORE Where CUTTACK, INDIA.
39.	No. gun crew carried (military)	Officers 0 Enlisted men 0
40.	No. ship's crew carried	Officers 9 Radio men 1 Unlicensed 31
41.	No. passgrs. & others carried	Passgrs. 0 Others 0
42.	Total on board	41
43.	No. gun crew injured (military)	Officers 0 Enlisted men 0
44.	No. ship's crew injured	Officers 4 Radio men 0 Unlicensed 9
45.	No. passgrs. & others injured	Passgrs. 0 Others 0
46.	No. gun crew lost (military)	Officers 0 Enlisted men 0
47.	No. ship's crew lost	Officers 5 Radio men 1 Unlicensed 18
48.	No. passgrs. & others lost	Passgrs. 0 Others 0
49.	Total casualties	Injured 13 Lost 24
50.	Persons lost by (Specify)	Drowning 0 Fire 0 Shell or Torp. 24 Other causes 0
51.	Total rescued	Gun crew 0 Officers 4 Radio Oprs. 0 Unlicensed 13 Passgrs. 0 Others 0 Total 17
52.	Persons saved by	Boats 18 Rafts 2* Floats 0 Suits 0 Preservers 0 Other means 0 No aid 0
53.	Engineering watch below	No. on watch below 4 No. lost below 1
54.	No. of lookouts	1
55.	Any defective material	NO
56.	Any personnel fault	NO

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.