

CONFIDENTIAL

EXCERPT FROM 5ND BOARDING REPORT, SS CERRO GORDO (U.S.), 3 MARCH 1944

On 12/4/43 subject vessel passed through Avonmouth Locks on her way to Bristol, England, to discharge cargo consisting of gasoline. On 12/5/43, the vessel was notified to stop discharging and immediately make ready to put to sea, leaving 1500 barrels of gasoline in her tanks. Subject vessel was to meet the convoy at Milford Haven, therefore necessitating her return through the Avonmouth Locks.

Orders were to have been received from a British escort vessel relative to convoy instructions but subject vessel was unable to locate the escort.

On coming out of Bristol Channel the weather was quite soupy and a heavy current was running. Subject vessel, drawing about 20' of water, was making about 15 knots on her engines and with the current in all probability turning up better than 15 knots.

At 0632 on the morning of 12/6/43, subject vessel ran aground near Coningbeg Light, 52-02 N - 6-40 W. Due to the fact that all but 1500 barrels of gasoline had been discharged at Bristol, it was necessary to take on ballast in order to keep her on even keel while underway. After running aground, all ballast was pumped out and vessel refloated at 1038.

The wireless operator was instructed to break radio silence which he did, asking for instructions. Later in the day the vessel was notified to proceed to Belfast, N. Ireland for survey, arriving at 0423 on 12/7/43. A diver was sent down to estimate the damage and reported a 30' hole in the bottom of the ship. Repairs were made at this port.

Dissemination: Coast Guard
Op-16-B-5
MFM/mg
15 Mar. 44.

CONFIDENTIAL