

(Feb. 1943)
NCG 924d-1

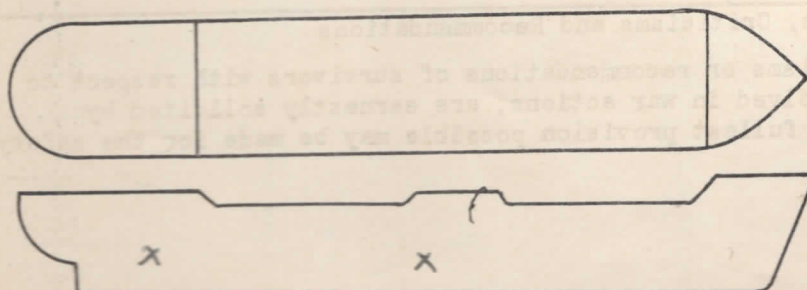
CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT VESSEL WAR ACTION CASUALTY

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

Ship ^M/S. CHALLENGER Service OCEAN FREIGHT
Owner AMERICAN SOUTH AFRICAN LINE Operator U.S. MARITIME COMM.
Info. furnished by MASTER Date 29 JULY 1944

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1.	Year built & propulsion	Built <u>1918</u> Propulsion <u>DIESEL</u>
2.	Tonnage	Gross <u>7668</u> Net <u>5842</u>
3.	Draft loaded (max. allowed)	Fwd. <u>30'6" (M)</u> Aft
4.	Draft when attacked	Fwd. <u>29.9' (M)</u> Aft
5.	Cargo on board (any deck)	Nature <u>GENERAL.</u> Tons <u>8400</u>
6.	Voyage	From <u>NEW YORK</u> To <u>CAPETOWN, SOUTH 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>CLEAR</u> Sea <u>CHOPPY</u>
10.	Was enemy sighted - (when)	<u>YES; AFTER ATTACK</u>
11.	Any friendly ships in sight	<u>NO</u>
12.	Were navigation lights on	<u>NO</u>
13.	Date and time of attack	Date <u>5/17/42</u> Time <u>0357</u>
14.	Position	Lat. <u>12°11' N</u> Long. <u>61°18' W</u>
15.	Nature of attack (Give data)	<u>TORPEDO +</u>
16.	Number of hits	<u>2</u>
17.	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<u>1-AFT; 1-FOR'D. - 1-H5 - 1-#3</u>
18.	Effect of hits	<u>SANK SHIP.</u>
19.	Was ship armed (What type)	<u>YES;</u>
20.	Was armament used (State result)	<u>YES; UNKNOWN.</u>
21.	Any explosions or fires*	Ship <u>YES; AFT MAGAZINE</u> Cargo <u>NO</u>
22.	Was deck ruptured	<u>YES</u>
23.	Did ship break in two	<u>NO</u>
24.	Was SOS sent	<u>YES</u>
25.	Ship's speed	Normal <u>9</u> When attacked <u>8.5</u> When abandoned <u>STOP</u>
26.	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <u>0430</u> (33 min) Sunk <u>0458 (1 hr 1 min)</u>
27.	Was ship reboarded	By whom <u>NO</u> When <u>—</u>
28.	Was ship brought in	How <u>NO</u> Approx. damage <u>SUNK.</u>



*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 2
30.	Lifeboats	No. lost 2 How TORP. EXPLOSION.
31.	Life rafts	No. carried 4 Which used 2*
32.	Life rafts	No. lost 2 How NOT NEEDED
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.	Boats - 11 HRS. — Raft — Float Boat — Raft — Float
38.	Rescued by & where	By ALLIED SHIP Where NEAR SCENE
39.	No. gun crew carried (military)	Officers 1 Enlisted men 10
40.	No. ship's crew carried	Officers 9 Radio men 1 Unlicensed 31
41.	No. passgrs. & others carried	Passgrs. 12 Others 0
42.	Total on board	64
43.	No. gun crew injured (military)	Officers 0 Enlisted men 0
44.	No. ship's crew injured	Officers 0 Radio men 0 Unlicensed 5
45.	No. passgrs. & others injured	Passgrs. 0 Others 0
46.	No. gun crew lost (military)	Officers 0 Enlisted men 2
47.	No. ship's crew lost	Officers 0 Radio men 0 Unlicensed 5
48.	No. passgrs. & others lost	Passgrs. 1 Others 0
49.	Total casualties	Injured 5 Lost 8
50.	Persons lost by (Specify)	Drowning 0 Fire 0 Shell or Torp. 8 Other causes 0
51.	Total rescued	Gun crew 9 Officers 9 Radio Oprs. 1 Unlicensed 26 Passgrs. 8 Others 0 Total 56
52.	Persons saved by	Boats 56 Rafts 0 Floats 0 Suits 0 Preservers 6 Other means 0 No aid 0
53.	Engineering watch below	No. on watch below 2 No. lost below 0
54.	No. of lookouts	7
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.