

Government Ticker: March 16, 1942

HAVANA.--CAPTAIN EUSEBIO MANDIOLA URQUIDE OF THE CUBAN FREIGHTER ORIENTE RADIOED TODAY THAT HE HAD PICKED UP NINE SURVIVORS OF THE AMERICAN FREIGHTER COLABEE, ONE OF TWO FREIGHTERS WHICH THE NEWSPAPER EL MUNDO SAID HAD BEEN TORPEDOED OFF NEUVITAS, CUBA THURSDAY NIGHT. THIRTY-SIX CREW MEMBERS WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE PERISHED WHEN THE COLABEE WAS TORPEDOED. MANY DIED WHEN ONE LIFEBOAT WAS WRECKED BY THE TORPEDO EXPLOSION AND ANOTHER LIFEBOAT WAS SWAMPED IN LAUNCHING, EL MUNDO REPORTED.

ONE SURVIVOR, FRANK ECKMAN, FIRST ASSISTANT MACHINIST, REMAINED ALONE ABOARD THE COLABEE UNTIL NEXT DAY WHEN HE AND THE SHIP'S DOG WERE RESCUED BY THE AMERICAN TANKER KANSAS.

MANDIOLA UEQUIDA SAID HE FOUND THE COLABEE GROUNDED AND BADLY DAMAGED, BUT PART OF THE VESSEL WAS OUT OF THE WATER. HE BELIEVED THAT THE SHIP COULD BE RESTORED TO SERVICE. HE SAID THAT PART OF THE COLABEE'S CARGO APPARENTLY HAD SHIFTED AND CLOGGED THE HOLE MADE BY THE TORPEDO, THUS PREVENTING ITS SINKING.

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