

REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT TANKER WAR ACTION CASUALTY

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

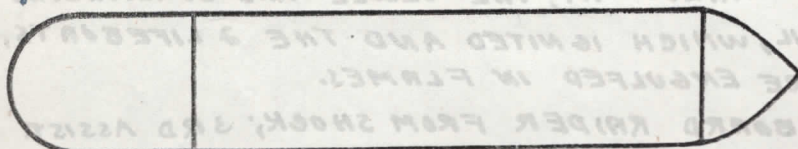
Ship/S CONNECTICUT Service OCEAN TANKER.

Owner TEXAS CO. Operator TEXAS CO.

Information furnished by CHIEF MATE + WSA + HQ RECORDS Date 23 NOVEMBER, 1945

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	Year built and propulsion	Built <u>1938</u> Propulsion <u>STEAM</u>
2	Tonnage	Gross <u>8684</u> Net <u>5105</u>
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed)	Fwd. <u>28'</u> Aft <u>28'</u>
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd. <u>28'</u> Aft <u>28'</u>
5	D. W. T. (Emergency Coastwise L. L.)	<u>13000</u>
6	Cargo 42's capacity and carried	Capacity <u>84,200</u> Carried <u>84,200 BALS.</u>
7	Kind of cargo or tank ballast	<u>100 OCT. GAS; BURNING OIL; AIR-ENG. OIL.</u>
8	Was ship gas-free? (Specify)	<u>NO; LOADED</u>
9	Voyage	From <u>PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS</u> To <u>CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA</u>
10	Were routing orders followed	<u>YES</u>
11	Any criticism of orders	<u>NO</u>
12	Weather at time of attack	Weather <u>P. CLOUDY</u> Sea <u>SLIGHT</u>
13	Was enemy sighted? When	<u>YES; DURING & AFTER ATTACK</u>
14	Any friendly ships in sight	<u>NO</u>
15	Were navigation lights on	<u>NO</u>
16	Date and time of attack	Date <u>4-23-42</u> Time <u>0210</u>
17	Position	Latitude <u>23.50 S</u> Longitude <u>17.50 W</u>
18	Nature of attack (Give data)	<u>TORPEDOED BY SURFACE RAIDER.</u>
19	Number of hits	<u>2</u>
20	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<u>1T - #15-P.; 1T - MID-S</u>
21	Effect of hits	<u>VESSEL SANK ON AN EVEN KEEL.</u>
22	Was ship armed? What type	<u>YES; 1-4"; 1-3"; 4-50 CAL; 2-30 CAL.</u>
23	Was armament used? State result	<u>NO.</u>
24	Was oil sprayed over ship	<u>YES</u>
25	Did cargo fire (Mark diagram)	<u>YES</u>
26	Did tanks explode (Mark diagram)	<u>NO YES</u>
27	Was deck ruptured	<u>YES</u>
28	Did ship break in two	<u>NO</u>
29	Was SOS sent	<u>NO</u>
30	Ship's speed	Normal <u>13.5</u> When attacked <u>13.0</u> When abandoned <u>3.0 STOP</u>
31	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <u>0230 (20 min)</u> Sunk <u>0250 (5 hrs, 40 min.)</u>
32	Was ship reboarded	By whom <u>NO</u> When <u>—</u>
33	Was ship brought in	How <u>NO</u> Approximate damage <u>SUNK.</u>

FORM COMPLETED BY JHF 11-23-45.



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

34	Lifeboats	Number carried	3	Which used	1-TORPEDO EXPLOSION
35	Lifeboats	Number lost	0	Which used	1*
36	Life rafts	Number carried	5	Which used	FIRE
37	Life rafts	Number lost	0	Which used	0
38	Life floats	Number carried	0	Which used	0
39	Life floats	Number lost	0	Which used	0
40	Lifesaving suits	Number carried	43	Number used	1
41	Were boats, etc., attacked	Attacked	NO	Casualties	0
42	Time in each boat, raft, etc.	1-9 hrs, 35 min.	Boat	—	Raft — Float —
43	Rescued by and where	By	GERMAN RAIDER	Where	NEAR SCENE
44	Number of gun crew carried (military)	Officers	1	Enlisted men	10
45	Number of ship's crew carried	Officers	8	Radiomen	1
46	Number of others carried		0	Unlicensed	34
47	Total on board		54		
48	Number of gun crew injured (military)	Officers	0	Enlisted men	0
49	Number of ship's crew injured	Officers	1	Radiomen	0
50	Number of others injured		0-0	Unlicensed	0
51	Number of gun crew lost (military)	Officers	1	Enlisted men	10
52	Number of ship's crew lost	Officers	4	Radiomen	1
53	Number of others lost		0-0	Unlicensed	19
54	Total casualties	Injured	1	Lost	35 MIE(2)
55	Persons lost by (specify)	Drowning	0	Fire	35
56	Total rescued	Other causes	0	Shell or Torpedo	0
57	Persons saved by	Gun crew	0	Officers	4
58	Engineering watch below	Unlicensed	15	Radiomen	0
59	Number of lookouts	Others	0	Total	19 NOTE(2)
60	Any defective material	Boats	19	Rafts	0
61	Any personnel fault	Preservers	0	Floats	0
		Other means	0	Suits	0
		No aid	0		
		Number on watch below	3	Number lost below	0
			NO		
			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.

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NOTE (1) - 2 LIFEBOATS GOT AWAY FROM THE SHIP SAFELY AFTER THE FIRST HIT. HOWEVER, WHEN THE SECOND TORPEDO HIT, THE VESSEL AND SURROUNDING AREA WERE COVERED WITH OIL, WHICH IGNITED AND THE 2 LIFEBOATS, LADEN WITH SURVIVORS, WERE ENGULFED IN FLAMES.

NOTE(2) - A MESSMAN DIED ABOARD RAIDER FROM SHOCK; 3RD ASSIST. & 2ND COOK DIED IN JAP PRISON CAMP FROM MALNUTRITION.

NOTE(3) 18 SURVIVORS WERE TRANSFERRED AT SEA FROM RAIDER #25 TO ANOTHER VESSEL WHICH TOOK THEM TO JAPAN, WHENCE THEY WERE INTERNED UNTIL OCTOBER, 1945.