

EXCERPT FROM 12ND BOARDING REPORT, SS "AUGUSTUS THOMAS" (US), DATED 12JUNE 1944.

Collision with SS "DAVID BELASCO" in Milne Bay:

"The Master stated that at 0440 (Local time) on 30 April 1944 while at anchor in Milne Bay, the SS AUGUSTUS THOMAS broke her anchor moorings during a heavy rain squall (Wind Force 7 or 8), and drifted about one to one-half mile in twenty minutes before she could be brought under control. During the time the ship was dragging her anchor she collided with the SS DAVID BELASCO, another Liberty ship, subject vessel's stem striking the other vessel amidships, and causing some damage to the BELASCO's No. 2 lifeboat. Subject vessel's port quarter bulkhead plate was ripped but she suffered no other damage.

Op-16-B-5
MFM/r
5 July 1944

DISSEMINATION: JAG; USCG.

CONFIDENTIAL