

Full

From:
Intelligence Division

NORFOLK.--THE 11,600 TON AMERICAN TANKER E. H. BLUM WAS DAMAGED BY THREE EXPLOSIONS OF EITHER TORPEDOES OR MINES WHILE IT WAS SAILING UNDER SECRET ORDERS FROM PHILADELPHIA ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST AT 8 P. M. MONDAY NIGHT.

THE ENTIRE CREW OF 40 MEMBERS, INCLUDING CAPT. WILLIAM L. EVANS OF PHILADELPHIA, WAS RESCUED FROM FOUR LIFEBOATS BY A COAST GUARD CUTTER 30 MINUTES AFTER THEY HAD ABANDONED SHIP. THE SHIP AT LEAST REPORTS WAS STILL AFLOAT AND IMMEDIATE SALVAGE OPERATIONS WERE ORDERED.

CREW MEMBERS WHO WERE BROUGHT HERE TODAY WERE UNABLE TO AGREE WHETHER THE VESSEL RAN INTO A MINE FIELD OR WAS TORPEDOED BY AN ENEMY SUBMARINE. IF IT HIT MINES, IT WAS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THEY WERE AMERICAN OR HAD BEEN SOWN BY A GERMAN SUBMARINE. ENEMY SUBMARINES SOWN SOME MINES IN THIS AREA DURING THE LAST WAR.

THE BLUM WAS OWNED BY THE ATLANTIC REFINING CO.

2/18--S1249P

OK

Sailed Phila 2/15 (Sunday) for Texas City

Please return:

- 1. Three torpedoes would surely sink.*
- 2. Three mines which did not sink were certainly small mines.*
- 3. Sabotage?*

RP

MMR