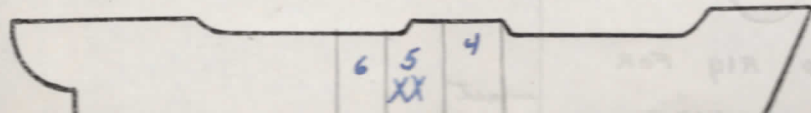
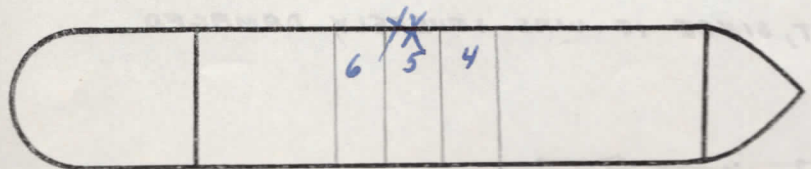


REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT TANKER WAR ACTION CASUALTY

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

Ship/S ESSO HOUSTON Service OCEAN TANKER
 Owner STANDARD OIL Co. OF N.J. Operator STANDARD OIL Co. OF N.J.
 Information furnished by MASTER Date 30 NOVEMBER, 1944

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	Year built and propulsion	Built <u>1938</u> Propulsion <u>STEAM</u>
2	Tonnage	Gross <u>7698</u> Net <u>4654</u>
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed)	Fwd. <u>30' (M)</u> Aft
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd. <u>30' (M)</u> Aft
5	D. W. T. (Emergency Coastwise L. L.)	<u>13,000</u>
6	Cargo 42's capacity and carried	Capacity <u>84,000 BBLs</u> Carried <u>84,000 BBLs.</u>
7	Kind of cargo or tank ballast	<u>FUEL OIL</u>
8	Was ship gas-free? (Specify)	<u>NO; LOADED</u>
9	Voyage	From <u>ARUBA, N.W.I.</u> To <u>MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY</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>CLEAR</u> Sea <u>CHOPPY</u>
13	Was enemy sighted? When	<u>YES; BEFORE 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>5-12-42</u> Time <u>2035</u>
17	Position	Latitude <u>12° 12' N</u> Longitude <u>57° 25' W</u>
18	Nature of attack (Give data)	<u>TORPEDOED</u>
19	Number of hits	<u>2</u>
20	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<u>2-AFT (1/2 PAR. BOD.)</u>
21	Effect of hits	<u>SANK SHIP</u>
22	Was ship armed? What type	<u>YES; 1-4"</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</u>
27	Was deck ruptured	<u>YES</u>
28	Did ship break in two	<u>YES</u>
29	Was SOS sent	<u>YES</u>
30	Ship's speed	Normal <u>12.0</u> When attacked <u>11.5</u> When abandoned <u>STOP</u>
31	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <u>2045 (10 min.)</u> Sunk <u>2230 (1-hr. 55 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>



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

Indicate by star (*) rafts, floats, or suits used as temporary refuge in water before rescue by lifeboats.

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
34	Lifeboats.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>X 3 + 1*</u> NOTE@
35	Lifeboats.....	Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u>
36	Life rafts.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>4*</u>
37	Life rafts.....	Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u>
38	Life floats.....	Number carried <u>0</u> Which used <u>0</u>
39	Life floats.....	Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u>
40	Lifesaving suits.....	Number carried <u>0</u> Number used <u>0</u>
41	Were boats, etc., attacked.....	Attacked <u>NO</u> Casualties <u>0</u>
42	Time in each boat, raft, etc.....	1-- <u>41 hrs</u> Boat <u>- -</u> Raft <u>- -</u> Float <u>- -</u> 2-- <u>100 hrs.</u> Boat <u>- -</u> Raft <u>- -</u> Float <u>- -</u>
43	Rescued by and where.....	By <u>IB 30 ALLIED SHIP MADE PORT</u> Where <u>AT SEA ST. VINCENT ISLAND</u>
44	Number of gun crew carried (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>4</u>
45	Number of ship's crew carried.....	Officers <u>8</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>29</u>
46	Number of others carried.....	<u>0</u>
47	Total on board.....	<u>42</u>
48	Number of gun crew injured (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>0</u>
49	Number of ship's crew injured.....	Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>0</u>
50	Number of others injured.....	<u>0</u>
51	Number of gun crew lost (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>1</u>
52	Number of ship's crew lost.....	Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>0</u>
53	Number of others lost.....	<u>0</u>
54	Total casualties.....	Injured <u>0</u> Lost <u>1</u>
55	Persons lost by (specify).....	Drowning <u>0</u> Fire <u>0</u> Shell or Torpedo <u>1</u> Other causes <u>0</u>
56	Total rescued.....	Gun crew <u>3</u> Officers <u>8</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>29</u> Others <u>0</u> Total <u>41</u>
57	Persons saved by.....	Boats <u>41</u> Rafts <u>0</u> Floats <u>0</u> Suits <u>0</u> Preservers <u>0</u> Other means <u>0</u> No aid <u>0</u>
58	Engineering watch below.....	Number on watch below <u>3</u> Number lost below <u>0</u>
59	Number of lookouts.....	<u>3</u>
60	Any defective material.....	<u>NO</u>
61	Any personnel fault.....	<u>NO</u>

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.

NOTE@ - ONE BOAT LATER HAD TO BE ABANDONED AND ITS OCCUPANTS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER BOAT, SINCE IT WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED.