

# REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT TANKER PROJECT ACTION CASUALTY

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

Ship/S FORT LEE

Service OCEAN TANKER.

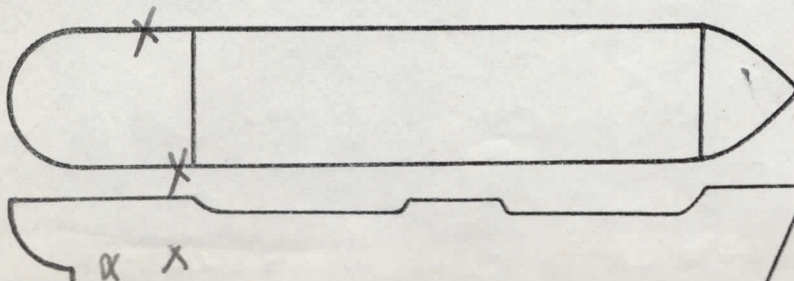
Owner WSA

Operator BERNUTH LEMBCKE CO.

Information furnished by MASTER + CREW

Date 27 JANUARY, 1945

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	Year built and propulsion.....	Built <u>1943</u> Propulsion <u>STEAM</u>
2	Tonnage.....	Gross <u>10,198</u> Net <u>6110</u>
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed).....	Fwd. <u>31' (M)</u> Aft <u>31'</u>
4	Draft when attacked.....	Fwd. <u>31' (M)</u> Aft <u>31'</u>
5	D. W. T. (Emergency Coastwise L. L.).....	<del>FEEL</del> <u>17,143.</u>
6	Cargo 42's capacity and carried.....	Capacity <u>102,000 BBLS</u> Carried <u>93,000, 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>ABADAN, IRAN</u> To <u>BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND.</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>MODERATE</u>
13	Was enemy sighted? When.....	<u>YES; 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>11-2-44</u> Time <u>1434</u>
17	Position.....	Latitude <u>27°35' S</u> Longitude <u>83°11' E</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 - MACH.</u>
21	Effect of hits.....	<u>SANK SHIP.</u>
22	Was ship armed? What type.....	<u>YES; 1-3"; 1-5"; 8-20MM.</u>
23	Was armament used? State result.....	<u>NO</u>
24	Was oil sprayed over ship.....	<u>NO</u>
25	Did cargo fire (Mark diagram).....	<u>NO</u>
26	Did tanks explode (Mark diagram).....	<u>NO</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>15.5</u> When attacked <u>15.5</u> When abandoned
31	Time abandoned, sunk.....	Abandoned <u>1454 (20 min)</u> Sunk <u>1604 (1 hr. 30 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>



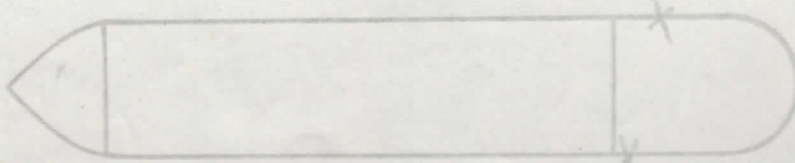
Fill in this diagram to show attack hits, fires, explosions, etc.

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>6</u> Which used <u>4, 3</u>
35	Lifeboats.....	Number lost <u>3</u> How <u>2-TORPEDO EXPLOSION</u>
36	Life rafts.....	Number carried <u>5</u> Which used <u>4* (PROVISIONS TAKEN)</u>
37	Life rafts.....	Number lost <u>1</u> How <u>NOT NEEDED</u>
38	Life floats.....	Number carried <u>2</u> Which used <u>1*</u>
39	Life floats.....	Number lost <u>1</u> How <u>NOT NEEDED</u>
40	Lifesaving suits.....	Number carried <u>80</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.....	Boat <u>1--4 day, 21 1/2 hr.</u> Raft <u>---</u> Float <u>---</u> <u>1--6 day, 12 hr.</u> <u>1--13 day, 19 hr.</u>
43	Rescued by and where.....	By <u>ALLIED SHIP</u> Where <u>27° 19' S, 86° 49' E</u> <u>10</u> <u>ALLIED SHIP</u> <u>10</u> <u>28° 34' S, 85° 30' E</u> <u>13</u> <u>ALLIED SHIP</u> <u>13</u> <u>26° 48' S, 93° 01' E</u>
44	Number of gun crew carried (military).....	Officers <u>1</u> Enlisted men <u>25</u>
45	Number of ship's crew carried.....	Officers <u>10</u> Radiomen <u>2</u> Unlicensed <u>37</u>
46	Number of others carried.....	<u>0</u>
47	Total on board.....	<u>75</u>
48	Number of gun crew injured (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>2</u>
49	Number of ship's crew injured.....	Officers <u>2</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>1</u>
50	Number of others injured.....	<u>0</u>
51	Number of gun crew lost (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>10</u>
52	Number of ship's crew lost.....	Officers <u>3</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>12</u>
53	Number of others lost.....	<u>0</u>
54	Total casualties.....	Injured <u>5</u> Lost <u>25</u>
55	Persons lost by (specify).....	{ Drowning <u>0</u> Fire <u>0</u> Shell or Torpedo <u>9</u> Other causes <u>16 (UNKNOWN - LAST SEEN IN #4 LIFEBOAT)</u>
56	Total rescued.....	{ Gun crew <u>16</u> Officers <u>7</u> Radiomen <u>2</u> Unlicensed <u>25</u> Others <u>0</u> Total <u>50</u>
57	Persons saved by.....	{ Boats <u>50</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>2</u>
59	Number of lookouts.....	<u>6</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.



Fill in this diagram to show