

Op-16-B-5

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25 D C

CONFIDENTIAL

12 Dec 44

MEMORANDUM FOR FILEALL TIMES GCT

SUBJECT: Summary of Statements by Survivors of the SS FORT THOMPSON, British Cargo Ship, 7134 G.T., British Ministry of War Transport.

1. The FORT THOMPSON was torpedoed at 2120 GCT, 2 Nov 44 in 48.55N - 67.41W, having sailed from Montreal at 0305 2 Nov independently routed to New York; cargo unknown. Ship did not sink but arrived in Quebec at 1500 4 Nov.
2. Ship was on course 059° T, speed 10½ knots, zigzagging on starboard leg of pattern having last altered course about 7 minutes before torpedo struck. The weather was fine with a slight haze; wind SW force 2-3. No other ships in sight.
3. At 2120 torpedo struck on starboard side at #1 hold. Track of torpedo was not sighted. No details secured on extent of damage. Distress signal sent. Ship proceeded under her own power to an anchorage off Bic Island and was later assisted by a tug to Quebec. All confidential codes were dropped over the side in a weighted container except those in the radio shack which were turned in to the Base C.B. Office, Quebec.
4. The ship was not abandoned. The port life boat while being lowered to just above the water was lowered too far and became unhooked. In the darkness the ship was lost so the boat with 17 men aboard proceeded to Matane, Province of Quebec in compliance with orders shouted from the bridge. Total ship's complement 58 including 48 crew and 10 DEMS Personnel. All survived.
5. The attacking sub was not sighted.
6. Interviewing officer stated that the Captain and his crew deserve high praise for staying with the ship and bringing her safely to port.

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