

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT VESSEL WAR ACTION CASUALTY

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

Ship *S/* **GEORGE STERLING**

Service **OCEAN FREIGHT**

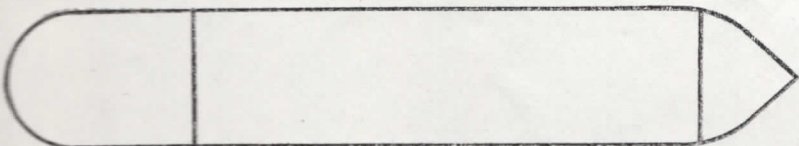
Owner **W.S.A.**

Operator **WATERMAN SS Co.**

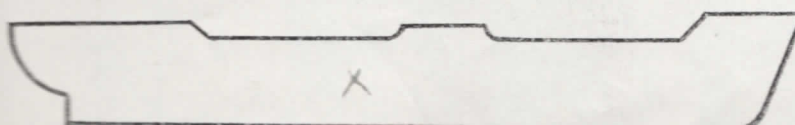
Information furnished by **CHIEF MATE**

Date **18 MAY, 1945**

LINE No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	Year built and propulsion	Built 1943 Propulsion STEAM
2	Tonnage	Gross 7176 Net 4380
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed)	Fwd 28' (29' M) Aft 30'
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd 14' (16' M) Aft 18'
5	Cargo on board (any deck)	Nature GASOLINE; AMM.; MATS; GENERAL Tons 8000
6	Voyage	From BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA To MILNE BAY, FINCHAVEN.
7	Were routing orders followed	YES
8	Any criticism of orders	NO
9	Weather at time of attack	Weather CLEAR Sea CALM.
10	Was enemy sighted? When	YES; AFTER ATTACK.
11	Any friendly ships in sight	YES,
12	Were navigation lights on	NO; DAYLIGHT.
13	Date and time of attack	Date 1-29-44 Time 1557
14	Position	Latitude 06.41 S Longitude 147.52 E
15	Nature of attack (Give data)	BOMBED.
16	Number of hits	1 (NEAR MISS)
17	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	JOHRAPNEL HITS ALL OVER, AFT
18	Effect of hits	HOLES IN SHELL PLATING.
19	Was ship armed? What type	YES
20	Was armament used? State result	YES; NONE
21	Any explosions or fires*	Ship YES; FIRE TO DUNNAGE IN #4 Cargo NO
22	Was deck ruptured	NO
23	Did ship break in two	NO
24	Was SOS sent	NO
25	Ship's speed	Normal 11.0 When attacked AT ANCHOR When abandoned N.A.
26	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned N.A. Sunk N.S.
27	Was ship reboarded	By whom N.A. When —
28	Was ship brought in	How OWN POWER Approximate damage SLIGHT



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



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

LINE No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
29	Lifeboats.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>0</u>
30	Lifeboats.....	Number lost <u>2</u> How <u>DAMAGED BY SHRAPNEL.</u>
31	Life rafts.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>0</u>
32	Life rafts.....	Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u>
33	Life floats.....	Number carried <u>2</u> Which used <u>0</u>
34	Life floats.....	Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u>
35	Lifesaving suits.....	Number carried <u>90</u> Number used <u>0</u>
36	Were boats, etc., attacked.....	Attacked <u>NO</u> Casualties <u>0</u>
37	Time in each boat, raft, etc.....	Boat <u>—</u> Raft <u>—</u> Float <u>—</u> Boat <u>—</u> Raft <u>—</u> Float <u>—</u>
38	Rescued by and where.....	By <u>NOT ABANDINED</u> Where <u>—</u>
39	Number of gun crew carried (military).....	Officers <u>1</u> Enlisted men <u>24</u>
40	Number ship's crew carried.....	Officers <u>8</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>35</u>
41	Number passengers and others carried.....	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u>
42	Total on board.....	<u>69</u>
43	Number gun crew injured (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>2</u>
44	Number ship's crew injured.....	Officers <u>1</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>0</u>
45	Number passengers and others injured.....	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u>
46	Number gun crew lost (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>0</u>
47	Number ship's crew lost.....	Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>0</u>
48	Number passengers and others lost.....	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u>
49	Total casualties.....	Injured <u>3</u> Lost <u>0</u>
50	Persons lost by (Specify).....	Drowning <u>0</u> Fire <u>0</u> Shell or torpedo <u>0</u> Other causes <u>0</u>
51	Total rescued.....	Gun crew <u>25</u> Officers <u>8</u> Radio operators <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>35</u> Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u> Total <u>69</u>
52	Persons saved by.....	Boats <u>0</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>
53	Engineering watch below.....	Number on watch below <u>3</u> Number lost below <u>0</u>
54	Number of look-outs.....	<u>3</u>
55	Any defective material.....	<u>NO</u>
56	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.

