

Declassified NARA Project N10063684

REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT TANKER WARTIME CASUALTY

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

Ship/S GULF STATE

Service OCEAN TANKER

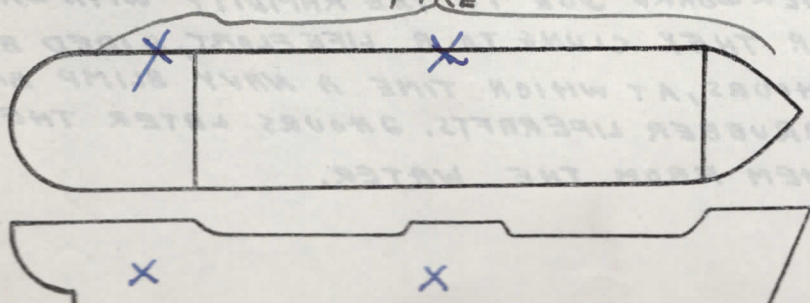
Owner GULF OIL CORP.

Operator W. S. A.

Information furnished by RADIO OPERATOR

Date 28 DECEMBER, 1944

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	Year built and propulsion.....	Built <u>1923</u> Propulsion <u>STEAM</u>
2	Tonnage.....	Gross <u>7216</u> Net <u>4452</u>
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed).....	Fwd. <u>27'04" (M)</u> Aft.....
4	Draft when attacked.....	Fwd. <u>26'08" (M)</u> Aft.....
5	D. W. T. (Emergency Coastwise L. L.).....	<u>10,735</u>
6	Cargo 42's capacity and carried.....	Capacity <u>74,825 BBLs.</u> Carried <u>68,417 BBLs.</u>
7	Kind of cargo or tank ballast.....	<u>CRUDE OIL.</u>
8	Was ship gas-free? (Specify).....	<u>NO; LOADED.</u>
9	Voyage.....	From <u>CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS</u> To <u>PORTLAND, MAINE</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>CALM.</u>
13	Was enemy sighted? When.....	<u>NO</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>4-3-43</u> Time <u>0310</u>
17	Position.....	Latitude <u>24°22' N</u> Longitude <u>80°27' 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>1-MACH; 1-1/2 PAR. BOD.</u>
21	Effect of hits.....	<u>SANK SHIP</u>
22	Was ship armed? What type.....	<u>YES; 1-5"; 3-50 CAL.</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>NO</u>
29	Was SOS sent.....	<u>NO</u>
30	Ship's speed.....	Normal <u>11.0</u> When attacked <u>10.5</u> When abandoned.....
31	Time abandoned, sunk.....	Abandoned <u>0314 (4 min.)</u> Sunk <u>0315 (5 min.)</u>
32	Was ship reboarded.....	By whom <u>NO</u> When.....
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>0</u>
35	Lifeboats.....	Number lost <u>4</u> How <u>FIRE</u>
36	Life rafts.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>1</u>
37	Life rafts.....	Number lost <u>3</u> How <u>FIRE</u>
38	Life floats.....	Number carried <u>2</u> Which used <u>1*</u> NOTED
39	Life floats.....	Number lost <u>1</u> How <u>FIRE</u>
40	Lifesaving suits.....	Number carried <u>42</u> Number used <u>0</u>
41	Were boats, etc., attacked.....	Attacked <u>NO</u> Casualties <u>-</u>
42	Time in each boat, raft, etc.....	Boat <u>1-9 hrs</u> Raft <u>-</u> Float <u>-</u>
43	Rescued by and where <u>3 SURVIVORS</u> By <u>ALLIED SHIP</u> Where <u>NEAR SCENE</u> <u>IR</u> <u>ALLIED PLANE</u> <u>NEAR SCENE</u>	
44	Number of gun crew carried (military).....	Officers <u>1</u> Enlisted men <u>18</u>
45	Number of ship's crew carried.....	Officers <u>8</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>33</u>
46	Number of others carried.....	<u>0</u>
47	Total on board.....	<u>61</u>
48	Number of gun crew injured (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>5</u>
49	Number of ship's crew injured.....	Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>1</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>9</u>
52	Number of ship's crew lost.....	Officers <u>8</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>26</u>
53	Number of others lost.....	<u>0</u>
54	Total casualties.....	Injured <u>7</u> Lost <u>43</u>
55	Persons lost by (specify).....	{ Drowning <u>UN</u> Fire <u>UN</u> Shell or Torpedo <u>3</u> Other causes <u>40 (UNKNOWN - PRESUMABLY FIRE & DROWNING)</u>
56	Total rescued.....	{ Gun crew <u>10</u> Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>7</u> Others <u>0</u> Total <u>18</u>
57	Persons saved by.....	{ Boats <u>0</u> Rafts <u>X 15</u> Floats <u>* 0</u> Suits <u>0</u> Preservers <u>0</u> Other means <u>3</u> No aid <u>0</u>
58	Engineering watch below.....	Number on watch below <u>3</u> Number lost below <u>3</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.

NOTE @ - 3 SURVIVORS DROVE OVERBOARD DUE TO THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH FLAMES ENGULFED SHIP THEY CLUNG TO A LIFE FLOAT, AIDED BY A FLOTSAM, FOR ABOUT 7 HOURS, AT WHICH TIME A NAVY BLIMP AND U.S.C.G. PLANE DROPPED RUBBER LIFERAFTS. 2 HOURS LATER THE U.S.C.G. PLANE PICKED THEM FROM THE WATER.