

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT VESSEL WAR ACTION CASUALTY

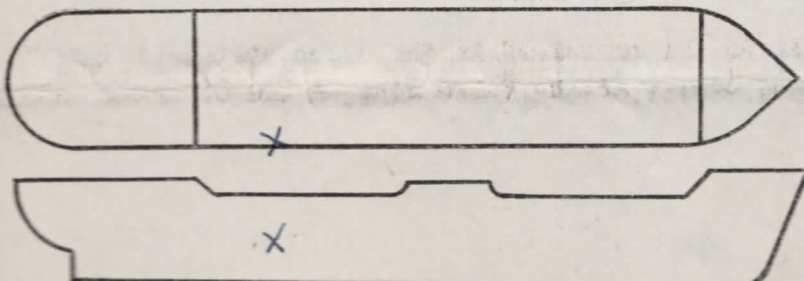
To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

Ship /s HENRY BACON Service Ocean

Owner War Shipping Administration Operator South Atlantic

Information furnished by Joseph L. Scott, Acting Third Mate Date 16 May, 1945

LINE No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	Year built and propulsion	Built <u>1942</u> Propulsion <u>Steam</u>
2	Tonnage	Gross <u>7176</u> Net <u>4380</u>
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed)	Fwd <u>28'6"</u> Aft <u>28'6"</u>
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd <u>14' app.</u> Aft <u>18' app.</u>
5	Cargo on board (any deck)	Nature <u>Sand ballast</u> Tons <u>3500</u>
6	Voyage	From <u>Murmansk, Russia</u> To <u>United Kingdom</u>
7	Were routing orders followed	<u>Yes</u>
8	Any criticism of orders	<u>No</u>
	Weather at time of attack	Weather <u>Clear</u> Sea <u>No. 4</u>
10	Was enemy sighted? When	<u>Yes. One hour and 20 minutes before torpedoing</u>
11	Any friendly ships in sight	<u>Yes. Six merchant vessels.</u>
12	Were navigation lights on	<u>Daylight attack</u>
13	Date and time of attack	Date <u>23 February, 1945</u> Time <u>1420</u>
14	Position	Latitude <u>67N</u> Longitude <u>07 East</u>
15	Nature of attack (Give data)	<u>Aerial torpedo on starboard quarter</u>
16	Number of hits	<u>One</u>
17	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<u>Starboard quarter at No. 5 hatch below water line</u>
18	Effect of hits	<u>Large rupture in side and deck, springing many bulkheads in house. <b>SANK SHIP</b></u>
19	Was ship armed? What type	<u>Yes. 8-20 MM, 1-3"50, and 1-5"51.</u>
	Was armament used? State result	<u>Yes. Downed 5 to 9 planes--shot four torpedoes in water.</u>
21	Any explosions or fires*	Ship <u>No</u> Cargo <u>No</u>
22	Was deck ruptured	<u>Yes. Extent unknown</u>
23	Did ship break in two	<u>No</u>
24	Was SOS sent	<u>Yes</u>
25	Ship's speed	Normal <u>10</u> When attacked <u>10</u> When abandoned <u>STOPPED. No way upon her.</u>
26	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <u>1520 (1 hour)</u> Sunk <u>1630 (2 hr. 10 min)</u>
27	Was ship reboarded	By whom <u>Not boarded</u> When <u>No</u>
28	Was ship brought in	How <u>No</u> Approximate damage <u>SUNK apparent loss of vessel.</u>



\*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>Four</u> Which used <u>No. 1 and 2</u>
30	Lifeboats.....	Number lost <u>Two</u> How <u>No. 1 by heavy weather damage, No. 2 by failure of after fall</u>
31	Life rafts.....	Number carried <u>Four</u> Which used <u>1 No. 2 forward raft</u>
32	Life rafts.....	Number lost <u>Three</u> How <u>2 TORP Explosion and 1 DAM. IN LAUNCHING.</u>
33	Life floats.....	Number carried <u>three</u> Which used <u>Forward float 1</u>
34	Life floats.....	Number lost <u>Two</u> How <u>TORP. explosion</u>
35	Lifesaving suits.....	Number carried <u>42</u> Number used <u>None</u>
36	Were boats, etc., attacked.....	Attacked <u>No</u> Casualties <u>-----</u>
37	Time in each boat, raft, etc.....	<u>2</u> Boats <u>3 hours</u> / Raft <u>3 hours</u> / Float <u>3 hours</u> Boat <u>3 hours</u> Raft _____ Float _____
38	Rescued by and where <u>2B+1R+1F</u>	By <u>Four British destroyers</u> Where <u>2 miles from point of attack</u>
39	Number of gun crew carried (military).....	Officers <u>One</u> / Enlisted men <u>Twenty-six</u> <u>26</u>
40	Number ship's crew carried.....	Officers <u>Eight</u> <u>8</u> Radiomen <u>Two</u> <u>2</u> Unlicensed <u>thirty-two</u> <u>32</u>
41	Number passengers and others carried.....	Passengers <u>Nineteen</u> <u>19</u> Others <u>0</u> <u>None</u>
42	Total on board.....	<u>Sixty-eight</u> <u>88</u>
43	Number gun crew injured (military).....	Officers <u>1 missing</u> <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>1 killed and 5 missing</u> <u>0</u>
44	Number ship's crew injured.....	Officers <u>1 killed</u> <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>None</u> <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>missing</u>
45	Number passengers and others injured.....	Passengers <u>None</u> <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u> <u>-----</u>
46	Number gun crew lost (military).....	Officers <u>1 missing</u> Enlisted men <u>6 killed and 5 missing</u>
47	Number ship's crew lost.....	Officers <u>1 killed</u> <u>6</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> <u>None</u> Unlicensed <u>9 missing</u>
48	Number passengers and others lost.....	Passengers <u>None</u> <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u> <u>None</u>
49	Total casualties.....	Injured <u>1 killed</u> <u>0</u> Lost <u>22</u> <u>10 missing</u>
50	Persons lost by (Specify).....	Drowning <u>10</u> Fire <u>Unknown</u> Shell or torpedo <u>Unknown</u> Other causes <u>killed by boiler explosion</u> <u>12</u>
51	Total rescued.....	Gun crew <u>twenty</u> <u>20</u> Officers <u>two</u> <u>2</u> Radio operators <u>two</u> <u>2</u> Unlicensed <u>28</u> Passengers <u>19</u> Others <u>None</u> Total <u>68</u>
52	Persons saved by.....	Boats <u>45</u> Rafts <u>13</u> Floats <u>2</u> Suits <u>None</u> Preservers <u>6</u> Other means <u>-----</u> No aid <u>-----</u>
53	Engineering watch below.....	Number on watch below <u>4</u> Number lost below <u>None</u>
54	Number of look-outs.....	<u>All hands at general quarters</u> <u>GR</u>
55	Any defective material..... <u>YES</u>	<u>Hydraulic line to steering engine. The vibration from the firing of 5" BL caused the hydraulic line to rupture thereby making it impossible to steer the ship from the bridge.</u>
56	Any personnel fault..... <u>NO</u>	<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.

Comments, criticisms, and recommendations are contained in the sworn statement and narrative report furnished by Joseph L. Scott, Acting Third Mate on the SS HENRY BACON.