

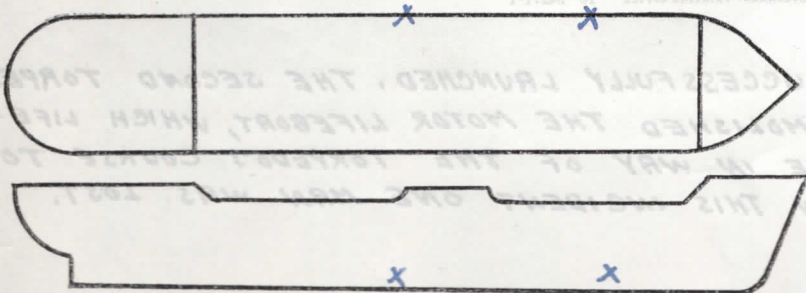
To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

Ship *s/s JAMES B. STEPHENS* Service *OCEAN FREIGHT*

Owner *W.S.A.* Operator *U.S. LINES*

Information furnished by *MASTER* Date *18 SEPTEMBER 1944*

| LINE No. | QUESTIONS | ANSWERS |
|----------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Year built and propulsion | Built <i>1942</i> Propulsion <i>STEAM.</i> |
| 2 | Tonnage | Gross <i>7174</i> Net <i>4380</i> |
| 3 | Draft loaded (maximum allowed) | Fwd <i>27'(M)</i> Aft <i>28</i> |
| 4 | Draft when attacked | Fwd <i>13</i> Aft <i>18</i> <i>15'6"(M)</i> |
| 5 | Cargo on board (any deck) | Nature <i>GENERAL</i> Tons <i>1200</i> |
| 6 | Voyage | From <i>SUEZ, EGYPT</i> To <i>DURBAN, S.A.</i> |
| 7 | Were routing orders followed | <i>YES</i> |
| 8 | Any criticism of orders | <i>NO</i> |
| 9 | Weather at time of attack | Weather <i>OVERCAST</i> Sea <i>MODERATE</i> |
| 10 | Was enemy sighted? When | <i>NO</i> |
| 11 | Any friendly ships in sight | <i>NO</i> |
| 12 | Were navigation lights on | <i>NO</i> |
| 13 | Date and time of attack | Date <i>3/8/43</i> Time <i>2218</i> |
| 14 | Position | Latitude <i>28°53' S</i> Longitude <i>33°18' E</i> |
| 15 | Nature of attack (Give data) | <i>TORPEDOED</i> |
| 16 | Number of hits | <i>2</i> |
| 17 | Location of hits (Mark diagram) | <i>1-FOR'D; 1-MACH.-P #2-P</i> |
| 18 | Effect of hits | <i>SANK SHIP</i> |
| 19 | Was ship armed? What type | <i>YES</i> |
| 20 | Was armament used? State result | <i>NO.</i> |
| 21 | Any explosions or fires* | Ship <i>YES; FIRE</i> Cargo <i>YES; EXPLOSION & FIRE</i> |
| 22 | Was deck ruptured | <i>YES</i> |
| 23 | Did ship break in two | <i>YES</i> |
| 24 | Was SOS sent | <i>NO</i> |
| 25 | Ship's speed | Normal <i>11.5</i> When attacked <i>10.8</i> When abandoned <i>STOP.</i> |
| 26 | Time abandoned, sunk | Abandoned <i>2225 (7 min.)</i> Sunk <i>SBOW - 3/17/43 (9 DAYS)</i> <i>(STERN - 3/18/43 (10 DAYS))</i> |
| 27 | Was ship reboarded | By whom <i>YES; BRITISH NAVAL PER.</i> When <i>3/16/43</i> NOTED |
| 28 | Was ship brought in | How <i>NO.</i> Approximate damage <i>SUNK.</i> |



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

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NOTED - THE TWO HALVES OF THE VESSEL WERE LATER SEEN BY AIRCRAFT WHICH DIRECTED A BRITISH NAVAL VESSEL TO THEIR VICINITY ON 3/16/43. WHILE THE BRITISH SHIP HAD THE BOW SECTION IN TOW, IT SUNK ON 3/17/43. THEREFORE, THE BRITISH SHIP LOCATED AND SUNK BY SHELLFIRE THE STERN SECTION ON 3/18/43.

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>X 371*</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | Lifeboats..... | Number lost <u>1</u> How <u>NOTE ①</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | Life rafts..... | Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>3*</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | Life rafts..... | Number lost <u>1</u> How <u>TORPEDO EXPLOSION</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | Life floats..... | Number carried <u>2</u> Which used <u>0</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 34 | Life floats..... | Number lost <u>2</u> How <u>NOT NEEDED</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | Lifesaving suits..... | Number carried <u>63</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. | <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>1</u> Boat <u>3-DAYS</u></td> <td><u>—</u> Raft</td> <td><u>—</u> Float</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>1</u> Boat <u>4-DAYS</u></td> <td><u>—</u> Raft</td> <td><u>—</u> Float</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>1</u> Boat <u>6-DAYS</u></td> <td><u>—</u> Raft</td> <td><u>—</u> Float</td> </tr> </table> | <u>1</u> Boat <u>3-DAYS</u> | <u>—</u> Raft | <u>—</u> Float | <u>1</u> Boat <u>4-DAYS</u> | <u>—</u> Raft | <u>—</u> Float | <u>1</u> Boat <u>6-DAYS</u> | <u>—</u> Raft | <u>—</u> Float |
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| <u>1</u> Boat <u>6-DAYS</u> | <u>—</u> Raft | <u>—</u> Float | | | | | | | | | |
| 38 | Rescued by and where..... | By <u>ALLIED SHIPS</u> Where <u>AT SEA</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | Number of gun crew carried (military)..... | Officers <u>1</u> Enlisted men <u>19</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 40 | Number ship's crew carried..... | Officers <u>8</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>34</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 41 | Number passengers and others carried..... | Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 42 | Total on board..... | <u>63</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | Number gun crew injured (military)..... | Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>0</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 44 | Number ship's crew injured..... | Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>1</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | Number passengers and others injured..... | Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>6</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 46 | Number gun crew lost (military)..... | Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>1</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>1</u> Lost <u>1</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 50 | Persons lost by (Specify)..... | Drowning <u>1</u> Fire <u>0</u> Shell or torpedo <u>0</u> Other causes <u>0</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 51 | Total rescued..... | Gun crew <u>19</u> Officers <u>8</u> Radio operators <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>34</u> Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u> Total <u>62</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| 52 | Persons saved by..... | Boats <u>62</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>6</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.

NOTE ① - 4 LIFEBOATS WERE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED. THE SECOND TORPEDO, HOWEVER, HIT AND DEMOLISHED THE MOTOR LIFEBOAT, WHICH LIFEBOAT HAPPENED TO BE IN WAY OF THE TORPEDO'S COURSE TO THE SINKING VESSEL. IN THIS INCIDENT ONE MAN WAS LOST.