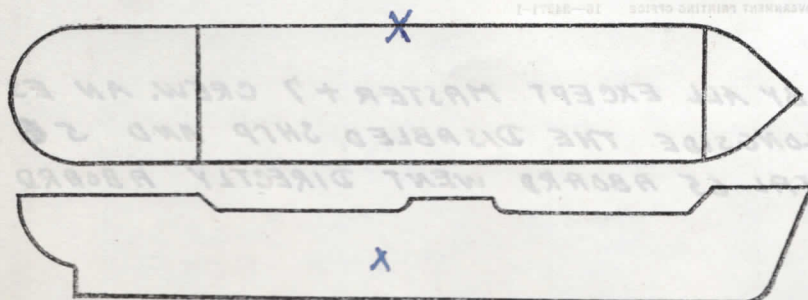


To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

Ship *S/s JAMES K. POLK*Service *OCEAN FREIGHT*Owner *W.S.P.*Operator *AMERICAN-SOUTH AFRICAN LINE*Information furnished by *MASTER & FIRST ASSISTANT*Date *20 SEPTEMBER 1944*

LINE No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS	
1	Year built and propulsion	Built <i>1942</i>	Propulsion <i>STEAM</i>
2	Tonnage	Gross <i>7177</i>	Net <i>4378</i>
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed)	Fwd <i>27'8" (M)</i>	Aft <i>27'8"</i>
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd <i>LIGHT</i>	Aft
5	Cargo on board (any deck)	Nature <i>BALLAST</i>	Tons
6	Voyage	From <i>BAHIA, BRAZIL</i>	To <i>PARAMARIBO, SURINAM</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>CLEAR</i>	Sea <i>CALM</i>
10	Was enemy sighted? When	<i>NO</i>	
11	Any friendly ships in sight	<i>YES; CONVOY</i>	
12	Were navigation lights on	<i>NO.</i>	
13	Date and time of attack	Date <i>3/9/43</i>	Time <i>0110</i>
14	Position	Latitude <i>02° 11' N</i>	Longitude <i>52° 30' W</i>
15	Nature of attack (Give data)	<i>TORPEDOED</i>	
16	Number of hits	<i>1</i>	
17	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<i>1-MACH. - P</i>	
18	Effect of hits	<i><del>SUNK</del> EXTENSIVE DAMAGE cont. total loss.</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>NO</i>	Cargo <i>NO.</i>
22	Was deck ruptured	<i>YES</i>	
23	Did ship break in two	<i>NO</i>	
24	Was SOS sent	<i>NO</i>	
25	Ship's speed	Normal <i>12.0</i>	When attacked <i>8.5</i> When abandoned <i>STOP</i>
26	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <i>1530 (14 hrs. 20 min.)</i>	Sunk <i>N.S.</i>
27	Was ship reboarded	By whom <i>MASTER + 7 DIDN'T ABANDON.</i>	When
28	Was ship brought in	How <i>YES TOWED &amp; SAILED</i>	Approximate damage <i>NOTED C.T.L. EXTENSIVE</i>



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

**NOTE ①** AFTER SHIP WAS HIT MASTER ORDERED ALL EXCEPT 8 VOLUNTEERS TO ABANDON SHIP WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF 8 VOLUNTEERS, HE RIGGED THE TARPULINS ON THE FOREMAST & MIZZEN-MAST. HE SAILED THE CRIPPLED SHIP 360 MILES. AN ALLIED SHIP MET & TOWED THEM 450 MILES — MAKING A GRAND TOTAL OF 810 MILES TRAVERSED IN A TOTALLY DISABLED SHIP



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>1-CARRIED AWAY</u> <u>1-TORPEDO EXPLOSION</u>
31	Life rafts.....	Number carried <u>4</u>	Which used <u>0</u>
32	Life rafts.....	Number lost <u>4</u>	How <u>PREMATURELY LAUNCHED - DRIFTED AWAY</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>70</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>	<u>NOTE D</u>
38	Rescued by and where.....	By <u>ALLIED SHIP</u>	Where <u>AT SCENE</u>
39	Number of gun crew carried (military).....	Officers <u>1</u>	Enlisted men <u>17</u>
40	Number ship's crew carried.....	Officers <u>7</u>	Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>36</u>
41	Number passengers and others carried.....	Passengers <u>3</u>	Others <u>0</u>
42	Total on board.....	<u>65</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>2</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>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>2</u>	Lost <u>1</u>
50	Persons lost by (Specify).....	Drowning <u>0</u> Fire <u>0</u> Shell or torpedo <u>1</u>	
51	Total rescued.....	Gun crew <u>17</u> Officers <u>7</u> Radio operators <u>1</u>	
52	Persons saved by.....	Unlicensed <u>36</u> Passengers <u>3</u> Others <u>0</u> Total <u>64</u>	
53	Engineering watch below.....	Boats <u>0</u> Rafts <u>0</u> Floats <u>0</u> Suits <u>0</u>	
54	Number of look-outs.....	Preservers <u>0</u> Other means <u>56</u> No aid <u>0</u>	<u>NOTE D</u>
55	Any defective material.....	Number on watch below <u>3</u>	Number lost below <u>0</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.

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NOTE D - SHIP WAS ABANDONED BY ALL EXCEPT MASTER + 7 CREW. AN ESCORT VESSEL CAME ALONGSIDE THE DISABLED SHIP AND 56 MEMBERS OUT OF TOTAL 65 ABOARD WENT DIRECTLY ABOARD ESCORT VESSEL.