

Intelligence Report

ENEMY ATTACK ON MERCHANT SHIPSFrom **U.S. Naval Observer** At **Halifax, N.S.** Date **26 Aug 1944**Subject **Torpedo Attack.**Name of Ship **S.S. JAMES MILLER** Flag **U.S.**Type

- (1) Tanker
 (a) Single Bulkhead
 (b) Twin Bulkhead
 (c) Summer Tank
 (2) Cargo
 (3) Passenger
 (4) Passenger-cargo

Gross Tonnage **1870** Whether Armed Yes No Date of Attack **22 Aug 1944** Position at Attack **1st Torpedo (66-43W 44-48-42N)**
2nd Torpedo (66-38W 44-36N)Whether Sunk , Damaged , Captured , or Escaped
by groundingPARTICULARS OF SHIP AND VOYAGEQuestionsAnswers

1. (a) Port of Departure **Windsor, Nova Scotia**
- (b) Date of Sailing **22 Aug 44 0224 ships time and E.W.T.**
- (c) Destination **New York**
- (d) Route Instructions **Windsor - Cape Cop Canal - New York**
2. Name of Owners and Charterers (if any) (If on Government Service the fact should be stated) **WSA - Bull Lines**
- (1) Cargo
 - (a) Loaded ~~or in ballast~~ **Gypsum**
(type of ballast)
 - (b) General description and weight of cargo **Gypsum - 2440 Tons, approx.**
 - (c) Deck load (give distribution) **None**
 - (d) When a tanker give distribution and amount of liquid cargo or ballast
3. Full Christian Name, Surname and Nationality of Master **James Marchant CALLIS, U.S.A.**

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4. Ship's position, date and time(a) When enemy was sighted,**(4450N
16643W)****221730 E.W.T. Aug 1944**

(1) Date (local) and time (specify whether GCT, Zone, War Time).

(2) Depth of water **55 Fathoms**(b) When attack commenced**221740 E.W.T. Aug 1944, 1st Torpedo****221905 E.W.T. Aug 1944, 2nd Torpedo**(c) Was warning given? Yes No If so, what?(d) Ship's position, date and time(1) When ship sank, or**Did not sink**(2) When chase was abandoned**Grounded at 221910 E.W.T. Aug 44**(e) Ship's position, date and time**44-33-30N****66-40W**ship was abandoned**221922 E.W.T. Order to abandon and
standby lifeboats.**

5. (a) What was the cause of ship sinking

(torpedo , gunfire, bombs , or mine ,
interval explosion , other)**Did not sink**(1) Estimated type, weight, diameter of projectile
bomb, torpedo or mine(b) Was she seen to sink? Yes No (1) Manner of sinking: (a) Capsized (b) Even keel
(c) Plunged (bow or stern first) (d) Listed (to
port or starboard , degree of list ___) (e) How long
afloat after being hit?

(2) Depth of water where sunk?

6. Course and speed of ship when enemy was
first sighted or when attack commenced**Periscope at 232° True
First torpedo 150° True
Second torpedo 170° True
Speed approx. 12 knots**

(1) Course and speed after damage

(2) Drafts, forward and aft, before
and after damage (approximate)7. Was ship zigzagging? Yes No If so,

(a) Nature of zigzag

Changed course about every two minutes(b) How long had ship been zigzagging
previous to the attack?**1730 to 1915 E.W.T.**8. Weather conditions at time of attack:(a) Clear , rain , fog (b) Condition of sea: swells

(c) Wind

8. Weather conditions at time of attack:

- (a) Clear , rain , fog , snow , haze
- (b) Condition of sea: Smooth , choppy , white caps , swells
- (c) Wind: direction: Force: **Westerly - Force 2**
- (d) Moonlight, Yes No
If yes, give phase of moon
- (e) Bearing and height of the sun
- (f) Visibility **Two miles**

9. (a) Was ship attacked with torpedo by submerged submarine? Yes No

(1) When torpedo was fired were any people still on board? Yes No
If so, how many? **Entire crew**

(b) If attacked by submerged submarine:

- (1) Was periscope of submarine seen? Yes No
- (2) Was track of torpedo seen before vessel was struck? Yes No **1st on starboard about 40' ahead of bow. 2nd on port bow about 30' ahead of bow**
- (3) What avoiding action was taken?
- (4) Did submarine subsequently come to the surface? Yes No If so, when? At what distance?
- (5) Were any signals sent by the submarine? Yes No If so, describe

10. (a) Was ship attacked with gunfire? Yes No
If so, give details under No. 21 and 22

- (b) Was enemy seen prior to the attack? Yes No
- (c) Was any warning or order given by enemy? Yes No
If so, what?

11. How many lookouts were on watch? **Three**

- (a) Where were they stationed? **1 on top bridge, Capt. on bridge, Chief Mate**
- (b) Did they have binoculars? Yes No **Capt. did.**
- (c) How long had they been on watch? **About 1 1/2 hours**
- (d) Were they trained lookouts? Yes No
- (e) State the approximate height of lookout stations above the sea. **45 feet.**

12. Speed and course of aircraft, raider, or submarine relative to ship when first sighted, or when attack commenced



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13. (a) What colors, if any, was ship flying at time of attack? **Ensign**
 (b) When were they hoisted?
14. (a) If attack took place at night, what lights, if any, was ship showing? **None**
 (b) If navigation lights were burning, were they dimmed? **None burning**
15. How was ship maneuvered after sighting enemy? **Hard left and zig-zag**
16. (a) Were any other vessels in sight? Yes No
 (b) If so, what were their positions and movements and names if known?
 (c) Did any signal pass between them and the ship or enemy? Yes No
17. Was ship equipped with radio? Yes No
 (a) Did she use it? Yes No What signals? **No signals sent until after grounded ship**
 (b) Was any reply received? Yes No
 From whom? **Halifax, Nova Scotia.**
 (c) How long before attack did ship last use her radio? **Not used**
 And on what wave length?
 (d) Did enemy order silence or jam radio transmission? Yes No
 (e) What were the ship's call letters? **KABI**
18. (a) What course was submarine, raider, or aircraft steering when last seen, or, if submarine, did she dive?
 (b) Time enemy ship was last seen? **221735 Aug E.S.T.**

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

19. (a) Were there Navy or British codes on board? Yes No
 (b) Which ones?
 (c) What became of them? **Thrown overboard in weighted bag**
20. (a) Were there any other confidential papers or mails on board? Yes No
 (b) If so, what became of them?
 (c) What did the confidential papers consist of?

If codes or papers came to enemy hands, OpNav to be advised (dispatch).

21. Gunfire
At what range did

OFFENSIVE ACTS OF ENEMY

(b) 11
(c) What did the codes or papers (code to be used in dispatch).

OFFENSIVE ACTS OF ENEMY

Gunfire

- 21. At what range did enemy open fire? **Did not see enemy open fire**
 - (1) Relative bearing of enemy ship **Did not see.**
 - (2) Was any shot fired "across bows" as warning? Yes No

- 22. Number of rounds fired by enemy:
 - (a) Before ship was abandoned Hits
 - (b) After ship was abandoned Hits
 - (c) Approximate rate of fire
 - (d) Contact or delay shell fuse action; if delay how far did shells travel beyond point of entry to point of explosion?

Torpedo or Bombing

- 23. Distance and bearing of submarine or aircraft when torpedoes or bombs released.
 - (a) If bomb state:
 - (1) whether horizontal or dive release
 - (2) altitude of release
 - (3) angle of dive

- 24. Was there any way on ship at time of torpedo or bomb hit(s)? Yes No
 - (1) If so, how much?
 - (2) How soon after hit were main engines secured? **Not hit, went aground**

- 25. Number of torpedoes or bombs released **Two**
 - (a) Hits **no hits**
 - (b) Near misses (how near) **Two, first on starboard about 40' ahead of bow
Second on port bow about 30' ahead of bow**
 - (c) Before and after abandoned
 - (d) Contact or delay explosions:
 - (1) If delay how long (distance from point of impact to point of explosion)

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26. Were there any outstanding circumstances or peculiarities of the explosion (flash, fumes, odors, after burning on surface, unusual behavior of torpedoes before exploding, etc.) Yes No If yes, explain **No explosions**
27. A brief complete outline of extent of damage caused by each hit.
- (a) Hull damage such as ruptured and distorted deck, shell and bulkhead plating (give dimensions and location). **Bottom of ship ripped by grounding**
- (b) Machinery damage, main and auxiliary. **None**
- (c) Fire damage (state interval from time of hit until time fire was first observed, and exact location where fires started).
- (d) Radio damage
- (e) Ship control (damage to instruments, steering gear, etc.)
- (f) Flooding (state whether immediate or slow - affected by open or loosely dogged water-tight doors and hatches). **Forepeak and double bottoms**
- (g) Shock damage
- (h) Fragment damage (give size of fragments).

Boarding

28. Was ship boarded by enemy and how? Yes No

29. Was Master interrogated by enemy Officers? Yes No What questions were asked? Which officer (or officers) asked questions and what language (or languages) the English language

29. Was Master interrogated by enemy Officers? Yes No What questions were asked? Which officer (or officers) asked questions and what knowledge of the English language had he?

Explosive Charges

30. If ship was sunk by explosive charges:-
- (a) How many were used?
- (b) Where were they placed?

DEFENSIVE ACTS OF SHIPS

Gunfire

31. What guns were carried? **3"50 - 2-30 Cal.**
- (a) Was there an armed guard on board? Yes No
32. At what time and range did ship open fire? **Did not open fire**
33. Was ship showing her proper colors when she opened fire? Yes No **Did not open fire**
34. (a) Number of rounds fired by ship?
- (b) Approximate rate of fire?
35. Number of times enemy was hit by gunfire.

Additional information desired in case a magnetic acoustic or other influence weapon is suspected:

1. Were engines running at a steady speed? Yes No
2. Propeller RPM's for each propeller. **95 to 100 RPM**
3. Number of blades on each propeller and any known defects. **4 blade**
4. Degaussing equipment; current in coils. **Current about 40 Amps. plus.**
5. Were paravanes or bow protection gear in use? Yes No

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6. If not acting singly, give position in formation.

Forward with report such informative sketches or photographs as may be available.

Smoke

36. Was ship supplied with smoke apparatus? Yes No

If so:-

- (a) What pattern?
 (b) How was it used and with what effect?
37. (a) Were there any casualties? Yes No
 (b) What were they?
 (c) How caused?
38. (a) What was the number and nationality of the passengers and crew?

- (b) How did they behave? **Calm**

39. (a) What became of the passengers and crew after abandoning ship? **Lifboats swung over the side crew standing by for further orders when HCAP crashboat came alongside and took entire crew to Black Harbor, New Brunswick.**
- (b) Were any taken prisoner? Yes No
 If so, who

PARTICULARS OF ENEMY CRAFT

40. Was the submarine(s) seen? Yes No If so,
 (a) Number, if submarine or aircraft
 (b) Where was number seen and how distinguished?

41. With the help of a sketch or silhouette of the enemy ship and drawing of the submarine and the following

41. With the help of a sketch or silhouette drawing give a general description of the enemy ship and especially of any peculiarities noticed. A drawing of the submarine or raider, however rough, should be attached and the following points of descriptive detail noted as examples:
- (a) Whether large or small **Not seen except periscope**
 - (b) Color and whether any streaks or stripes
 - (c) Shape of conning tower?
 - (d) Shape, rake and position of stack
 - (e) Any irregularities or bulges on hull or superstructure
 - (f) Gun position(s)
 - (g) Any net cutter? Yes No
 - (h) Shape of bow; of stern
 - (i) Relative height and position of masts
42. Guns, number, position, and nature?
43. Number of masts and king posts?
44. Radio aerials and gear, description of?
45. (a) What color was enemy vessel painted?
- (b) Did paint look old or new
 - (c) Did ship bear any marks of damage? Yes No
If so, what?
46. Estimated speed
47. Estimated tonnage (gross)
48. Steam or motor ship ?

49. Officers of enemy vessel. Names and personal description?

REPORT OF INTERVIEWING OFFICER

50. General remarks by interviewing officer The Master indicates one hour and 25 minutes between the two torpedoes in this report and in the report to the U.S. Coast Guard the Master gave 20 minutes as the difference. None of the witnesses noticed periscope or torpedoes nor were they informed of the torpedoes or periscope.

ADDITION TO QUESTION 17:

- f. Were any diversion orders received?
g. What radio watches were stood?
h. What frequencies were guarded?

The Master did not inform the Armed Guard Officer of the possible Submarine and Torpedoes until after vessel grounded. Armed Guard Officer feels that the grounding was not a result of enemy action but poor judgment and negligence on the part of the Master. The Master was the only one to claim enemy action and this report has been compiled accordingly.

Thos. H. Bank

THOS. H. BANK, Lieutenant, USNR.

Signature and Rank of Interviewing
Officer

NOTE: - Any supplementary questions considered necessary should also be put and replies inserted on a separate sheet, so that the report may form as complete a record of the circumstances as it is possible to obtain.