

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT VESSEL WAR ACTION CASUALTY

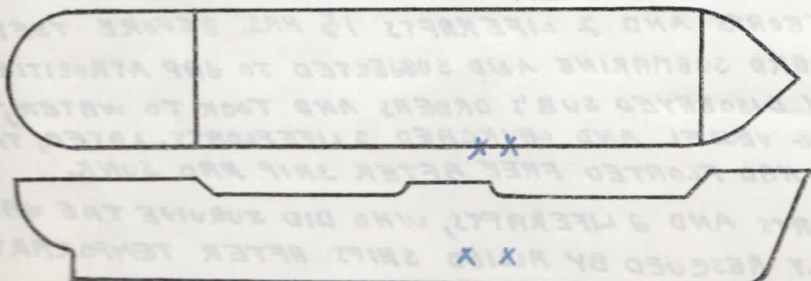
To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

Ship/s JEAN NICOLET Service OCEAN FREIGHT

Owner WSA Operator OLIVER J. OLSEN S.S. CO.

Information furnished by 1ST ASSISTANT + REPORTS OF 22 SURVIVORS Date 6 OCTOBER, 1944

| LINE No. | QUESTIONS | ANSWERS |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Year built and propulsion..... | Built <u>1943</u> Propulsion <u>STEAM</u> |
| 2 | Tonnage..... | Gross <u>7176</u> Net <u>4380</u> |
| 3 | Draft loaded (maximum allowed)..... | Fwd <u>APP 28' (M)</u> Aft <u>20 1/2</u> |
| 4 | Draft when attacked..... | Fwd <u>23' (M)</u> Aft <u>23 1/2</u> |
| 5 | Cargo on board (any deck)..... | Nature <u>GENERAL</u> Tons <u>7000</u> |
| 6 | Voyage..... | From <u>SAN PEDRO</u> To <u>COLOMBO VIA FREMANTLE</u> |
| 7 | Were routing orders followed..... | <u>YES</u> |
| 8 | Any criticism of orders..... | <u>NO</u> |
| 9 | Weather at time of attack..... | Weather <u>CLEAR</u> Sea <u>MODERATE</u> |
| 10 | Was enemy sighted? When..... | <u>YES; AFTER ATTACK.</u> |
| 11 | Any friendly ships in sight..... | <u>NO</u> |
| 12 | Were navigation lights on..... | <u>NO</u> |
| 13 | Date and time of attack..... | Date <u>7/2/44</u> Time <u>1907</u> |
| 14 | Position..... | Latitude <u>03° 00' S</u> Longitude <u>74° 30' E</u> |
| 15 | Nature of attack (Give data)..... | <u>TORPEDDED AND SHELLED</u> |
| 16 | Number of hits..... | <u>2 TORPEDOES ; NUMEROUS SHELLS</u> |
| 17 | Location of hits (Mark diagram)..... | <u>2 TORP - FOR'D ; 2 - # 3 P NUMEROUS SHELLS - ALL OVER.</u> |
| 18 | Effect of hits..... | <u>SANK SHIP</u> |
| 19 | Was ship armed? What type..... | <u>YES</u> |
| 20 | Was armament used? State result..... | <u>NO</u> |
| 21 | Any explosions or fires*..... | Ship <u>YES; FIRE</u> Cargo <u>YES; FIRE</u> |
| 22 | Was deck ruptured..... | <u>YES</u> |
| 23 | Did ship break in two..... | <u>NO</u> |
| 24 | Was SOS sent..... | <u>NO</u> |
| 25 | Ship's speed..... | Normal <u>11.0</u> When attacked <u>10.5</u> When abandoned <u>3.0</u> |
| 26 | Time abandoned, sunk..... | Abandoned <u>1920 (13 min.)</u> Sunk <u>0730 7/3/44 (12 hrs, 23 min)</u> |
| 27 | Was ship reboarded..... | <u>YES</u> By whom <u>3 USN GUN CREW</u> When <u>0600 7/3/44</u> |
| 28 | Was ship brought in..... | How <u>NO</u> Approximate damage <u>SUNK.</u> |



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

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 30 | Lifeboats | Number lost | 0 | How | 0 |
| 31 | Life rafts | Number carried | 4 | Which used | 2* + 1 = 3 NOTE ① B |
| 32 | Life rafts | Number lost | 1 | How | TORPEDO EXPLOSION |
| 33 | Life floats | Number carried | 2 | Which used | 2* |
| 34 | Life floats | Number lost | 0 | How | 0 |
| 35 | Lifesaving suits | Number carried | 20 | Number used | 0 |
| 36 | Were boats, etc., attacked | Attacked | YES | Casualties | APPROXIMATELY 40 |
| 37 | Time in each boat, raft, etc. | 4 Boats | 1 1/2 hrs. | 2 Rafts | 1 1/2 hrs. |
| | | Boat | 1 | Raft | 2-hrs |
| 38 | Rescued by and where | By | IR ALLIED SHIP ENEMY SUB | Where | AT SCENE AT SCENE NOTE ② |
| 39 | Number of gun crew carried (military) | Officers | 1 | Enlisted men | 27 |
| 40 | Number ship's crew carried | Officers | 8 | Radiomen | 1 |
| | | | | Unlicensed | 32 |
| 41 | Number passengers and others carried | Passengers | 31 | Others | 0 |
| 42 | Total on board | | 100 | | |
| 43 | Number gun crew injured (military) | Officers | 0 | Enlisted men | 1 |
| 44 | Number ship's crew injured | Officers | 0 | Radiomen | 0 |
| | | | | Unlicensed | 0 |
| 45 | Number passengers and others injured | Passengers | 1 | Others | 0 |
| 46 | Number gun crew lost (military) | Officers | 0 | Enlisted men | 18 |
| 47 | Number ship's crew lost | Officers | 7 | Radiomen | 1 |
| | | | | Unlicensed | 23 |
| 48 | Number passengers and others lost | Passengers | 28 | Other | 0 |
| 49 | Total casualties | Injured | 2 | Lost | 77 |
| 50 | Persons lost by (Specify) | Drowning | UN. | Fire | 0 |
| | | Other causes | 1-SHOT BY ENEMY | Shell or torpedo | UN. |
| | | | 26-(VARIOUS UNCERTAIN CAUSES) NOTE ② | | |
| 51 | Total rescued | Gun crew | 10 | Officers | 1 |
| | | Unlicensed | 9 | Passengers | 3 |
| | | | | Others | 0 |
| | | | | Total | 23 |
| 52 | Persons saved by | Boats | APR 59* | Rafts | 3+11* |
| | | Preservers | 1 | Other means | 18 |
| | | | | No aid | 1 |
| 53 | Engineering watch below | Number on watch below | 3 | Number lost below | 2 |
| 54 | Number of look-outs | | 7 | | |
| 55 | Any defective material | | NO | | |
| 56 | Any personnel fault | | NO | | |

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 ① A) - SURVIVORS WERE IN 4 LIFEBOATS AND 2 LIFERAFTS 1 1/2 HRS. BEFORE THEY WERE ALL ORDERED ABOARD SUBMARINE AND SUBJECTED TO JAP ATROCITIES.
B) - SEVERAL (5) USN GUN CREW DISOBEYED SUB'S ORDERS AND TOOK TO WATER; 3 FINALLY REBOARDED BURNING VESSEL AND LAUNCHED 2 LIFEBOATS. LATER, THEY GOT ON A LIFERAFT WHICH HAD FLOATED FREE AFTER SHIP HAD SUNK.

NOTE ② 1) - THOSE FROM THE 4 LIFEBOATS AND 2 LIFERAFTS, WHO DID SURVIVE THE JAP ATROCITIES (18) WERE FINALLY RESCUED BY ALLIED SHIPS AFTER TEMPORARY REFUGE ON RUBBER LIFERAFTS AND RUBBER "MAE WEST'S" FURNISHED BY ALLIED PLANES.

NOTE ③ ACCORDING TO TESTIMONY OF ALL SURVIVORS IN CALCUTTA AND COLOMBO:-

15- ASSUMED DEAD (LAST SEEN ON SHIP) + 13- X-ASSUMED DEAD (NOT SEEN) = 28
 13- ASSUMED DEAD (LAST SEEN ON LIFEBOATS) = 13
 14- ASSUMED DEAD (LAST SEEN IN SER, AFTER SURVIVING JAP ATROCITIES) = 14
 22- ASSUMED DEAD (LAST SEEN ON SUB, BELIEVED VICTIMS OF ATROCITIES) = 22
TOTAL LOST - 77