

**CONFIDENTIAL**ACTION OF ENEMYName of Vessel  
Date of CasualtyRICHARD NOVBY (cont'd)  
3-29-44

the Captain stand up in his lifeboat and it was apparent to me that he had been hiding in the bottom of same. The submarine drew the Captain's lifeboat alongside and it was then that I saw the Captain, 2nd Mate, Mr. Turn, who had been in the water, but who apparently had climbed back into the lifeboat, Sims and Bill Margetto, an able seaman, go upon the submarine. I witnessed them leave the lifeboat and board the submarine. Following that, one of the men from the submarine started to smash something in the lifeboat and it was apparent that he was smashing the radio set. The Japanese then took the lifeboat in tow and proceeded, surfaced, away from us in, I believe, a westerly direction. I lost sight of the surfaced submarine and lifeboat as it grew dark. When it became evident that the Japs had finished with us and were proceeding on their way, we climbed back onto the raft and immediately started to pick up other survivors."

Name of Vessel  
Date of CasualtyJEAN NICOLET  
7-2-44

1st Assistant

"In the meantime the submarine approached and asked 'what ship?' We acknowledged it, told them the name and they came close alongside of the lifeboat. They threw us a line and told us to go aboard the submarine. Then upon going aboard the submarine, we were searched for articles. Watches and life preservers were taken off of us; our hands tied behind our backs and during that time, of my being led forward, I noticed a merchant seaman was led forward previous to me and was shot for no apparent reason at all and shoved over the side, and I was forced to resume the position of sitting down with my head more or less bowed down as far as I could do it, and it was the general attitude for all of us to sit in that position and not look aft, that was an order. Then during this time, while we were sitting there, various crew members came around and literally beat us for no reason at all, with clubs, pipes, or whatever material they had. That lasted for about two hours or so. During this time we were sitting there, we had a couple of Jap fellows that spoke English and they asked different questions, or tried to get us to talk about why we were lead to war, and if any of us had been to college. One fellow said he was to San Francisco, J.C., and had his teachings there. In the meantime, while we were, I later observed and heard, the rest of the lifeboats and rafts and the crew were taken aboard and the life rafts were machine-gunned. Then, when we were still all on board, the ship was burning violently, the submarine circled the ship numerous times and finally when we were astern of the ship, they fired a couple of shells into it. But we didn't quite catch on to what they were saying, they stuck with bayonets each time we swung our heads around, they would hit

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ACTION OF ENEMY

CONFIDENTIAL

Name of Vessel                   JEAN NICOLET (Cont'd)  
Date of Casualty                7-2-44

us with anything they had in their hands. In this period of circling the fellows on the foredeck, of which I was one of them, we were numerous times washed by the waves that came over the bow of the submarine. Finally I was led aft and on my trip I noticed the armaments on the sub, they were in their mounts. Then I was forced to go through a gauntlet and there were about twelve men at least that I went through and all these men had clubs or pipes or some means of punishment, and I got hit upon the head, suffered a severe gash and finally sub-consciously I toppled overboard, and I managed to stay afloat until about six o'clock in the morning when a couple of fellows that were on the sub managed to get loose some way and untied me. From there we just made plans, more or less, to swim back towards the ship, where she previously went down, in the hopes that we might find wreckage or something that would keep us afloat, because at that time we seen planes in the air searching and we knew they had seen us, or knew of our conditions and help would be arriving shortly. When these two fellows that untied me saw they were weakening, and I felt pretty good, I told them to stay where they were and swim to where the ship went down, and get some floating material and brought it back. I started out on my own, and enroute I met an army captain, and he was on his last legs, so I gave him an encouraging word and went on my way. In circling the ship, I noticed this life raft there. The ship was reboarded by three fellows afterwards. Three fellows swam after they got loose and got back aboard. So one fellow tried to launch this life raft and it failed to operate, so he used a navy doughnut and throw that over the side. Eventually, when the ship rolled over and went down, this other life raft released itself."

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Name of Vessel                   JOHN A. JOHNSON  
Date of Casualty                10-29-44

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"Sworn statements of 15 selected survivors and unattested statements of other survivors brought forth the following facts with regard to the activities of the sub subsequent to torpedoing of the ship:

When the #2 boat, containing 28 men was about 1/2-3/4 miles away on the port side of the ship, the sub surfaced about 200 yards away from the boat. Sub moved slowly in the water and circled the area, observing the results of the torpedoing, then turned at a point about 200' from the boat and bore directly down upon the boat at an estimated speed of 8-10 knots. When it was apparent that the sub intended to ram the boat, all of the occupants went overboard and some swam away from the boat, others stayed nearby in an effort to hang on to the side. The bow of the sub brushed the boat which continued

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