

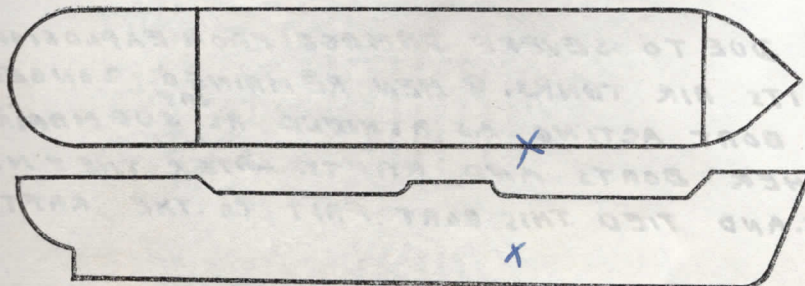
To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

Ship/s JOHN A. JOHNSON Service OCEAN FREIGHT

Owner W-S.A. Operator AMERICAN MAIL LINES, LTP.

Information furnished by MASTER Date 15 DECEMBER, 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>28' 8 3/4" (M)</u> Aft |
| 4 | Draft when attacked | Fwd ^{26' 0 5/8"} <u>26' 10 1/2" (M)</u> Aft <u>28' 04"</u> |
| 5 | Cargo on board (any deck) | Nature <u>GENERAL + EXPLOSIVES</u> Tons <u>7000</u> |
| 6 | Voyage | From <u>SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.</u> To <u>PEARL HARBOR, T.H.</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>ROUGH</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>10-29-44</u> Time <u>2105</u> |
| 14 | Position | Latitude <u>29° 36' 30" N</u> Longitude <u>151° 43' W</u> |
| 15 | Nature of attack (Give data) | <u>TORPEDDED AND SHELLED</u> |
| 16 | Number of hits | <u>1 TORP.; NUMEROUS SHELLS</u> |
| 17 | Location of hits (Mark diagram) | <u>1-FOR'D.; NUMEROUS SHELLS - ALL OVER. - 1-#35</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>YES</u> |
| 24 | Was SOS sent | <u>NO</u> |
| 25 | Ship's speed | Normal <u>10.5</u> When attacked <u>8.9</u> When abandoned <u>STOP.</u> |
| 26 | Time abandoned, sunk | Abandoned <u>2115 (10 min)</u> Sunk <u>0105 (4 hrs, 20 min) FOR'D. NOTED</u> |
| 27 | Was ship reboarded | By whom <u>NO</u> When <u>—</u> |
| 28 | Was ship brought in | How <u>NO</u> Approximate damage <u>SUNK.</u> |



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

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NOTED AFTER SHIP HAD BROKEN IN TWO JAPANESE SUB SURFACED AND SHELLED BOTH HALVES, SETTING THEM AFIRE. AT 0105 (4 hrs, 20 min), fore half EXPLODED AND SANK, AFT HALF WAS LAST SEEN IN A BURNING CONDITION ON THE HORIZON AT 0600 (9 hrs). IT IS PRESUMED TO BE SUNK SINCE.

| LINE No. | QUESTIONS | ANSWERS |
|----------|--|---|
| 29 | Lifeboats..... | Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>2 + 1* 23</u> NOTED |
| 30 | Lifeboats..... | Number lost <u>2</u> How <u>TORPEDO EXPLOSION</u> |
| 31 | Life rafts..... | Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>1</u> |
| 32 | Life rafts..... | Number lost <u>3</u> How <u>1 - PREVIOUS HEAVY WEATHER. 2 - INACCESSIBLE</u> |
| 33 | Life floats..... | Number carried <u>2</u> Which used <u>2*</u> |
| 34 | Life floats..... | Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u> |
| 35 | Lifesaving suits..... | Number carried <u>73</u> Number used <u>0</u> |
| 36 | Were boats, etc., attacked..... | Attacked <u>YES</u> Casualties <u>10 KILLED; 6 WOUNDED</u> |
| 37 | Time in each boat, raft, etc..... | <u>3</u> Boats <u>16 hrs</u> <u>1</u> Raft <u>16 hrs</u> <u>—</u> Float <u>—</u> Boat <u>—</u> Raft <u>—</u> Float |
| 38 | Rescued by and where..... | By <u>ALLIED SHIP</u> Where <u>29°32'N, 141°44'W.</u> |
| 39 | Number of gun crew carried (military)..... | Officers <u>1</u> Enlisted men <u>27</u> |
| 40 | Number ship's crew carried..... | Officers <u>8</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Uncensored <u>32</u> |
| 41 | Number passengers and others carried..... | Passengers <u>1</u> Others <u>0</u> |
| 42 | Total on board..... | <u>70</u> |
| 43 | Number gun crew injured (military)..... | Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>0</u> |
| 44 | Number ship's crew injured..... | Officers <u>1</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Uncensored <u>5</u> |
| 45 | Number passengers and others injured..... | Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>5</u> |
| 46 | Number gun crew lost (military)..... | Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>5</u> |
| 47 | Number ship's crew lost..... | Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Uncensored <u>4</u> |
| 48 | Number passengers and others lost..... | Passengers <u>1</u> Others <u>0</u> |
| 49 | Total casualties..... | Injured <u>6</u> Lost <u>10</u> |
| 50 | Persons lost by (Specify)..... | Drowning <u>0</u> Fire <u>0</u> Shell or torpedo <u>0</u> Other causes <u>10 (ENEMY RAMMED & STRAFED LIFE BOATS)</u> |
| 51 | Total rescued..... | Gun crew <u>23</u> Officers <u>8</u> Radio operators <u>1</u> Uncensored <u>28</u> Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u> Total <u>60</u> |
| 52 | Persons saved by..... | Boats <u>44</u> Rafts <u>16</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>8</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.

NOTED 73 LIFEBOAT SWAMPED DUE TO SEVERE DAMAGE FROM EXPLOSION, AND WAS ONLY HELD UP BY ITS AIR TANKS. 8 MEN REMAINED CONGEALED IN THE WATER WITH THIS BOAT ACTING AS A SHIELD AS SUBMARINE RAMMED AND STRAFED OTHER BOATS AND RAFTS. LATER THE 8 MEN GOT ON THE OTHER RAFT BOATS AND TIED THIS BOAT FAST TO THE RAFT UNTIL RESCUED