

EXCERPT FROM 5ND BOARDING REPORT, SS JOHN E. SCHMELTZER (U.S.), 17 JANUARY 1944.

From The Armed Guard Officer and the Second Mate it was learned that the Master and Chief Mate had been under the influence of whiskey several times while subject vessel was underway. The Master, while intoxicated, took his vessel out of Salerno Basin against the orders of shore authorities and the pilot. At that time the Chief Mate was sober but during the voyage from there to the outer Naples anchorage he became intoxicated.

COLLISION:

On 11/14/43 at 1535 zone time, while awaiting orders in the outer Naples anchorage to proceed into the harbor, subject vessel dragged anchor and collided with the stem of the British tanker SAN AMODO. Slight damage was sustained on the bulwark, side plates and deck plates port side abeam of #4 hold of subject vessel. Slight damage was sustained on the stem of the tanker.

On this date the wind was southwest, force 8, and although 90 fathoms of chain were out, subject vessel's anchor would not take hold of the rocky bottom.

Dissemination: ✓ Coast Guard; J.A.G. ✓

Op-16-B-5
MFM/mg
15 Feb. 1944

*Mrs. Spencer A. Wingate
C.O. Eugene R. Wrecker*

DECLASSIFIED	
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