

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

Ship S/s JOHN H. COUCH

Service OCEAN FREIGHT

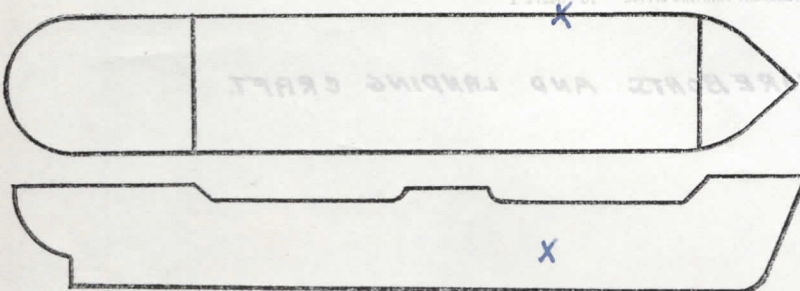
Owner W.S.A.

Operator WEYERHAUSER S.S. CO.

Information furnished by MASTER

Date 21 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>26'6" (M)</u> Aft <u>26'6"</u>
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd <u>22'4"</u> Aft <u>26'1"</u> <u>24'2 1/2" (M)</u>
5	Cargo on board (any deck)	Nature <u>GENERAL + GASOLINE (IN DRUMS)</u> Tons <u>5000</u>
6	Voyage	From <u>SAN FRANCISCO</u> To <u>GUADALCANAL</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>CALM</u>
10	Was enemy sighted? When	<u>YES; BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER ATTACK.</u>
11	Any friendly ships in sight	<u>YES.</u>
12	Were navigation lights on	<u>YES; CARGO LIGHTS</u>
13	Date and time of attack	Date <u>10/11/43</u> Time <u>0150</u>
14	Position	Latitude <u>AT ANCHOR IN KOLI POINT</u> Longitude <u>GUADALCANAL.</u>
15	Nature of attack (Give data)	<u>TORPEDOED (AIR.)</u> <u>NOTED</u>
16	Number of hits	<u>1</u>
17	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<u>1-FOR'D - 1-AFT</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; EXPLOSION + FIRE</u> Cargo <u>YES; EXPLOSION + 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>10.0</u> When attacked <u>AT ANCHOR</u> When abandoned <u>STOP</u>
26	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <u>0315 (1 hr. 25 min.)</u> Sunk <u>0530 10/15/43 (4 DAYS, 4 HRS.)</u>
27	Was ship reboarded	By whom <u>MASTER + 4 OFFICERS</u> When <u>0830</u>
28	Was ship brought in	How <u>TOWED TO BEACH.</u> Approximate damage <u>SUNK.</u> <u>NOTED</u>



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

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(TO EXTINGUISH FIRE)

NOTED a) - AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO SINK STERN OF VESSEL, BY HAVING A NAVY DESTROYER FIRE 18 ARMOR PIERCING SHELLS INTO HER. THESE SHELLS, TO EVERYONE'S AMAZEMENT, DID NOT AFFECT EITHER THE TRIM OR THE DRAFT OF THE VESSEL. b) - THEREFORE, VESSEL WAS TOWED AND BEACHED, STERN FIRST. FOR <sup>FOUR</sup> DAYS WATER WAS PUMPED ABOARD HER - TO EXTINGUISH FIRE IN HOLDS. FINALLY, VESSEL ROLLED OVER ON STARBOARD SIDE AND SUNK, WITH BUT 5 FEET ABOVE SURFACE.

Indicate by star (\*) rafts, floats, or suits used as temporary refuge in water before rescue by lifeboats.

LINE No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
29	Lifeboats.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>2</u>
30	Lifeboats.....	Number lost <u>2</u> How <u>FIRE (WOODEN BOATS)</u>
31	Life rafts.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>1*</u>
32	Life rafts.....	Number lost <u>3</u> How <u>FOULED IN BOOM GUYS; FIRE</u>
33	Life floats.....	Number carried <u>2</u> Which used <u>0</u>
34	Life floats.....	Number lost <u>2</u> How <u>INACCESSIBLE; FIRE</u>
35	Lifesaving suits.....	Number carried <u>43</u> Number used <u>0</u>
36	Were boats, etc., attacked.....	Attacked <u>NO</u> Casualties <u>0</u>
37	Time in each boat, raft, etc.	<u>2</u> Boats <u>15 MIN</u> Raft _____ Float _____
		_____ Boat _____ Raft _____ Float _____
38	Rescued by and where <u>20</u>	By <u>ALLIED SHIPS</u> Where <u>AT SCENE</u>
39	Number of gun crew carried (military)	Officers <u>1</u> Enlisted men <u>25</u>
40	Number ship's crew carried	Officers <u>8</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>34</u>
41	Number passengers and others carried	Passengers <u>28</u> Others <u>100 (CB STEVEDORES)</u>
42	Total on board.....	<u>197</u>
43	Number gun crew injured (military)	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>7</u>
44	Number ship's crew injured	Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>4</u>
45	Number passengers and others injured	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u>
46	Number gun crew lost (military)	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>1</u>
47	Number ship's crew lost	Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>1</u>
48	Number passengers and others lost	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>1</u>
49	Total casualties.....	Injured <u>11</u> Lost <u>3</u>
50	Persons lost by (Specify)	Drowning <u>1</u> Fire <u>0</u> Shell or torpedo <u>2</u>
		Other causes <u>0</u>
51	Total rescued.....	Gun crew <u>25</u> Officers <u>8</u> Radio operators <u>1</u>
		Unlicensed <u>33</u> Passengers <u>28</u> Others <u>99</u> Total <u>194</u>
52	Persons saved by.....	Boats <u>60</u> Rafts <u>0</u> Floats <u>0</u> Suits <u>0</u>
		Preservers <u>40</u> Other means <u>94</u> <u>NOTED</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>15</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 - ABOUT 94 RESCUED BY SHOREBOATS AND LANDING CRAFT.

