

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION OF ENEMY

Name of Vessel JOHN A. JOHNSON (Cont'd)
Date of Casualty 10-29-44

100 yards from the boat. About 20 minutes later the sub started toward the lifeboat. Occupants abandoned lifeboat and sub passed 10 yards of the boat but did not fire on the boat. About 20 minutes after shelling the after section of the ship, sub returned and attempted to ram the lifeboat but did not fire on it. The boat was sheared off the sub with a glancing blow but no damage was caused. After the sub had passed and the men came back to the boat there were still 21 men.

A total of 8 men reached the #3 lifeboat which was swamped. Boat drifted well clear of the ship and the other boats could be seen at a distance in the darkness. Sub surfaced about 400-500 yards from this boat and the occupants went over the side keeping the boat between them and the sub. After sub had been surfaced some 10 - 15 minutes, machine-gun fire could be heard and tracer bullets seen, very brilliant and red in color, directed away from the boat. Then rays from a searchlight could also be seen. After sub had shelled the ship it made its last run passing about 300 yards away from this boat. It apparently did not see the #3 boat as it was swamped, only the bow and stern being about 6" - 8" above water."

Name of Vessel JOHN H. CLAYTON
Date of Casualty 1-1-45

Master

"We didn't see the plane at all. We heard the plane for about maybe a matter of ten seconds before it came in without hardly any noise until it got close to the ship. I don't know how close. Then, of course, it speeded up to an awful roar and just as she started roaring, why, we got hit and I doubt whether the people on the bridge even saw it. I talked to all of them about it except the gunnery lieutenant and they all say that they didn't see the plane. There was just this terrible roar coming in and we were hit and I was standing on the port wing of the bridge with the second assistant and I think that he dropped his bomb, naturally, before he got to the ship, and then he started strafing, you see, to try to get the gunners there on the gun tubs on the bridge and all around me and the second assistant after we went back again there was holes in the deck and the bulwarks - no, not the bulwarks, but the bulkhead on the port side of the wheelhouse was all torn up by gunfire."

Name of Vessel HENRY B. PLANT
Date of Casualty 2-6-45

Chief Mate

"I saw the submarine later when we were in the lifeboat
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