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REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT VESSEL WAR ACTION CASUALTY

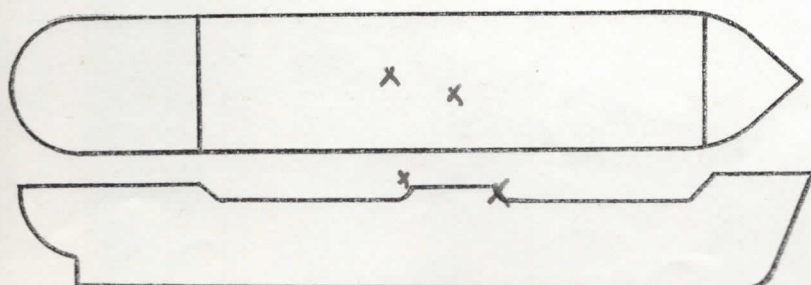
To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

Ship *S/* **LEONIDAS MERRITT** Service **OCEAN FREIGHT**

Owner **WSA** Operator **U.S. LINES**

Information furnished by **MASTER** Date **8 FEBRUARY 1944**

LINE No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS	
1	Year built and propulsion	Built 1943	Propulsion STEAM
2	Tonnage	Gross 7176	Net 4380
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed)	Fwd 27' 8 3/4" (M)	Aft 18' 02"
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd 12' 02" 15' 02" (M)	Aft 18' 02"
5	Cargo on board (any deck)	Nature GENERAL	Tons 2000
6	Voyage	From HOLLANDIA	To LEYTE, P.I.
7	Were routing orders followed	YES	
8	Any criticism of orders	NO	
9	Weather at time of attack	Weather CLEAR	Sea SLIGHT
10	Was enemy sighted? When	YES; BEFORE AND DURING ATTACK.	
11	Any friendly ships in sight	YES.	
12	Were navigation lights on	NO	
13	Date and time of attack	Date 11-12-44	Time 1125 NOTE
14	Position	Latitude AT ANCHOR AT DULAG, LEYTE.	
15	Nature of attack (Give data)	STRAFED & BOMBED (2 SUICIDE PLANES CRASHED INTO SHIP) NOTE	
16	Number of hits	2	
17	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	1-FOR'D; 1-AFT. 2-MID-SUPERSTRUCTURE	
18	Effect of hits	EXTENSIVE DAMAGE.	
19	Was ship armed? What type	YES; 2-3"; 8-20 MM.	
20	Was armament used? State result	YES; UNKNOWN.	
21	Any explosions or fires*	Ship YES; FIRE.	Cargo NO
22	Was deck ruptured	YES	
23	Did ship break in two	NO	
24	Was SOS sent	NO	
25	Ship's speed	Normal 11.0	When attacked AT ANCHOR When abandoned N.A.
26	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned N.A.	Sunk N.S.
27	Was ship reboarded	By whom N.A.	When —
28	Was ship brought in	YES How OWN POWER	Approximate damage EXTENSIVE



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

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NOTE - SECOND PLANE ATTACKED AND HIT AT 1725.

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

LINE No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
		NOT ABANDONED
29	Lifeboats.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>0</u>
30	Lifeboats.....	Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u>
31	Life rafts.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>0</u>
32	Life rafts.....	Number lost <u>2</u> How <u>BOMB EXPLOSION (CONCUSSION)</u>
33	Life floats.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>0</u>
34	Life floats.....	Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u>
35	Lifesaving suits.....	Number carried <u>48</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.....	Boat <u>—</u> Raft <u>—</u> Float <u>—</u> Boat <u>—</u> Raft <u>—</u> Float <u>—</u>
38	Rescued by and where.....	By <u>NOT ABANDONED</u> Where <u>—</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> Unlicensed <u>34</u>
41	Number passengers and others carried.....	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>50 (STEVEDORES)</u>
42	Total on board.....	<u>121</u>
43	Number gun crew injured (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>9</u>
44	Number ship's crew injured.....	Officers <u>1</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>5</u>
45	Number passengers and others injured.....	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>21</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>36</u> Lost <u>3</u>
50	Persons lost by (Specify).....	Drowning <u>0</u> Fire <u>0</u> Shell or torpedo <u>3</u> Other causes <u>0</u>
51	Total rescued.....	Gun crew <u>27</u> Officers <u>8</u> Radio operators <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>33</u> Passengers <u>49</u> Others <u>0</u> Total <u>118</u>
52	Persons saved by.....	Boats <u>0</u> Rafts <u>0</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>4</u> Number lost below <u>0</u>
54	Number of look-outs.....	<u>6</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.

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

