

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

Ship M/S MERCURY SUN

Service OCEAN TANKER

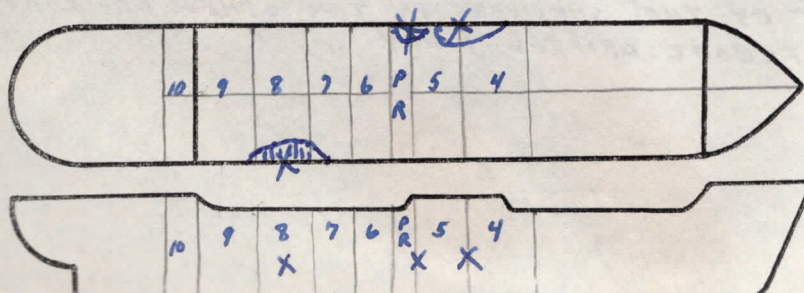
Owner SUN OIL Co.

Operator SUN OIL Co

Information furnished by CH. ENG. + CREW + OWNERS

Date 2 DECEMBER, 1944

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	Year built and propulsion	Built <u>1931</u> Propulsion <u>DIESEL</u>
2	Tonnage	Gross <u>8893</u> Net <u>5398</u>
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed)	Fwd. <u>29' 9 3/4" (M)</u> Aft
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd. <u>28' 11" (M)</u> Aft
5	D. W. T. (Emergency Coastwise L. L.)	<u>15,400</u>
6	Cargo 42's capacity and carried	Capacity <u>120,116 BBLs.</u> Carried <u>93,607 BBLs.</u>
7	Kind of cargo or tank ballast	<u>NAVY FUEL</u>
8	Was ship gas-free? (Specify)	<u>NO; LOADED</u>
9	Voyage	From <u>BEAUMONT, TEXAS</u> To <u>CRISTOBAL, CANAL ZONE</u>
10	Were routing orders followed	<u>YES</u>
11	Any criticism of orders	<u>NO</u>
12	Weather at time of attack	Weather <u>CLEAR</u> Sea <u>CHOPPY</u>
13	Was enemy sighted? When	<u>YES; AFTER ATTACK</u>
14	Any friendly ships in sight	<u>NO</u>
15	Were navigation lights on	<u>NO</u>
16	Date and time of attack	Date <u>5-18-42</u> Time <u>0004</u>
17	Position	Latitude <u>20° 02' N</u> Longitude <u>84° 25' W</u>
18	Nature of attack (Give data)	<u>TORPEDOED</u>
19	Number of hits	<u>3</u>
20	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<u>1-FOR'D, 1-AFT (2-1/2 PAR. BOD.); 1-AFT (2/3 PAR. BOD.)</u>
21	Effect of hits	<u>SANK SHIP</u>
22	Was ship armed? What type	<u>NO</u>
23	Was armament used? State result	<u>-</u>
24	Was oil sprayed over ship	<u>YES</u>
25	Did cargo fire (Mark diagram)	<u>YES</u>
26	Did tanks explode (Mark diagram)	<u>NO</u>
27	Was deck ruptured	<u>YES</u>
28	Did ship break in two	<u>YES</u>
29	Was SOS sent	<u>NO</u>
30	Ship's speed	Normal <u>11.5</u> When attacked <u>8.45</u> When abandoned <u>STOP</u>
31	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <u>0019 (15 min.)</u> Sunk <u>0300 (2 hrs. 56 min.)</u>
32	Was ship reboarded	By whom <u>NO</u> When <u>-</u>
33	Was ship brought in	How <u>NO</u> Approximate damage <u>SUNK</u>



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

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

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS			
34	Lifeboats.....	Number carried	4	Which used	2 + 1* NOTE①
35	Lifeboats.....	Number lost	2	How	1 - NOT NEEDED NOTE② 1 - FIRE
36	Life rafts.....	Number carried	9	Which used	2*
37	Life rafts.....	Number lost	7	How	NOT NEEDED
38	Life floats.....	Number carried	0	Which used	0
39	Life floats.....	Number lost	0	How	0
40	Lifesaving suits.....	Number carried	0	Number used	0
41	Were boats, etc., attacked.....	Attacked	NO	Casualties	0
42	Time in each boat, raft, etc.....	2--39 hrs, 35 min	Boat	—	Raft — Float —
43	Rescued by and where.....	28	By	ALLIED SHIP	Where 20°19'N, 86°20'W
44	Number of gun crew carried (military).....	Officers	0	Enlisted men	0
45	Number of ship's crew carried.....	Officers	9	Radiomen	1
46	Number of others carried.....	0	Unlicensed	25	
47	Total on board.....	35			
48	Number of gun crew injured (military).....	Officers	0	Enlisted men	0
49	Number of ship's crew injured.....	Officers	1	Radiomen	1
50	Number of others injured.....	0	Unlicensed	0	
51	Number of gun crew lost (military).....	Officers	0	Enlisted men	0
52	Number of ship's crew lost.....	Officers	3	Radiomen	0
53	Number of others lost.....	0	Unlicensed	3	
54	Total casualties.....	Injured	2	Lost	6
55	Persons lost by (specify).....	Drowning	0	Fire	6
56	Total rescued.....	Other causes	0	Shell or Torpedo	0
57	Persons saved by.....	Gun crew	0	Officers	6
58	Engineering watch below.....	Unlicensed	22	Radiomen	1
59	Number of lookouts.....	Others	0	Total	29
60	Any defective material.....	Boats	29	Rafts	0
61	Any personnel fault.....	Preservers	0	Floats	0
		Other means	0	Suits	0
		No aid	0		
		Number on watch below	2	Number lost below	0
		3			
		NO			
		NO			

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.

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NOTE①: ONE LIFEBOAT LAUNCHED ITSELF AFTER THE FALLS BURNED. ALL SUPPLIES WERE TAKEN FROM THIS BOAT BY THE SURVIVORS IN TWO OTHER LIFEBOATS AND THE AFOREMENTIONED LIFEBOAT DRIFTED AWAY.