

# Declassified NARA Project NW 62684

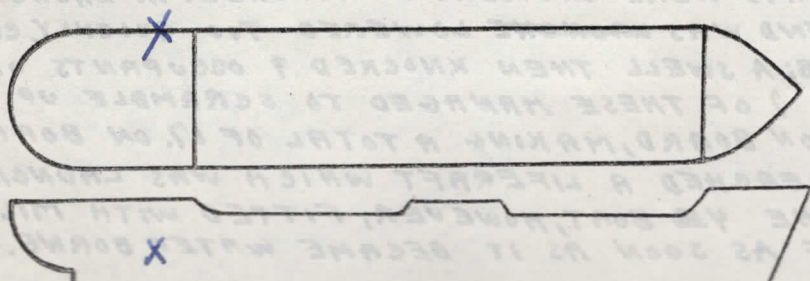
## REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT TANKER WAR ACTION CASUALTY

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

Ship YS MOBILUBE Service OCEAN TANNER.  
 Owner SOCONY-VACUUM OIL Co. Operator SOCONY-VACUUM OIL Co.

Information furnished by MASTER + OWNERS + ONI REPORT Date 21 DECEMBER, 1944

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	Year built and propulsion	Built <u>1939</u> Propulsion <u>STEAM</u>
2	Tonnage	Gross <u>10,222</u> Net <u>6151</u>
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed)	Fwd. <u>30' 9 3/16" (M)</u> Aft _____
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd. <u>19' 00" (M)</u> Aft _____
5	D. W. T. (Emergency Coastwise L. L.)	<u>17,148</u>
6	Cargo 42's capacity and carried	Capacity <u>133,884</u> Carried <u>BALLAST</u>
7	Kind of cargo or tank ballast	<u>WATER BALLAST</u>
8	Was ship gas-free? (Specify)	<u>NO</u>
9	Voyage	From <u>SIDNEY, AUSTRALIA</u> To <u>SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA</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>MODERATE</u>
13	Was enemy sighted? When	<u>NO</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>1-18-43</u> Time <u>2006</u>
17	Position	Latitude <u>33° 57' S</u> Longitude <u>157° 05' 30" E</u>
18	Nature of attack (Give data)	<u>TORPEDOED</u>
19	Number of hits	<u>1</u>
20	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<u>1-MACH.</u>
21	Effect of hits	<u>EXTENSIVE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE</u>
22	Was ship armed? What type	<u>YES; 1-4"; 4-50 CAL.</u>
23	Was armament used? State result	<u>YES; NONE</u>
24	Was oil sprayed over ship	<u>NO</u>
25	Did cargo fire (Mark diagram)	<u>NO</u>
26	Did tanks explode (Mark diagram)	<u>NO</u>
27	Was deck ruptured	<u>NO</u>
28	Did ship break in two	<u>NO</u>
29	Was SOS sent	<u>YES</u>
30	Ship's speed	Normal <u>13.0</u> When attacked <u>12.5</u> When abandoned <u>STOP</u>
31	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <u>2150 (1 hr. 47 min)</u> Sunk <u>NOTED N.S.</u>
32	Was ship reboarded	By whom <u>NOTED</u> When <u>--</u>
33	Was ship brought in	How <u>TOWED IN</u> Approximate damage <u>EXTENSIVE</u>



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



Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
34	Lifeboats.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>3</u>
35	Lifeboats.....	Number lost <u>1</u> How <u>INEFFICIENT LAUNCHING.</u>
36	Life rafts.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>1</u>
37	Life rafts.....	Number lost <u>3</u> How <u>DRIFTED AWAY</u>
38	Life floats.....	Number carried <u>2</u> Which used <u>0</u>
39	Life floats.....	Number lost <u>2</u> How <u>NOT NEEDED</u>
40	Lifesaving suits.....	Number carried <u>53</u> Number used <u>0</u>
41	Were boats, etc., attacked.....	Attacked <u>NO</u> Casualties <u>—</u>
42	Time in each boat, raft, etc.....	<u>3-1/2 hr, 45 min</u> Boat <u>1-1/2 hr, 45 min</u> Raft <u>—</u> Float
43	Rescued by and where.....	By <u>ALLIED SHIP</u> Where <u>AT SCENE.</u>
44	Number of gun crew carried (military).....	Officers <u>1</u> Enlisted men <u>10</u>
45	Number of ship's crew carried.....	Officers <u>10</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>31</u>
46	Number of others carried.....	<u>0</u>
47	Total on board.....	<u>53</u>
48	Number of gun crew injured (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>0</u>
49	Number of ship's crew injured.....	Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>6</u>
50	Number of others injured.....	<u>0</u>
51	Number of gun crew lost (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>0</u>
52	Number of ship's crew lost.....	Officers <u>1</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>2</u>
53	Number of others lost.....	<u>0</u>
54	Total casualties.....	Injured <u>6</u> Lost <u>3</u>
55	Persons lost by (specify).....	Drowning <u>0</u> Fire <u>0</u> Shell or Torpedo <u>3</u> Other causes <u>0</u>
56	Total rescued.....	Gun crew <u>11</u> Officers <u>9</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>29</u> Others <u>0</u> Total <u>50</u>
57	Persons saved by.....	Boats <u>31</u> Rafts <u>2</u> Floats <u>0</u> Suits <u>0</u> Preservers <u>0</u> Other means <u>0</u> No aid <u>17</u> <u>NOTE 1</u>
58	Engineering watch below.....	Number on watch below <u>3</u> Number lost below <u>3</u>
59	Number of lookouts.....	<u>7</u>
60	Any defective material.....	<u>NO</u>
61	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.

NOTE 1 THE SHIP WAS ABANDONED BY ALL EXCEPT MASTER AND 9 MEN ON MASTER'S ORDERS. 3 LIFEBOATS WERE EFFICIENTLY LAUNCHED. IN LAUNCHING THE 4th BOAT, THE AFT END WAS LAID LOW TOO QUICKLY, CAUSING RELEASING GEAR TO JAMB; A SWELL THEN KNOCKED 9 OCCUPANTS OF THE LIFEBOAT INTO THE SEA. 3 OF THESE MANAGED TO SCRAMBLE UP THE NET AND REMAINED ON BOARD, MAKING A TOTAL OF 17 ON BOARD. THE OTHER TWO MEN REACHED A LIFERAFT WHICH WAS LAUNCHED FOR THEIR BENEFIT. THE 4th BOAT, HOWEVER, FITTED WITH MILLS GEAR RELEASED ITSELF AS SOON AS IT BECAME WATER BORNE.