

(OMI)
CG-MIN-PAN PENN.

9 June, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, MERCHANT MARINE PERSONNEL DIVISION

Subj: War action casualty involving the PAN PENNSYLVANIA

1. The PAN PENNSYLVANIA was torpedoed at 0805 EWT on 16 April, 1944, latitude 40° 05'N, longitude 69° 40'W. Immediately after attack, and without orders from the Master, 24 certificated and gun crew members abandoned the vessel by jumping overboard and by lowering No. 3 lifeboat, which immediately capsized upon hitting the water, as the vessel had approximately 13 knots headway on. Of this number, 22 persons perished, and while in the water no rafts, floats, or other buoyant equipment was released for their accommodation.

2. 46 CFR 153.18, (Subchapter "O"), provides as follows:

"*** a fire drill, and lifeboat drill with a boat in the water and boat crews exercised in rowing is to be held in every port of loading or discharge.***"

On page 8 of the record of investigation, before the Merchant Marine Hearing Unit at New York, the Master testified that the crew on board the subject vessel was for the most part new, and that no lifeboat, fire, or other drills or musters were held, either in port or at sea, prior to the attack. The Examining Officer did not inquire, nor did the Master offer, any explanation or justification for the failure to conform to the above-cited regulation with respect to drills.

3. The record of the subject casualty, and the foregoing information is herewith submitted for such action as may be deemed appropriate.

H. C. SHEPHEARD

Incl:
Record of Investigation
of the PAN PENNSYLVANIA.

PES:nh