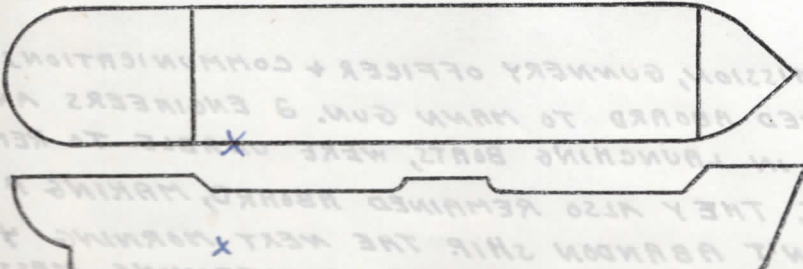


CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT VESSEL WAR ACTION CASUALTY

To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.
 Ship S/S PETER H. BURNETT Service OCEAN FREIGHT.
 Owner U.S.M.C. Operator AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINE.
 Information furnished by MASTER. Date 7 SEPTEMBER 1944

| LINE No. | QUESTIONS | ANSWERS |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Year built and propulsion..... | Built <u>1942</u> Propulsion <u>STEAM.</u> |
| 2 | Tonnage..... | Gross <u>7176</u> Net <u>4380</u> |
| 3 | Draft loaded (maximum allowed)..... | Fwd <u>27'8" (M)</u> Aft <u>21'8</u> |
| 4 | Draft when attacked..... | Fwd <u>12'7</u> Aft <u>17'2" (M)</u> <u>21'9</u> |
| 5 | Cargo on board (any deck)..... | Nature <u>WOOL</u> Tons <u>800</u> |
| 6 | Voyage..... | From <u>NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA</u> To <u>SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.</u> |
| 7 | Were routing orders followed..... | <u>YES</u> |
| 8 | Any criticism of orders..... | <u>NO.</u> |
| 9 | Weather at time of attack..... | Weather <u>CLEAR</u> Sea <u>MODERATE.</u> |
| 10 | Was enemy sighted? When..... | <u>NO</u> |
| 11 | Any friendly ships in sight..... | <u>NO</u> |
| 12 | Were navigation lights on..... | <u>NO</u> |
| 13 | Date and time of attack..... | Date <u>1/22/43</u> Time <u>2155</u> |
| 14 | Position..... | Latitude <u>32°54'S</u> Longitude <u>159°32'E</u> |
| 15 | Nature of attack (Give data)..... | <u>TORPEDO</u> |
| 16 | Number of hits..... | <u>1</u> |
| 17 | Location of hits (Mark diagram)..... | <u>1-AFT</u> #5 S |
| 18 | Effect of hits..... | <u>EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO HULL + MACHINERY.</u> |
| 19 | Was ship armed? What type..... | <u>YES</u> |
| 20 | Was armament used? State result..... | <u>NO</u> |
| 21 | Any explosions or fires*..... | Ship <u>NO</u> Cargo <u>NO.</u> |
| 22 | Was deck ruptured..... | <u>YES</u> |
| 23 | Did ship break in two..... | <u>NO</u> |
| 24 | Was SOS sent..... | <u>YES</u> |
| 25 | Ship's speed..... | Normal <u>11.0</u> When attacked <u>11.0</u> When abandoned <u>STOP.</u> |
| 26 | Time abandoned, sunk..... | Abandoned <u>2205 (10 min.)</u> Sunk <u>N.S.</u> |
| 27 | Was ship reboarded..... | By whom <u>CREW</u> When <u>0655/1/23/43</u> |
| 28 | Was ship brought in..... | How <u>TOWED IN.</u> Approximate damage <u>EXTENSIVE.</u> |



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

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 30 | Lifeboats | Number lost | 0 | How | NOTE ② |
| 31 | Life rafts | Number carried | 10 | Which used | 0 |
| 32 | Life rafts | Number lost | 0 | How | NOTE ② |
| 33 | Life floats | Number carried | 20 | Which used | 0 |
| 34 | Life floats | Number lost | 0 | How | NOTE ② |
| 35 | Lifesaving suits | Number carried | 32 | Number used | 0 |
| 36 | Were boats, etc., attacked | Attacked | NO | Casualties | 0 |
| 37 | Time in each boat, raft, etc. | 4 Boats | 9-HRS | Raft | — |
| | | 1 Boat | 48-HRS | Raft | — |
| 38 | Rescued by and where | By | REBOARDED VESSEL ALLIED SHIP | Where | AT SCENE 90 MI. SE. SCENE. |
| 39 | Number of gun crew carried (military) | Officers | 2 | Enlisted men | 24 |
| 40 | Number ship's crew carried | Officers | 8 | Radiomen | 1 |
| | | | | Unlicensed | 31 |
| 41 | Number passengers and others carried | Passengers | 8 | Others | 0 |
| 42 | Total on board | | 74 | | |
| 43 | Number gun crew injured (military) | Officers | 0 | Enlisted men | 2 |
| 44 | Number ship's crew injured | Officers | 0 | Radiomen | 0 |
| | | | | Unlicensed | 1 |
| 45 | Number passengers and others injured | Passengers | 0 | Others | 0 |
| 46 | Number gun crew lost (military) | Officers | 0 | Enlisted men | 1 |
| 47 | Number ship's crew lost | Officers | 0 | Radiomen | 0 |
| | | | | Unlicensed | 0 |
| 48 | Number passengers and others lost | Passengers | 0 | Others | 0 |
| 49 | Total casualties | Injured | 3 | Lost | 1 |
| 50 | Persons lost by (Specify) | Drowning | 0 | Fire | 0 |
| | | | | Shell or torpedo | 1 |
| | | Other causes | 0 | | |
| 51 | Total rescued | Gun crew | 25 | Officers | 8 |
| | | Unlicensed | 31 | Passengers | 8 |
| | | | | Others | 0 |
| | | | | Total | 73 |
| 52 | Persons saved by | Boats | 67 | Rafts | 0 |
| | | Preservers | 0 | Other means | 0 |
| | | | | No aid | 6 |
| 53 | Engineering watch below | Number on watch below | 3 | Number lost below | 0 |
| 54 | Number of look-outs | | 8 | | |
| 55 | Any defective material | | NO | | |
| 56 | Any personnel fault | | 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.

NOTE ① - WITH MASTER'S PERMISSION, GUNNERY OFFICER & COMMUNICATIONS LIASON OFFICER REMAINED ABOARD TO MANN GUN. 3 ENGINEERS AND TWO CADETS, ENGAGED IN LAUNCHING BOATS, WERE UNABLE TO REACH BOATS, AND, THEREFORE, THEY ALSO REMAINED ABOARD, MAKING A TOTAL OF 6 THAT DIDN'T ABANDON SHIP THE NEXT MORNING 4 LIFEBOATS RETURNED TO VESSEL. 3 LIFEBOAT, CONTAINING MASTER, DRIFTED 90 MI SE OF SCENE, WHERE A RESCUE VESSEL PICKED IT UP.

NOTE ② - RAFTS & FLOATS WERE NOT NEEDED. VESSEL DIDN'T SINK, AND, THEREFORE, RAFTS & FLOATS PRESUMABLY REMAINED INTACT ABOARD SHIP.