

CONFIDENTIAL

RICHARD BLAND

3/10/43

1. Position-Sea-Weather 66°48'N, 14°15'W; overcast and rough and cold.
2. Convoy or Independent Independent, (lost convoy 5 days before)
3. Time & Kind of 1st Hit 1543 - 1 torpedo.
4. Location of 1st Hit #4 hold port side.
5. Effect of 1st Hit Extensive damage, but ship kept on even trim due to lumber cargo.  
  
N.B. - On 3/5/43 ship was torpedoed in #1 hold starboard side while in convoy. Torpedo passed right through ship. Ship went down by the head but didn't sink. It stayed with convoy for 2 days and then fell off due to rough weather. At this attack several deck cracks occurred especially in way of #3 hatch.
6. Time & Reason for Abandonment Or Why Not 1843 (3 hours) - vessel completely crippled due to 2nd hit received in engine room.
7. Persons Aboard - 69 Lost by drowning - 34.  
  
N.B. - Several survivors thought many lives would have been saved had master abandoned after first hit of second attack. Due to roughness of sea, master thought it safer to remain aboard stricken ship than to chance lifeboats.
8. Time & Kind of 2nd Hit 1838 (2 hours, 55 min.) - 1 torpedo.
9. Location of 2nd Hit Machinery spaces starboard side.
10. Effect of 2nd Hit Exploded settling tank, set fire to superstructure, ship broke in half.
11. Disposition of Vessel Sunk - aft end sunk 1843 (3 hours); 1 survivor claimed sub surfaced and sunk forward half by shell fire.