

**CONFIDENTIAL**ACTION OF ENEMY

Name of Vessel                      AFRICAN STAR (Cont'd)  
Date of Casualty                    7-12-43

heavy single-breasted jacket with fur collar; over-seas cap of same khaki; no emblems visible. The second was approximately 5'10" tall, more fluent in English (this is the one stated he had been in New York in 1936), wore green khaki trousers, brown khaki shirt open at collar, leather jacket, officer's cap with a circular, non-lustrous metal Nisk emblem. The interrogation was concluded upon the command heard from within the conning tower uttered in an impatient tone in English, 'Tell them to stop.' At this time the elder interrogator slipped a package of cigarettes unobtrusively into the Third Officers hands and whispered in a low voice, 'The nearest point of land is Santos, two-hundred miles away. Good luck.'; and pointed in the direction which the land lay. They were put into the boat immediately thereafter and all agreed that the submarine dashed away on the surface in a northerly direction full throttle kicking up a spray as it did so."

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Name of Vessel                      ROBERT BACON  
Date of Casualty                    7-14-43

ONR

"Sub surfaced at 0200 GMT, came alongside #3 lifeboat and asked for Captain. Commander of sub was told that Captain must be in another lifeboat as he was not in that one. Sub Commander then asked name of vessel, tonnage and nationality. He then told survivors that they were about 50 miles from land and wished them luck. Captain stated that from speech of crew, sub appeared to be German. Sub circled scene of sinking for about 30 minutes and was last seen submerging and steaming in southwest direction."

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Name of Vessel                      RICHARD CASHELL  
Date of Casualty                    7-16-43

Chief Engineer

"A few moments after the ship disappeared the submarine surfaced a few hundred yards away from us on the life raft, and pulled up right alongside of us. There were about 4 men in the conning tower, and an officer behind them who was probably the commander. He left the tower and walked along the deck with a tommy gun in his right hand and a megaphone in his left hand until he was right alongside of us, then he asked if that was an American ship. We said yes, it was. He asked us the name of the ship and he got the wrong name, one of the boys yelled PHILLIP MORRIS. He asked where we came from, and we said from Bahia, and he asked where we were going, and we told him Rio -- although we

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CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION OF ENEMYName of Vessel  
Date of CasualtyRICHARD CASWELL (Cont'd)  
7-16-43

were headed for New York. He asked us what the cargo consisted of and how much cargo there was. We told him there was about 9,000 tons of mixed cargo. He said he didn't believe it. Then he left the deck and walked back and spoke to the other men in the conning tower, then he came back and handed us a package of cigarettes and a package of matches. Then he went back to the conning tower and turned the submarine around and went off at a right angle and submerged and some of the boys waved their fingers in a 'V' and some of our boys waved back. When the commander was on deck he didn't even point the gun at us. He asked if the captain was with us. We said: 'No, the last we saw of the captain was on the bridge.' He said: 'That's too bad.'"

Name of Vessel  
Date of CasualtyRICHARD HOVEY  
3-29-44

Armed Guard Officer

"After a time the submarine surfaced and fired upon the ship. Subsequently thereto it fired on the lifeboats and rafts and came closer to them. It concentrated its fire first on #2 lifeboat. When they jumped overboard into the water and did everything possible to avoid being struck by shells and gunfire. The submarine approached #2 lifeboat first and after firing upon it, rammed it causing it to overturn and partially sink so that only one quarter of it was out of the water. It was in an overturned condition likewise. At the time I had no idea how many of the men in #2 lifeboat had been shot. Subsequently thereto the submarine approached the Captain's lifeboat, #1, which had our raft in tow. The men in the Captain's lifeboat had been hiding behind the raft in the water. Whether or not the Captain got into the water I do not know. The Navy gunners and I sought protection behind the raft which was still tied by a line to the lifeboat. As the submarine approached us they continued firing at us and we worked from one side to the other of the raft to keep from being struck. Many of us swam under water and under the raft for protection. The submarine passed the Captain's lifeboat and our raft and proceeded past us at which time I believe they fired on the Chief Mate's lifeboat and a raft which he had attached to said boat. In looking in that direction it appeared that all of the men in the lifeboat and raft were in the water trying to avoid being struck the same as we were. The submarine then turned and came back towards the Captain's lifeboat and our raft and it was apparent it was going between the boat and the raft. I, therefore, instructed one of the men to cut the line which attached the two as I realized that we would be towed alongside. As the submarine came abreast of the lifeboat and the raft, I was told that the Japanese demanded in clear English: 'Where is your Captain? We want your Skipper.'" As about that time I had been doing considerable swimming under water and around the raft, I did not hear this request. However, I did see

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