

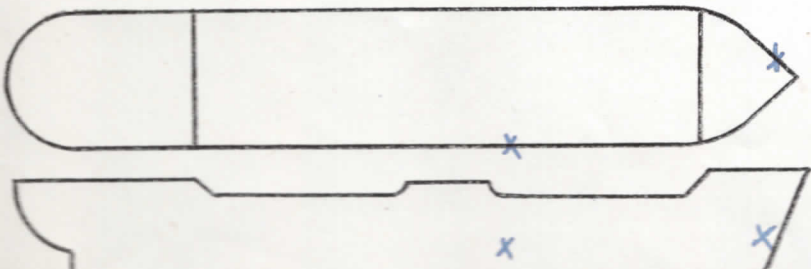
Indicate by star (*) lifeboats, or suits used as temporary raft or suits used as temporary raft or suits used as temporary raft

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 RICHARD D. SPRIGHT Service OCEAN FREIGHT
Owner W.S.A. Operator AMERICAN-WEST AFRICAN LINE
Information furnished by MASTER Date 21 SEPTEMBER 1944

LINE No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	Year built and propulsion	Built <u>1942</u> Propulsion <u>STEAM</u>
2	Tonnage	Gross <u>7177</u> Net <u>4375</u>
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed)	Fwd <u>28'9" (M)</u> Aft <u>29'</u>
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd <u>12'3" (M)</u> Aft <u>16'6"</u>
5	Cargo on board (any deck)	Nature <u>GENERAL</u> Tons <u>2200</u>
6	Voyage	From <u>MASSAWA, ERITREA</u> To <u>DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA</u>
7	Were routing orders followed	<u>YES</u>
8	Any criticism of orders	<u>YES</u>
9	Weather at time of attack	Weather <u>OVERCAST</u> Sea <u>ROUGH</u>
10	Was enemy sighted? When	<u>YES; AFTER ATTACK</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>3/10/43</u> Time <u>1930</u>
14	Position	Latitude <u>28°00' S</u> Longitude <u>37°00' E</u>
15	Nature of attack (Give data)	<u>TORPEDOED + SHELLED</u>
16	Number of hits	<u>2 TORPEDOES; 25 SHELLS.</u>
17	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<u>1-BOW; 1-FOR'D; 25-ALL OVER. # 3-5</u>
18	Effect of hits	<u>SANK SHIP</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>NO</u>
25	Ship's speed	Normal <u>12.0</u> When attacked <u>12.0</u> When abandoned <u>STOP</u>
26	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <u>1950 (20 min.)</u> Sunk <u>2145 (3 hrs. 15 min.)</u>
27	Was ship reboarded	By whom <u>NO</u> When <u>—</u>
28	Was ship brought in	How <u>NO</u> Approximate damage <u>SUNK</u>



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

Indicate by star (*) rafts, floats, or suits used as temporary refuge in water before rescue by lifeboats.

LINE No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS															
29	Lifeboats	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>4</u>															
30	Lifeboats	Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u>															
31	Life rafts	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>1*</u>															
32	Life rafts	Number lost <u>3</u> How <u>1-TORPEDO EXPLOSION</u>															
33	Life floats	Number carried <u>2</u> Which used <u>0</u>															
34	Life floats	Number lost <u>2</u> How <u>NOT NEEDED</u>															
35	Lifesaving suits	Number carried <u>47</u> Number used <u>0</u>															
36	Were boats, etc., attacked	Attacked <u>NO</u> Casualties <u>0</u>															
37	Time in each boat, raft, etc	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>2 Boat <u>6.5 HRS-30 MIN.</u></td> <td>—</td> <td>Raft</td> <td>—</td> <td>Float</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 Boat <u>4-DAYS</u></td> <td>—</td> <td>Raft</td> <td>—</td> <td>Float</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 Boat <u>5-DAYS</u></td> <td>—</td> <td>Raft</td> <td>—</td> <td>Float</td> </tr> </table>	2 Boat <u>6.5 HRS-30 MIN.</u>	—	Raft	—	Float	1 Boat <u>4-DAYS</u>	—	Raft	—	Float	1 Boat <u>5-DAYS</u>	—	Raft	—	Float
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1 Boat <u>5-DAYS</u>	—	Raft	—	Float													
38	Rescued by and where	By <u>MADE PORT</u> Where <u>RICHARDS BAY, S. AFRICA.</u> <u>MADE PORT</u> <u>CAPE ST. LUCIA.</u> <u>MADE PORT</u> <u>CUANALONBI BEACH, S. AFRICA.</u>															
39	Number of gun crew carried (military)	Officers <u>1</u> Enlisted men <u>23</u>															
40	Number ship's crew carried	Officers <u>8</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>34</u>															
41	Number passengers and others carried	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u>															
42	Total on board	<u>67</u>															
43	Number gun crew injured (military)	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>1</u>															
44	Number ship's crew injured	Officers <u>5</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>12</u>															
45	Number passengers and others injured	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u>															
46	Number gun crew lost (military)	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>0</u>															
47	Number ship's crew lost	Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>1</u>															
48	Number passengers and others lost	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u>															
49	Total casualties	Injured <u>18</u> Lost <u>1</u>															
50	Persons lost by (Specify)	Drowning <u>0</u> Fire <u>0</u> Shell or torpedo <u>1</u> Other causes <u>0</u>															
51	Total rescued	Gun crew <u>24</u> Officers <u>8</u> Radio operators <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>33</u> Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u> Total <u>66</u>															
52	Persons saved by	Boats <u>66</u> Rafts <u>0</u> Floats <u>0</u> Suits <u>0</u> Preservers <u>0</u> Other means <u>0</u> No aid <u>0</u>															
53	Engineering watch below	Number on watch below <u>4</u> Number lost below <u>0</u>															
54	Number of look-outs	<u>30</u>															
55	Any defective material	<u>NO</u>															
56	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.

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

