

REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT VESSEL WAR ACTION CASUALTY

To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

Ship S/S SAMUEL J. TILDEN

Service OCEAN FREIGHT.

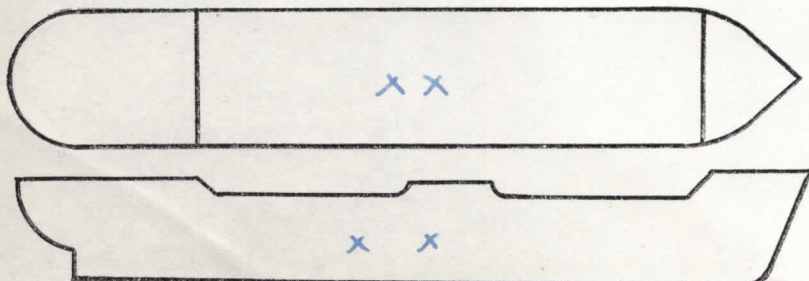
Owner W.S.A.

Operator A.H. BULL SS Co.

Information furnished by MASTER

Date 30 OCTOBER, 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>28'(M)</u> Aft <u>29'6</u>
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd <u>16</u> Aft <u>22</u> <u>19'(M)</u>
5	Cargo on board (any deck)	Nature <u>GENERAL + GASOLINE + AMMUNITION + TRAPS</u> Tons <u>2300</u>
6	Voyage	From <u>BIZERTE, TUNIS</u> To <u>BARI, ITALY.</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>CALM</u>
10	Was enemy sighted? When	<u>YES; BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER ATTACK.</u>
11	Any friendly ships in sight	<u>YES</u>
12	Were navigation lights on	<u>YES (DIM)</u>
13	Date and time of attack	Date <u>12/2/43</u> Time <u>1910</u>
14	Position	Latitude <u>AT ANCHOR OFF BARI</u> Longitude <u>ITALY.</u>
15	Nature of attack (Give data)	<u>BOMBED + SHELLED (MACHINE-GUNNED)</u>
16	Number of hits	<u>2 BOMBS; NUMEROUS SHELL HITS.</u>
17	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<u>2 - MACH; NUMEROUS SHELL HITS - ALL OVER</u>
18	Effect of hits	<u>SANK SHIP NOTED</u>
19	Was ship armed? What type	<u>YES</u>
20	Was armament used? State result	<u>YES; UNKNOWN.</u>
21	Any explosions or fires*	Ship <u>YES; FIRE AND EXPLOSION</u> Cargo <u>YES; EXPLOSION + FIRE.</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>10.5</u> When attacked <u>AT ANCHOR</u> When abandoned <u>STOP</u> <u>NOTED</u>
26	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <u>2045 (1 hr. 35 min.)</u> Sunk <u>0200 (6 hrs. 50 min.)</u>
27	Was ship reboarded	By whom <u>NO</u> When _____
28	Was ship brought in	How <u>NO</u> Approximate damage <u>SUNK</u>



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

NOTED - SHIP WAS LATER SUNK BY 3 TORPEDOES FROM BRITISH VESSELS

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>3</u>									
30	Lifeboats.....	Number lost <u>1</u> How <u>BOMB EXPLOSION</u>									
31	Life rafts.....	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>4</u>									
32	Life rafts.....	Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u>									
33	Life floats.....	Number carried <u>32</u> Which used <u>32</u>									
34	Life floats.....	Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u>									
35	Lifesaving suits.....	Number carried <u>72</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><u>3</u> Boats <u>1-HR. 30 MIN.</u></td> <td><u>4</u> Raft <u>1 1/2-HRS</u></td> <td><u>32</u> Float <u>1 1/2-HRS.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>—</u> Boat</td> <td><u>—</u> Raft</td> <td><u>—</u> Float</td> </tr> </table>	<u>3</u> Boats <u>1-HR. 30 MIN.</u>	<u>4</u> Raft <u>1 1/2-HRS</u>	<u>32</u> Float <u>1 1/2-HRS.</u>	<u>—</u> Boat	<u>—</u> Raft	<u>—</u> Float			
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38	Rescued by and where.....	By <u>ALLIED CRAFT</u> Where <u>AT SCENE</u>									
39	Number of gun crew carried (military).....	Officers <u>1</u> Enlisted men <u>27</u>									
40	Number ship's crew carried.....	Officers <u>5</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>32</u>									
41	Number passengers and others carried.....	Passengers <u>209</u> Others <u>0</u>									
42	Total on board.....	<u>278</u>									
43	Number gun crew injured (military).....	Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>4</u>									
44	Number ship's crew injured.....	Officers <u>2</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>10</u>									
45	Number passengers and others injured.....	Passengers <u>25</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>3</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>7</u>									
48	Number passengers and others lost.....	Passengers <u>17</u> Others <u>0</u>									
49	Total casualties.....	Injured <u>41</u> Lost <u>27</u>									
50	Persons lost by (Specify).....	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Drowning <u>14</u></td> <td>Fire <u>0</u></td> <td>Shell or torpedo <u>13</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other causes <u>0</u></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Drowning <u>14</u>	Fire <u>0</u>	Shell or torpedo <u>13</u>	Other causes <u>0</u>					
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52	Persons saved by.....	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Boats <u>56</u></td> <td>Rafts <u>80</u></td> <td>Floats <u>115</u></td> <td>Suits <u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preservers <u>0</u></td> <td>Other means <u>0</u></td> <td>No aid <u>0</u></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Boats <u>56</u>	Rafts <u>80</u>	Floats <u>115</u>	Suits <u>0</u>	Preservers <u>0</u>	Other means <u>0</u>	No aid <u>0</u>		
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53	Engineering watch below.....	Number on watch below <u>3</u> Number lost below <u>3</u>									
54	Number of look-outs.....	<u>14</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.

