

DECLASSIFIED NARA PROJECT: NW 63684  
 REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT VESSEL WAR ACTION CASUALTY

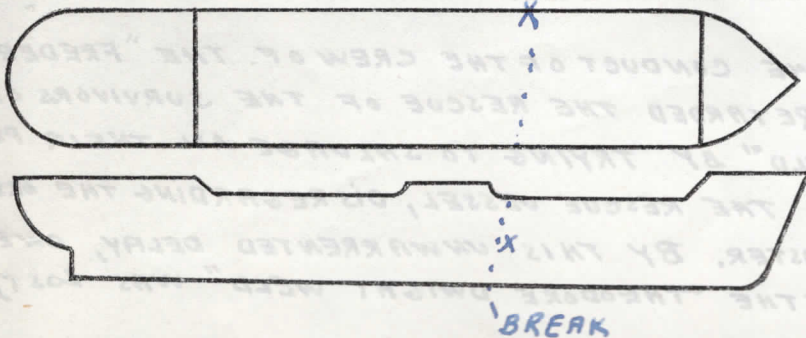
To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

Ship/s THEODORE DWIGHT WELD Service OCEAN FREIGHT

Owner W.S.A. Operator SEA SHIPPING CO - ROBIN LINE

Information furnished by 2<sup>nd</sup> MATE. Date 19 OCTOBER 1944

LINE No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1	Year built and propulsion	Built <u>1943</u> Propulsion <u>STEAM</u>
2	Tonnage	Gross <u>7146</u> Net <u>4176</u>
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed)	Fwd <u>28'(M)</u> Aft _____
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd <sup>10'6</sup> <u>15'3"(M)</u> Aft <u>20</u>
5	Cargo on board (any deck)	Nature <u>BALLAST (SAND)</u> Tons <u>1290</u>
6	Voyage	From <u>LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND</u> To <u>NEW YORK</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>CLEAR</u> Sea <u>ROUGH</u>
10	Was enemy sighted? When	<u>NO</u>
11	Any friendly ships in sight	<u>YES; CONVOY.</u>
12	Were navigation lights on	<u>NO; DAYLIGHT</u>
13	Date and time of attack	Date <u>9/20/43</u> Time <u>0534</u>
14	Position	Latitude <u>57° 03' N</u> Longitude <u>28° 12' W</u>
15	Nature of attack (Give data)	<u>TORPEDOED</u>
16	Number of hits	<u>1</u>
17	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<u><del>1-MACH-P</del></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>YES</u>
24	Was SOS sent	<u>NO</u>
25	Ship's speed	Normal <u>10.0</u> When attacked <u>7.5</u> When abandoned <u>STOP</u>
26	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <u>0536 (2 min)</u> Sunk <u>0536 (2 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.

LINE No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
29	Lifeboats	Number carried <u>6</u> Which used <u>0</u> <u>1 - PREVIOUS HEAVY WEATHER.</u>
30	Lifeboats	Number lost <u>6</u> How <u>3 - TORPEDO EXPLOSION</u> <u>2 - NO TIME FOR LAUNCHING.</u>
31	Life rafts	Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>0</u>
32	Life rafts	Number lost <u>4</u> How <u>3 - TORPEDO EXPLOSION</u> <u>1 - NO TIME FOR LAUNCHING</u>
33	Life floats	Number carried <u>5</u> Which used <u>3</u>
34	Life floats	Number lost <u>2</u> How <u>1 - NO TIME FOR LAUNCHING</u> <u>1 - LAST SEEN WITH SEVERAL MEN</u>
35	Lifesaving suits	Number carried <u>70</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.	Boat <u>—</u> Raft <u>—</u> <u>1 Float 6 HRS</u>
		Boat <u>—</u> Raft <u>—</u> <u>2 Float 3 1/2 HRS.</u>
38	Rescued by and where	By <u>ALLIED SHIP</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>8</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Unlicensed <u>33</u>
41	Number passengers and others carried	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u>
42	Total on board	<u>70</u>
43	Number gun crew injured (military)	Officers <u>1</u> Enlisted men <u>2</u>
44	Number ship's crew injured	Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>4</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>13</u>
47	Number ship's crew lost	Officers <u>6</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Unlicensed <u>19</u>
48	Number passengers and others lost	Passengers <u>0</u> Others <u>0</u>
49	Total casualties	Injured <u>7</u> Lost <u>33</u>
50	Persons lost by (Specify)	Drowning <u>29</u> Fire <u>0</u> Shell or torpedo <u>4</u>
		Other causes <u>0</u>
51	Total rescued	Gun crew <u>15</u> Officers <u>2</u> Radio operators <u>1</u>
		Unlicensed <u>19</u> Passengers <u>1</u> Others <u>0</u> Total <u>37</u>
52	Persons saved by	Boats <u>0</u> Rafts <u>0</u> Floats <u>11</u> Suits <u>0</u>
		Preservers <u>22</u> Other means <u>4</u> No aid <u>0</u>
53	Engineering watch below	Number on watch below <u>3</u> Number lost below <u>3</u>
54	Number of look-outs	<u>6</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.

NOTED - 2ND MATE CRITICIZED THE CONDUCT OF THE CREW OF THE "FREDERICK DOUGLASS"; - THAT THEY RETARDED THE RESCUE OF THE SURVIVORS OF THE "THEODORE DWIGHT WELD" BY TRYING TO SALVAGE ALL THEIR PERSONAL BELONGINGS ABOARD THE RESCUE VESSEL, DISREGARDING THE ORDERS OF THE RESCUE VESSEL'S MASTER. BY THIS UNWARRENTED DELAY, ONE FLOAT WITH SURVIVORS OF THE "THEODORE DWIGHT WELD" WAS LOST, HAVING DRIFTED AWAY.