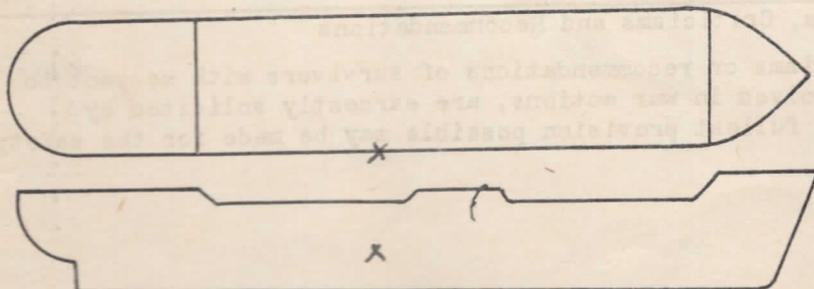


Declassified NARA Project: NW 63684
CONFIDENTIAL
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT VESSEL WAR ACTION CASUALTY

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

Ship S/S. VELMA LYKES Service OCEAN FREIGHT
Owner LYKES BROS. S.S. Co. Operator LYKES BROS. S.S. Co.
Info. furnished by _____ Date 3 AUGUST 1944

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1.	Year built & propulsion	Built <u>1920</u> Propulsion <u>STEAM</u>
2.	Tonnage	Gross <u>8572</u> Net <u>1636</u>
3.	Draft loaded (max. allowed)	Fwd. <u>25'2" (M)</u> Aft _____
4.	Draft when attacked	Fwd. <u>25' (M)</u> Aft _____
5.	Cargo on board (any deck)	Nature <u>GENERAL</u> Tons <u>3500</u>
6.	Voyage	From <u>GALVESTON</u> To <u>CRISTOBAL</u>
7.	Were routing orders followed	<u>YES</u>
8.	Any criticism of orders	
9.	Weather at time of attack	Weather <u>CLEAR</u> Sea <u>SLIGHT</u>
10.	Was enemy sighted - (when)	<u>YES; BEFORE 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>6/4/42</u> Time <u>2135</u>
14.	Position	Lat. <u>21°21'N</u> Long. <u>86°36'W</u>
15.	Nature of attack (Give data)	<u>TORPEDO</u>
16.	Number of hits	<u>1</u>
17.	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<u>1-AFT. # 35</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	
23.	Did ship break in two	<u>NO</u>
24.	Was SOS sent	<u>NO</u>
25.	Ship's speed	Normal <u>10.0</u> When attacked <u>8.6</u> When abandoned <u>STOP.</u>
26.	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <u>2136 (1 min.)</u> Sunk <u>2136 (1 min.)</u>
27.	Was ship reboarded	By whom <u>NO</u> When <u>—</u>
28.	Was ship brought in	How <u>NO</u> Approx. damage <u>SUNK.</u>



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

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

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
29.	Lifeboats	No. carried 2 Which used 0
30.	Lifeboats	No. lost 2 How NO TIME FOR LAUNCHING
31.	Life rafts	No. carried 4 Which used 3
32.	Life rafts	No. lost 1 How NO TIME FOR RELEASING
33.	Life floats	No. carried 0 Which used 0
34.	Life floats	No. lost 0 How 0
35.	Lifesaving suits	No. carried 0 No. used 0
36.	Were boats, etc. attacked	Attacked NO Casualties 0
37.	Time in each boat, raft etc.	Boat - 3 Rafts 39 HRS Float Boat - Raft Float
38.	Rescued by & where JR	By ALLIED SHIP Where NEAR SCENE
39.	No. gun crew carried (military)	Officers 0 Enlisted men 4
40.	No. ship's crew carried	Officers 8 Radio men 1 Unlicensed 19
41.	No. passgrs. & others carried	Passgrs. 0 Others 0
42.	Total on board	32
43.	No. gun crew injured (military)	Officers 0 Enlisted men 0
44.	No. ship's crew injured	Officers 0 Radio men 1 Unlicensed 1
45.	No. passgrs. & others injured	Passgrs. 0 Others 0
46.	No. gun crew lost (military)	Officers 0 Enlisted men 0
47.	No. ship's crew lost	Officers 4 Radio men 0 Unlicensed 11
48.	No. passgrs. & others lost	Passgrs. 0 Others 0
49.	Total casualties	Injured 2 Lost 15
50.	Persons lost by (Specify)	Drowning 0 Fire 0 Shell or Torp. 3 Other causes 12 (UNKNOWN)
51.	Total rescued	Gun crew 4 Officers 4 Radio Oprs. 1 Unlicensed 8 Passgrs. 0 Others 0 Total 17
52.	Persons saved by	Boats 0 Rafts 17 Floats 0 Suits 0 Preservers 0 Other means 0 No aid 0
53.	Engineering watch below	No. on watch below 3 No. lost below 3
54.	No. of lookouts	2
55.	Any defective material	No
56.	Any personnel fault	No

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.