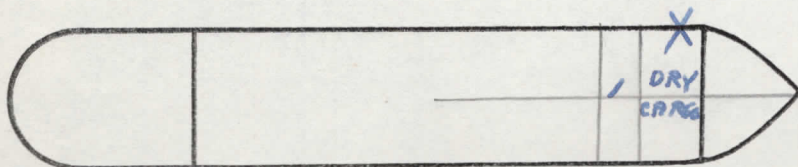


DECLASSIFIED NARA PROJECT: NW 63684
 UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
 REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT TANKER WAR ACTION CASUALTY

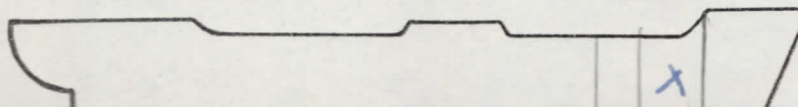
To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

Ship/S W. S. RHEEM Service OCEAN TANKER
 Owner STANDARD OIL Co OF CALIF Operator WSA
 Information furnished by MASTER Date 30 DECEMBER, 1944

| Line No. | QUESTIONS | ANSWERS |
|----------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Year built and propulsion | Built <u>1921</u> Propulsion <u>STEAM</u> |
| 2 | Tonnage | Gross <u>10,872</u> Net <u>7,764</u> |
| 3 | Draft loaded (maximum allowed) | Fwd. <u>29' 5 3/4" (M)</u> Aft |
| 4 | Draft when attacked | Fwd. <u>28' 06" (M)</u> Aft |
| 5 | D. W. T. (Emergency Coastwise L. L.) | <u>16,000</u> |
| 6 | Cargo 42's capacity and carried | Capacity <u>110,000 BBLs.</u> Carried <u>86,500 BBLs.</u> |
| 7 | Kind of cargo or tank ballast | <u>NAVY SPECIAL FUEL.</u> |
| 8 | Was ship gas-free? (Specify) | <u>NO; LOADED.</u> |
| 9 | Voyage | From <u>SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF</u> To <u>HAVANA ^{HARBOR, N.H.} HA VIA <u>PA90</u></u> |
| 10 | Were routing orders followed | <u>YES</u> |
| 11 | Any criticism of orders | <u>NO</u> |
| 12 | Weather at time of attack | Weather <u>CLEAR</u> Sea <u>SLIGHT</u> |
| 13 | Was enemy sighted? When | <u>NO</u> |
| 14 | Any friendly ships in sight | <u>YES; CONVOY</u> |
| 15 | Were navigation lights on | <u>NO; DAYLIGHT</u> |
| 16 | Date and time of attack | Date <u>8-31-43</u> Time <u>1535</u> |
| 17 | Position | Latitude <u>15° 51' S</u> Longitude <u>167° 02' E.</u> |
| 18 | Nature of attack (Give data) | <u>TORPEDOED</u> |
| 19 | Number of hits | <u>1</u> |
| 20 | Location of hits (Mark diagram) | <u>1 - FOR'D (Y4 PAR. BOD.)</u> |
| 21 | Effect of hits | <u>EXTENSIVE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE</u> |
| 22 | Was ship armed? What type | <u>YES; 1-4"; 9-20MM.</u> |
| 23 | Was armament used? State result | <u>NO</u> |
| 24 | Was oil sprayed over ship | <u>NO</u> |
| 25 | Did cargo fire (Mark diagram) | <u>NO</u> |
| 26 | Did tanks explode (Mark diagram) | <u>NO</u> |
| 27 | Was deck ruptured | <u>YES</u> |
| 28 | Did ship break in two | <u>NO</u> |
| 29 | Was SOS sent | <u>YES</u> |
| 30 | Ship's speed | Normal <u>10.2</u> When attacked <u>10.2</u> When abandoned <u>N.A.</u> |
| 31 | Time abandoned, sunk | Abandoned <u>N.A.</u> Sunk <u>N.S.</u> |
| 32 | Was ship reboarded | By whom <u>N.A.</u> When <u>—</u> |
| 33 | Was ship brought in | How <u>OWN POWER</u> Approximate damage <u>EXTENSIVE</u> |



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

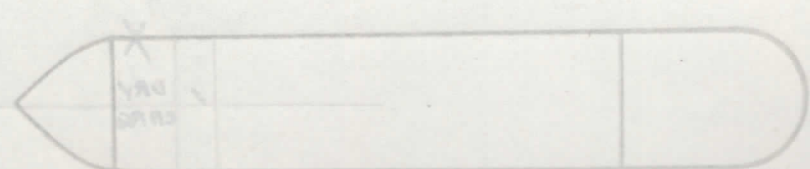


Indicate by star (*) rafts, floats, or suits used as temporary refuge in water before rescue by lifeboats.

| Line No. | QUESTIONS | ANSWERS |
|----------|--|--|
| 34 | Lifeboats..... | Number carried <u>4</u> Which used <u>0</u> |
| 35 | Lifeboats..... | Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u> |
| 36 | Life rafts..... | Number carried <u>6</u> Which used <u>0</u> |
| 37 | Life rafts..... | Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u> |
| 38 | Life floats..... | Number carried <u>12</u> Which used <u>0</u> |
| 39 | Life floats..... | Number lost <u>0</u> How <u>0</u> |
| 40 | Lifesaving suits..... | Number carried <u>75</u> Number used <u>0</u> |
| 41 | Were boats, etc., attacked..... | Attacked <u>NO</u> Casualties <u>0</u> |
| 42 | Time in each boat, raft, etc..... | Boat <u>—</u> Raft <u>—</u> Float <u>—</u> |
| | | Boat <u>—</u> Raft <u>—</u> Float <u>—</u> |
| 43 | Rescued by and where..... | By <u>NOT ABANDONED</u> Where <u>—</u> |
| 44 | Number of gun crew carried (military)..... | Officers <u>1</u> Enlisted men <u>24</u> |
| 45 | Number of ship's crew carried..... | Officers <u>10</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> Uncensored <u>38</u> |
| 46 | Number of others carried..... | <u>0</u> |
| 47 | Total on board..... | <u>74</u> |
| 48 | Number of gun crew injured (military)..... | Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>0</u> |
| 49 | Number of ship's crew injured..... | Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Uncensored <u>0</u> |
| 50 | Number of others injured..... | <u>0</u> |
| 51 | Number of gun crew lost (military)..... | Officers <u>0</u> Enlisted men <u>0</u> |
| 52 | Number of ship's crew lost..... | Officers <u>0</u> Radiomen <u>0</u> Uncensored <u>0</u> |
| 53 | Number of others lost..... | <u>0</u> |
| 54 | Total casualties..... | Injured <u>0</u> Lost <u>0</u> |
| 55 | Persons lost by (specify)..... | Drowning <u>0</u> Fire <u>0</u> Shell or Torpedo <u>0</u> |
| | | Other causes <u>0</u> |
| 56 | Total rescued..... | Gun crew <u>25</u> Officers <u>10</u> Radiomen <u>1</u> |
| | | Uncensored <u>38</u> Others <u>0</u> Total <u>74</u> |
| 57 | Persons saved by..... | Boats <u>0</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> } <u>74</u> |
| 58 | Engineering watch below..... | Number on watch below <u>4</u> Number lost below <u>0</u> |
| 59 | Number of lookouts..... | <u>9</u> |
| 60 | Any defective material..... | <u>NO</u> |
| 61 | 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