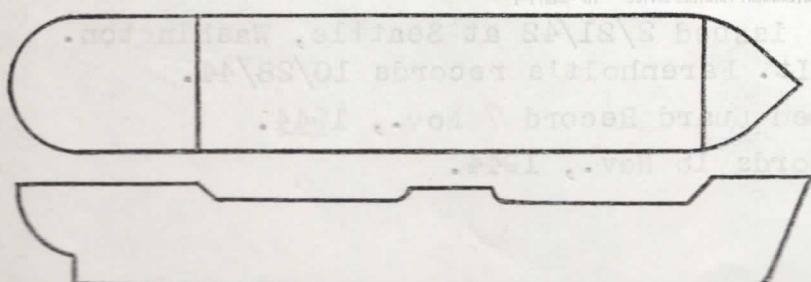


Declassified NARA Project: NW 63684  
 REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT VESSEL WAR ACTION CASUALTY

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To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.  
 Ship S/s WEST PORTAL Service Ocean Freight  
 Owner Pope and Talbot, Inc. Operator Pope and Talbot, Inc.  
 Information furnished by WSA & HQ records Date 27 October, 1944

| LINE No. | QUESTIONS                       | ANSWERS   |
|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1        | Year built and propulsion       | Built <u>1920</u> Propulsion <u>Steam</u>                             |
| 2        | Tonnage                         | Gross <u>5376</u> Net <u>3356</u>                                     |
| 3        | Draft loaded (maximum allowed)  | Fwd <u>25'11 1/4" (M)</u> Aft _____                                   |
| 4        | Draft when attacked             | Fwd <u>25'11 1/4" (M)</u> Aft _____                                   |
| 5        | Cargo on board (any deck)       | Nature <u>General</u> Tons <u>6000</u>                                |
| 6        | Voyage                          | From <u>New York</u> To <u>United Kingdom</u>                         |
| 7        | Were routing orders followed    | <u>Yes; although vessel straggled from convoy.</u>                    |
| 8        | Any criticism of orders         | <u>No</u>   |
| 9        | Weather at time of attack       | Weather <u>Un.</u> Sea <u>Un.</u>                                     |
| 10       | Was enemy sighted? When         | <u>Un.</u>  |
| 11       | Any friendly ships in sight     | <u>No; vessel lost convoy - straggled.</u>                            |
| 12       | Were navigation lights on       | <u>Un.</u>  |
| 13       | Date and time of attack         | Date <u>2/5/43</u> Time <u>1300</u>                                   |
| 14       | Position                        | Latitude <u>53°N (Approx.)</u> Longitude <u>36°W</u>                  |
| 15       | Nature of attack (Give data)    | <u>Torpedoed</u>  |
| 16       | Number of hits                  | <u>Un.</u>  |
| 17       | Location of hits (Mark diagram) | <u>Un.</u>  |
| 18       | Effect of hits                  | <u>Sank ship</u>  |
| 19       | Was ship armed? What type       | <u>Yes: 1-4"50; 1-3"50; 8-20 MM.</u>                                  |
| 20       | Was armament used? State result | <u>Un.</u>  |
| 21       | Any explosions or fires*        | Ship <u>Un.</u> Cargo <u>Un.</u>                                      |
| 22       | Was deck ruptured               | <u>Un.</u>  |
| 23       | Did ship break in two           | <u>Un.</u>  |
| 24       | Was SOS sent                    | <u>Yes</u>  |
| 25       | Ship's speed                    | Normal <u>10.5</u> When attacked <u>Un.</u> When abandoned <u>Un.</u> |
| 26       | Time abandoned, sunk            | Abandoned <u>Un.</u> Sunk <u>Un.</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.

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NOTE: a) Vessel straggled from convoy, escort picked up distress message and searched scene, but could find no survivors or any trace of the vessel. Vessel was 50 miles north of (OVER) convoy when attacked.



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 4 Which used Un.             |
| 30       | Lifeboats.....                             | Number lost 4 How Un.                       |
| 31       | Life rafts.....                            | Number carried 4 Which used Un.             |
| 32       | Life rafts.....                            | Number lost 4 How Un.                       |
| 33       | Life floats.....                           | Number carried 0 Which used 0               |
| 34       | Life floats.....                           | Number lost 0 How 0                         |
| 35       | Lifesaving suits.....                      | Number carried 40 Number used 0             |
| 36       | Were boats, etc., attacked.....            | Attacked Un. Casualties Un.                 |
| 37       | Time in each boat, raft, etc.....          | Boat Raft Float                             |
|          |  | Boat Raft Float                             |
| 38       | Rescued by and where.....                  | By No survivors Where                       |
| 39       | Number of gun crew carried (military)..... | Officers 1 Enlisted men 24                  |
| 40       | Number ship's crew carried.....            | Officers 8 Radiomen 1 Unlicensed 31         |
| 41       | Number passengers and others carried.....  | Passengers 12 Others 0                      |
| 42       | Total on board.....                        | 77  |
| 43       | Number gun crew injured (military).....    | Officers 0 Enlisted men 0                   |
| 44       | Number ship's crew injured.....            | Officers 0 Radiomen 0 Unlicensed 0          |
| 45       | Number passengers and others injured.....  | Passengers 0 Others 0                       |
| 46       | Number gun crew lost (military).....       | Officers 1 Enlisted men 24                  |
| 47       | Number ship's crew lost.....               | Officers 8 Radiomen 1 Unlicensed 31         |
| 48       | Number passengers and others lost.....     | Passengers 12 Other 0                       |
| 49       | Total casualties.....                      | Injured 0 Lost 77                           |
| 50       | Persons lost by (Specify).....             | Drowning Un. Fire Un. Shell or torpedo Un.  |
|          |  | Other causes Un.                            |
| 51       | Total rescued.....                         | Gun crew 0 Officers 0 Radio operators 0     |
|          |  | Unlicensed 0 Passengers 0 Others 0 Total 0  |
| 52       | Persons saved by.....                      | Boats 0 Rafts 0 Floats 0 Suits 0            |
|          |  | Preservers 0 Other means 0 No aid 0         |
| 53       | Engineering watch below.....               | Number on watch below 3 Number lost below 0 |
| 54       | Number of look-outs.....                   | Un.   |
| 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.

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NOTE:-Last inspection certificate issued 2/21/42 at Seattle, Washington.  
 -Checked merchant crew with Lt. Farenholt's records 10/28/44.  
 -Checked with U. S. Navy Armed Guard Record 7 Nov., 1944.  
 -Checked with U. S. Army Records 15 Nov., 1944.