

REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT VESSEL WAR ACTION CASUALTY

P.L.

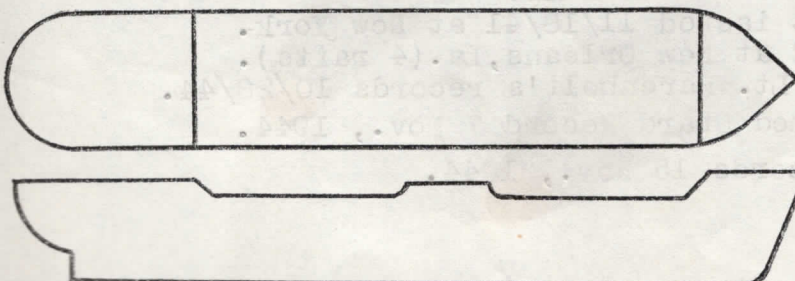
To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington, D. C.

Ship M/s WICHITA Service Ocean Freight

Owner WSA Operator U. S. Lines

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>Diesel</u>                            |
| 2        | Tonnage                         | Gross <u>6174</u> Net <u>3833</u>                                     |
| 3        | Draft loaded (maximum allowed)  | Fwd <u>App. 28' (M)</u> Aft _____                                     |
| 4        | Draft when attacked             | Fwd <u>Un.</u> Aft _____  |
| 5        | Cargo on board (any deck)       | Nature <u>Un.</u> Tons <u>Un.</u>                                     |
| 6        | Voyage                          | From <u>Takoradi</u> To <u>St. Thomas, Virgin Islands</u>             |
| 7        | Were routing orders followed    | <u>Un.</u>  |
| 8        | Any criticism of orders         | <u>Un.</u>  |
| 9        | Weather at time of attack       | Weather <u>Not unusual</u> Sea _____                                  |
| 10       | Was enemy sighted? When         | <u>Un.</u>  |
| 11       | Any friendly ships in sight     | <u>No</u>   |
| 12       | Were navigation lights on       | <u>Un.</u>  |
| 13       | Date and time of attack         | Date <u>Bet. 9/1/42 &amp; 9/9/42</u> Time <u>Un.</u>                  |
| 14       | Position                        | Latitude <u>Un.</u> Longitude <u>Un.</u>                              |
| 15       | Nature of attack (Give data)    | <u>Un.</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, 4-50 cal.</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>No</u>   |
| 25       | Ship's speed                    | Normal <u>11.0</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>Un.</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.

NOTES:-Vessel due at St. Thomas on 9/9/42 having left Takoradi on 9/1/42. USN has declared vessel and crew lost. No unusual weather conditions enroute.

| 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 0  |
| 37       | Time in each boat, raft, etc.....          | Boat ..... Raft ..... Float .....<br>Boat ..... Raft ..... Float ..... |
|          |  |  |
| 38       | Rescued by and where.....                  | By No survivors Where  |
| 39       | Number of gun crew carried (military)..... | Officers 1 Enlisted men 9  |
| 40       | Number ship's crew carried.....            | Officers 10 Radiomen 1 Unlicensed 29                                   |
| 41       | Number passengers and others carried.....  | Passengers 0 Others 0  |
| 42       | Total on board.....                        | 50   |
| 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 9  |
| 47       | Number ship's crew lost.....               | Officers 10 Radiomen 1 Unlicensed 29                                   |
| 48       | Number passengers and others lost.....     | Passengers 0 Others 0  |
| 49       | Total casualties.....                      | Injured 0 Lost 50  |
| 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                             |
|          |  | Boats 0 Rafts 0 Floats 0 Suits 0                                       |
| 52       | Persons saved by.....                      | Preservers 0 Other means 0 No aid 0                                    |
| 53       | Engineering watch below.....               | Number on watch below 3 Number lost below 3                            |
| 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: a) Inspection certificate last issued 11/18/41 at New York.  
 b) Amendment issued on 5/18/42 at New Orleans, La. (4 rafts).  
 c) Checked merchant crew with Lt. Farenholt's records 10/28/44.  
 d) Checked with U. S. Navy Armed Guard Record 7 Nov., 1944.  
 e) Checked with U. S. Army Records 15 Nov., 1944.