

CONFIDENTIAL

WILLIAM C. MOTARNAHAN

5-16-42

OCEAN TANKER

1. Position-Sea-Weather 28° 52'N, 90° 20'W; hazy and slight sea.
2. Convoy or Independent Independent
3. Time & Kind of 1st Hit 0412 - 2 torpedoes.
4. Location of 1st Hit 1- machinery spaces, starboard side; 1- #2 tank, starboard side.
5. Effect of 1st Hit Extensive structural damage; immediate flooding of #2; incendiary blaze at engine room burning all aft instantaneously. Fuel bunkers ignited shortly afterwards.
6. Time & Reason for Abandonment or Why Not 0429 (17min.)- Ship afire; crew delayed abandoning until first shellfire. No offensive action could be taken because flames forced gun crew away from guns. Ship being shelled when abandoned.
7. Persons Aboard- 45 Lost by torpedo explosion-4; by fire 14; total lost-18.
8. Time & Kind of 2nd Hit 0427-(15min.)- 3 shell hits.
9. Location of 2nd Hit All over ship; fired before abandonment.
10. Effect of 2nd Hit Slight damage.
11. Disposition of Vessel Extensive structural damage. (Ship has been renamed ST. JAMES).
12. Time & Kind of 3rd Hit 0432 (20min.) - 15 shell hits.
13. Location of 3rd Hit All over. Fired from a range of 600 yds. after abandonment.
14. Effect of 3rd Hit Extensive damage.