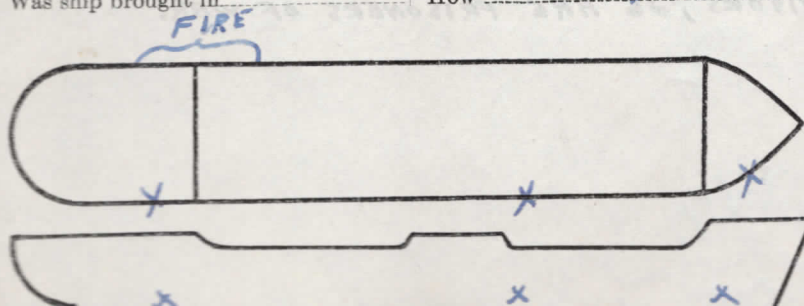


Declassified NARA Project NW 63684
REPORT ON U. S. MERCHANT TANKER WAR ACTION CASUALTY

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

Ship SS WILLIAM F. HUMPHREY Service OCEAN TANKER
Owner TIDE WATER ASSOCIATED OIL CO. Operator TIDE WATER ASSOCIATED OIL CO.
Information furnished by MASTER + HQ RECORDS (MMP) Date 7 DECEMBER, 1944

Line No.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS	
1	Year built and propulsion	Built <u>1921</u>	Propulsion <u>STEAM</u>
2	Tonnage	Gross <u>7982</u>	Net <u>4936</u>
3	Draft loaded (maximum allowed)	Fwd. <u>29'00"(M)</u>	Aft <u> </u>
4	Draft when attacked	Fwd. <u>19'06"(M)</u>	Aft <u> </u>
5	D. W. T. (Emergency Coastwise L. L.)	<u>13,000</u>	
6	Cargo 42's capacity and carried	Capacity <u>84,000 BBLs.</u>	Carried <u>BALLAST</u>
7	Kind of cargo or tank ballast	<u>WATER BALLAST IN TANKS 2-4-6-8-10</u>	
8	Was ship gas-free? (Specify)	<u>NO</u>	
9	Voyage	From <u>CAPE TOWN, S. AFR.</u> To <u>TRINIDAD.</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>MODERATE</u>
13	Was enemy sighted? When	<u>NO YES; AFTER ATTACK.</u>	
14	Any friendly ships in sight	<u>NO</u>	
15	Were navigation lights on	<u>NO</u>	
16	Date and time of attack	Date <u>7-16-42</u>	Time <u>2137</u>
17	Position	Latitude <u>05°37'S</u>	Longitude <u>00°56'E</u>
18	Nature of attack (Give data)	<u>TORPEDIED AND SHELLED</u> <u>SURFACE (RAIDER)</u>	
19	Number of hits	<u>3 TORPEDOES; NUMEROUS SHELL HITS</u>	
20	Location of hits (Mark diagram)	<u>1-MACH; 1-BOW; 1-1/2 PAR. BOD.; NUMEROUS - ALL OVER</u>	
21	Effect of hits	<u>SANK SHIP</u>	
22	Was ship armed? What type	<u>YES; 1-5"</u>	
23	Was armament used? State result	<u>YES; UNKNOWN.</u>	
24	Was oil sprayed over ship	<u>YES; (BUNKERS)</u>	
25	Did cargo fire (Mark diagram)	<u>YES (BUNKERS)</u>	
26	Did tanks explode (Mark diagram)	<u>YES; #5 TANK.</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>10.0</u>	When attacked <u>9.5</u> When abandoned <u>STOP</u>
31	Time abandoned, sunk	Abandoned <u>2145 (8 min.)</u>	Sunk <u>2202 (25 min.)</u>
32	Was ship reboarded	By whom <u>NO</u>	When <u> </u>
33	Was ship brought in	How <u>NO</u>	Approximate damage <u>SUNK.</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	4	Which used	2
35	Lifeboats.....	Number lost	2	How	1-TORPEDO EXPLOSION 1-SHELL FIRE
36	Life rafts.....	Number carried	4	Which used	3*
37	Life rafts.....	Number lost	1	How	TORPEDO EXPLOSION
38	Life floats.....	Number carried	0	Which used	0
39	Life floats.....	Number lost	0	How	0
40	Lifesaving suits.....	Number carried	0	Number used	0
41	Were boats, etc., attacked.....	Attacked	NO	Casualties	0
42	Time in each boat, raft, etc.....	1--6 days	Boat	---	Raft
43	Rescued by and where.....	1--30 min	Boat	---	Raft
44	Number of gun crew carried (military).....	Officers	0	Enlisted men	6
45	Number of ship's crew carried.....	Officers	8	Radiomen	1
46	Number of others carried.....	1		Unlicensed	30
47	Total on board.....	46			
48	Number of gun crew injured (military).....	Officers	0	Enlisted men	1
49	Number of ship's crew injured.....	Officers	1	Radiomen	0
50	Number of others injured.....	0		Unlicensed	4
51	Number of gun crew lost (military).....	Officers	0	Enlisted men	2
52	Number of ship's crew lost.....	Officers	1	Radiomen	0
53	Number of others lost.....	1		Unlicensed	5
54	Total casualties.....	Injured	6	Lost	9
55	Persons lost by (specify).....	Drowning	2	Fire	0
56	Total rescued.....	Other causes	0	Shell or Torpedo	7
57	Persons saved by.....	Gun crew	4	Officers	7
58	Engineering watch below.....	Unlicensed	25	Radiomen	1
59	Number of lookouts.....	Others	0	Total	37
60	Any defective material.....	Boats	37	Rafts	0
61	Any personnel fault.....	Preservers	0	Floats	0
		Other means	0	Suits	0
		No aid	0		
		Number on watch below	3	Number lost below	6
		NO.			
		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: OUT OF THE 37 SURVIVORS, 26 ARE PRISONERS OF WAR.