

CR

CHEERIO

:US : MV : 35 : 190800 : 18-02N 67-40W

: : : : : : Jun 42

PRES
SUNK

(Name) (Armed) ; Nat : Type : Tonnage : Date : Location : Lights : Damage

BB

What happened: Shelled

Cargo of Mahogany from Trujillo City to Fonce, F.R.

Description of Sub: Light gray in color, appeared to be very large, that it had a swastika on the conning tower and had one gun forward.

Survivors: All saved (9)

. Additional Remarks:

B-5 report in file.

DIC 10 MD 6-22-42 RS 6-01824.

CHEERIO

CR

CHERIO

18-02N 67-40W

PREP
SUNK

190800 :
: Jun 14 2 :

35

MV

US

(Name) (Armed) ; Nat : Type : Tonnage : Date : Location : Lights : Damage

RF

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Survivors: All saved (9)

Additional Remarks:

B-5 report in file.

DIO 10 ND 6-22-42 RS 6-01624.

38. (a) What was the number and nationality of the passengers and crew? **1 N.N.I. (Nevis Island)
3 U.S.A.
5 Dominicans**
- (b) How did they behave? **Fine. They all helped each other.**
39. (a) What became of the passengers and crew after abandoning ship? **Picked up by Coast Guard cutter and taken to Mayaguez.**
- (b) Were any taken prisoner? **No**

PARTICULARS OF ENEMY CRAFT

40. (a) Number, if submarine or aircraft. **Number of submarine not seen.**
- (b) Where was number seen and how distinguished? **--**
41. With the help of a sketch or silhouette drawing give a general description of the enemy ship and especially of any peculiarities noticed. A drawing of the submarine or raider, however rough, should be attached and the following points of descriptive detail noted as examples:
- (a) Whether large or small **Large**
- (b) Color and whether any streaks or stripes. **Light grey**
- (c) Shape of conning tower. **Box shape**
- (d) Shape, rake and position of stack. **None**
- (e) Any irregularities or bulges on hull or superstructure? **No**
- (f) Gun position (s) **One forward.**
- (g) Whether any net cutter **No**
- (h) Shape of bow; of stern **Cigar shape.**
- (i) Relative height and position of masts. **No mast**

19 June - Shelled and presumed sunk 18-02N 67-40W 0800Z 19.
3 July - 4 rounds apparently U-45 type.
10 July - Swastika on conning tower.

129

DISPATCHES

REMARKS

US schooner CHERRIO shelled and set afire by enemy submarine 18-02 N., 67-40 W. 0800Z. 19th. 9 survivors landed Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. COMCARIB to COMINCH 192011, C.

35 ton schooner CHERRIO of US Registry shelled and sunk by submarine approximately 8 miles southeast Mona Island at 0800 GMT. COM 10 C to OPNAV 201729.

FORM 1041
1 JAN 62

U.S. NAVY - HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF - ASW SECTION

87-374

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Op-16-B-5
CONFIDENTIAL

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations

Washington

July 2, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

Subject: Summary of Statements by Survivors of the Schooner "CHEERIO", 35 G.T., owned by the Antillas Shipping Corporation, Trujillo City, Dominican Republic.

1. The "CHEERIO" was shelled without warning at 0230 ECT, June 19, 1942, eight miles SW of Mona Island, while enroute from Trujillo City, to Ponce, Puerto Rico, with a cargo of mahogany. It was seen to sink in about an hour.

2. The schooner was on a SE course, which was not changed at any time between 0110 ECT when lights were sighted until 0230 ECT when attack commenced. Speed $2\frac{1}{2}$ knots, completely blacked out, no radio, one lookout and helmsman. Haze affected visibility, little wind NE, no ships in sight.

3. At 0110 ECT, the watch saw a bluish green light about 10 miles off port bow, close to the water, it was on for a minute and then off for about a minute, then on again. Twenty minutes later bluish green light observed about eight miles off starboard bow; went on and off at two minute intervals several times. About 15 minutes after light no longer visible, the schooner attacked by four or five rounds of shell fire, two or three rounds before ship abandoned, and one or two after ship abandoned; two or three seconds elapsed between shots. The sub was lying stationary on the surface about 100 meters aft, headed in opposite direction. During attack a PBV patrol bomber appeared from direction of Mona Island. The sub dived, the plane circled the schooner twice but dropped no depth charges and headed back toward Mona Island. Schooner was unarmed. No confidential papers aboard.

4. The crew of nine (5 Dominicans, 3 U.S.A, 1 B.W.I.), abandoned the "CHEERIO" immediately; two hours later were sighted by another PBV patrol bomber and shortly thereafter were picked up by a Coast Guard Cutter and taken to Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. None other than minor injuries among the crew.

5. The sub was large (estimated 2000 tons), light gray, newly painted, with gun forward, box shaped conning tower, cigar-shaped bow and stern, swastika on conning tower. Last seen parallel to schooner at 0300 ECT.

M. J. Smith
Lieutenant, U.S.N.R.

CC: ONI B-8, 16-A-4-d, F-9 (4 copies), F-10, Cominch, Cominch F-21-22, F-252, F-353, F-37 (C&R), Op-23-L, Op-30, Op-39, BuShips, BuOrd., (Ensign P.L. Viesat), BuOrdance, Atlantic Fleet Anti-Submarine Unit, BuPers-6.

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L-7/7
RC-574c

6-01824

COMMANDER IN CHIEF
U.S. FLEET
RECEIVED

1942 JUN 30 13 06

CONFIDENTIAL

Serial 1353

22 June 1942

From: District Intelligence officer, 7th NAVAL
Naval District.

To: ✓ Commander in Chief, United States Fleet,
Chief of Naval Operations, (Director of
Naval Intelligence) (2).

Subject: Schooner "Cheerio", shelling and sinking
of.

Enclosures: (A) Form N.N.I. 142, Intelligence Report
concerning enemy attack on merchant
ship.
(B) Summary of Interview with survivors
of Schooner "Cheerio".

1.
herewith.

Enclosures (A) and (B) are forwarded

R. L. WALKER

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW WITH
SURVIVORS OF SCHOONER "CERRIO"

22 June 1942

1. Survivors of the above named schooner were interviewed at the American Hotel, Mayaguez, P. R., on June 19, 1942 by Lieutenants (jg) A. V. Franceschi and G. W. Yancey, USNR.

2. The members of the crew, referring to certain characteristics of the submarine, stated that it was light gray in color, appeared to be very large, that it had a swastika on the conning tower and had one gun forward.

3. The schooner was attacked and sunk by gunfire eight miles southwest of Mona Island. We were informed by crew members that submarine was about 100 meters aft when attack was commenced, and while attack was in progress, a PBX patrol bomber appeared from the direction of Mona Island and about five miles away. The submarine immediately submerged and the plane circled the schooner twice, but did not drop any depth charges, and headed back toward Mona Island. By the time the plane was in position to attack, submarine had submerged.

4. At 0610 GCT, Jose Millian, who was on watch, saw a blueish green light about ten miles off port bow and close to the water. This light was on for a minute, then off for about a minute, then on again. At 0630 GCT, Aloy Tocker, who had taken the watch, saw a blueish green light about eight miles off starboard bow. This light was on and off at about two minute intervals several times between 0630 GCT and 0715 GCT. Tocker was unable to give the exact number of times. About fifteen minutes after the light was no longer visible, the schooner was attacked and sunk at 0730 GCT. The schooner's course was not changed prior to attack.

5. There were no casualties among the crew other than injuries of a minor character.

6. About two hours after the sinking, another PBX came over and shortly thereafter survivors were picked by a Coast Guard cutter and taken to Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

7. The subject vessel was carrying a cargo of mahogany from Trujillo City to Ponce, Puerto Rico.

A. V. Franceschi
Lieutenant (jg), USNR

G. W. Yancey, Jr.
Lieutenant (jg), USNR

Office of Naval Intelligence
NAVY DEPARTMENT

Intelligence Report

ENEMY ATTACK ON MERCHANT SHIPS

From Tenth Naval Dist. At San Juan, Puerto Rico Date June 22, 1942.
Co.

Subject Schooner "Cheerio", Shelling and sinking of.

Name of Ship "Cheerio" Flag United States Type Schooner

Gross Tonnage 35 Net Tonnage -- Whether Armed No

Date of Attack 0730 GMT, June 19, 1942. Position at Attack 8 miles SW. Mona Island.

Whether Sunk, Captured or Escaped Sunk

PARTICULARS OF SHIP AND VOYAGE

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Answers</u>
1. (a) Port of departure	Trujillo City
(b) Date of sailing	June 16, 2300 Trujillo City time.
(c) Destination	Ponce, Puerto Rico
(d) Route instructions	None
2. Name of Owners and Charterers (if any) General description and weight of cargo. (If on Government Service the fact should be stated)	Antillas Shipping Corporation, Trujillo City
3. Full Christian Name, Surname and National- ality of Master.	Felix Hernandez (U. S. citizen)

CONDITIONS OF ATTACK

4. Ship's position, date, and time when enemy was sighted, or	0730 GMT, June 19, 1942, 8 miles S. W. Mona Island.
(b) When attack commenced	Same as above.
(c) What warning was given?	None.
(d) Ship's position, date and time 1. When ship sank, or 2. when chase was abandoned	Same as #4 (a)

- (e) Ship's position, date and time ship was abandoned Same as #4 (a)
- 5. (a) What was the cause of ship sinking (torpedo, gunfire, bombs or mine) Gunfire
- (b) Was she seen to sink? Yes, about one hour from time of initial attack.
- 6. Course and speed of ship when enemy was first sighted or when attack commenced E 1/2 knots - S. E.
- 7. (a) Was ship zigzagging? If so No
- (b) Nature of zigzag --
- (c) How long had ship been zigzagging previous to the attack? --
- 8. State of weather and sea, direction and force of wind; visibility Little wind northeast. Haze affected visibility.
- 9. (a) Was ship attacked with torpedo by submerged submarine? No
- If so, was
- (b) periscope of submarine or No
- (c) track of torpedo seen before vessel was struck? If so, at what distance from own ship and what avoiding action was taken? No torpedo
- (d) Did submarine subsequently come to the surface? If so, when? Submarine was on surface when attack commenced.
- 10. (a) Was ship attacked with gunfire? Yes
- If so,
- (b) Was enemy seen prior to the attack? Yes
- (c) Was any, and if so what, warning or order given by enemy? None
- 11. (a) How many look-outs were on watch? One at wheel and one forward.
- (b) Where were they stationed? --
- 12. Speed and course of aircraft, raider, or submarine relative to ship when first sighted, or when attack commenced. Submarine was on surface about 100 meters aft, off starboard side. She was headed in opposite direction and lying stationary on surface at time.

- 13. (a) Was there, if any, was ship flying at time of attack? **No flag.**
- (b) If so, what flag hoisted? **---**
- 14. (a) If at night, what lights, if any, was ship showing? **None**
- (b) If navigation lights were burning, were they dimmed? **None**
- 15. How was ship maneuvered after sighting enemy? **No change**
- 16. (a) Were any other vessels in sight? **None**
- (b) If so, what were their positions and estimated distances, if known? **---**
- (c) What was the bearing between them and the ship or enemy? **---**
- 17. (a) Was there any contact with radio and did you receive any signals? **None**
- (b) If so, what reply received, and to whom? **---**
- (c) How long before attack did ship last use her radio? And on what wave length? **---**
- (d) Did you, under silence or jamming conditions, receive any transmission? **No**
- 18. (a) What course was submarine, raider or aircraft steering when last seen, or, if submarine, did she dive? **Parallel to starboard side headed in opposite direction, then she dove.**
- (b) Time enemy ship was last seen. **0800 EST**

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

- 19. (a) Were there Navy or British codes on board? **No**
- (b) Which ones? **None**
- (c) What became of them? **---**
- 20. (a) Were there any other confidential papers or mail on board? **No**

(b) If so, what became of them? --

(c) What did the confidential papers consist of? **None**

(NOTE: If codes or papers came to enemy hands, Opnav to be advised immediately by dispatch)

OFFENSIVE ACTS OF ENEMY

Gunfire

21. At what time and range did enemy open fire? **0730 GMT - 100 meters**
- Was any shot fired "across bows" as warning? **No**
22. Number of rounds fired by enemy:
- (a) Before ship was abandoned **4 or 5**
 - (b) After ship was abandoned **2 or 3**
 - (c) Approximate rate of fire **1 or 2**
- 2 or 3 seconds between shots.**
23. Number of times ship was hit:
- (a) Before ship was abandoned **2 or 3**
 - (b) After ship was abandoned **1 or 2**

Torpedo or Aircraft Bombing

24. Distance and bearing of submarine or aircraft when torpedoes or bombs fired. **Subject vessel shelled. No bombs or torpedoes fired.**
25. Was there any way on the ship at time torpedo or bomb was fired? **--**
26. (a) Number of torpedoes or bombs fired **None**
 (b) Number which hit **None**
 (c) Number which missed **None**
27. If hit: -
- (a) Position of damage and depth below water (for torpedoes). **None fired.**
 - (b) Description of damage **--**
- If missed: -
- (c) Whether torpedo or bomb passed ahead, astern, under or short, and by how much **--**
 - (d) Any other reason to account for missing? **--**
 - (e) If torpedo or bomb failed to explode and if torpedo observed to be float- **--**

ing after attack failed --

Boarding

28. Was ship boarded by enemy and how? **No**
29. Was Master interrogated by enemy Officers? What questions were asked? **No**
Which officer (or Officers) asked questions and what knowledge of the English language had he?

Explosive charges

30. If ship was sunk by explosive charges: **By shelling.**
- (a) How many were used?
- (b) Where were they placed?

DEFENSIVE ACTS OF SHIPS

Gunfire

31. What guns were carried? **Subject vessel carried no guns of any kind.**
32. At what time and range did ship open fire? --
33. Was ship showing her proper colors when she opened fire? --
34. (a) Number of rounds fired by ship --
(b) Approximate rate of fire --
35. Number of times enemy was hit by gunfire --

Smoke

36. Was ship supplied with smoke apparatus? **No**
If so:-
(a) What pattern? --
(b) How was it used and with what effect? --
37. (a) Were there any casualties?
(b) What were they?
(c) How caused?

38. (a) What was the number and nationality of the passengers and crew? **1 N.N.I. (Nevis Island)
5 U.S.A.
5 Dominicans**
- (b) How did they behave? **Fine. They all helped each other.**
39. (a) What became of the passengers and crew after abandoning ship? **Picked up by Coast Guard cutter and taken to Mayaguez.**

(b) Were any taken prisoner? **No**

PARTICULARS OF ENEMY CRAFT

40. (a) Number, if submarine or aircraft. **Number of submarine not seen.**
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41. With the help of a sketch or silhouette drawing give a general description of the enemy ship and especially of any peculiarities noticed. A drawing of the submarine or raider, however rough, should be attached and the following points of descriptive detail noted as examples:

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- (d) Shape, rake and position of stack. **None**
- (e) Any irregularities or bulges on hull or superstructure? **No**
- (f) Gun position (s) **One forward.**
- (g) Whether any net cutter **No**
- (h) Shape of bow; of stern **Cigar shape.**
- (i) Relative height and position of masts. **No mast**

N.H.I. 142

42. Guns, number, position, and nature?	One forward.
43. Number of masts and king posts?	None
44. Radio serials and gear, description of?	Didn't notice.
45. (a) What color was enemy vessel painted?	Light grey.
(b) Did paint look old or new?	Newly painted.
(c) Did ship bear any marks of damage?	No
46. Estimated speed?	Stopped on surface.
47. Estimated tonnage (gross)	2,000
48. Stern or motor ship?	Motor
49. Officers of enemy vessel. Name and personal description.	Don't know.

REPORT OF INTERVIEWING OFFICERS

50. General remarks by interviewing officer.

See special memorandum prepared by Interviewing Officers.

Lt. (jg) G. W. Yancey

Lt. (jg) A. V. Franceschi

Signature and Rank of Interviewing Officer

NOTE: Any supplementary questions considered necessary should also be put, and replies inserted on a separate sheet, so that the report may form as complete a record of the circumstances as it is possible to obtain.