

OSP

SAJIA : Nicar: IV : 567 : 030615 : 25-04N 79-45W : SUNK
 : : : : : : : :
 : : : : : : : :
 (Name) (Armed) : Nat : Type : Tonnage : Date : Location : Lights: Damage

That happened: Torpedoed. (may have been mined)
 Enroute Baracca to Jacksonville.

Description of Sub: none seen

Survivors: some landed. (14 survivors)
 None missing Gulfseaftron

Additional Remarks:

B-5 report in file.
 Com 7 6-2-42 RS # 6-0321.

SAMA

SHUA : No. : LV : 1799 : 220507 : LS-10N 38-03W : Sunk
 : : : 567 : Feb 42 : : by subs.
 (Name) (Armed): Nat : Type : Tonnage : Date : Location : Lights: Damage

What happened: In ON 67 torpedoed.
~~Loaded with bananas~~
~~Berossy-Cuba-for-Jacksonville.~~

Description of Sub:

Survivors:

Additional Remarks:

DISPATCHES

REMARKS

Interviewing officer:-- In my opinion, there is a strong possibility that vessel struck a mine. It is doubtful that a submarine would fire a torpedo at a 567 gross ton converted schooner, transporting bananas.

DISPATCHES

SAMA, Nor. MV 1,799 ton, ON-67 torpedoed and sunk
49-10 N., 38-03 W. 0507. CTU 4.1.4 220550.

REMARKS

4 April - Sunk, 25-04N 79-15W 0615Z/3, torpedoed no details.

Enclosure "A"

COMBAT INTELLIGENCE REPORT OF SINKING OF NIC. M/V "SAMAN".

Time: 0115 (Plus five zone time) May 3, 1942.
Location: Lat. 25:04 N., Long. 79:45 W.

1. Subject vessel, bound from Baracca, Cuba, to Jacksonville, Florida, with a cargo of bananas, was sunk as the result of an explosion at midsection, port side. The damage extended to the center line of the ship and the vessel sank in approximately 15 minutes. The hole in the side was seen to be about 6 or 7 feet in diameter. All survivors were of the opinion that the explosion resulted from a torpedo although no submarine or torpedo track was ever seen. It is not impossible that the sinking resulted from a floating mine.

DECLASSIFIED

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Op-16-B-5

WASHINGTON

June 20, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

Subject: Summary of Statements by Survivors of the MV "SAMA", Nicaraguan converted four mast schooner, 567 G.T., Suwannee Fruit and Steamship Company, Jacksonville, Florida, owners.

1. The "SAMA" was torpedoed without warning at 0115 EST, May 3, 1942 at 25° 04' N - 79° 45' W, while enroute from Baracoa, Cuba to Jacksonville, Florida, with a cargo of bananas. The vessel sank, rolling over on her side, about 0130 EST.

2. She was on a course 340°, speed 9 knots, not zigzagging, completely blacked out, radio not used, 3 lockouts; mate and 2 sailors on bridge. The weather was clear, wind NE, force 3, sea NE, visibility good, moonlight. The British MV "J. E. KINNEY" was in sight before and after the sinking.

3. The torpedo struck on the port side amidships, deck was blown up, aft mast fell over, entire midsection on port side blown away and when the vessel turned over on her side there was a hole amidships 6 or 7 feet. No distress signals were sent, vessel unarmed, no confidential codes on board.

4. The entire crew of 14 abandoned the "SAMA" in the port lifeboat. After having observed the sinking the survivors set sail going about 20 miles. At 0730 EST the British SS "ATHEL REGENT" rescued the 14 survivors and landed them at Fort Everglades, Florida, May 3.

5. Neither the submarine nor the wake of the torpedo was seen at any time.

6. It was mentioned that there is a strong possibility that the "SAMA" struck a mine. It is doubtful that a submarine would fire a torpedo at a 567 gross ton converted schooner, transporting bananas.

A. J. Powers
Ensign, U.S.N.R.

CC: ONI B-8, 16-D-4, F-9 (4 copies), F-10, Cominch, Cominch F-21-22, F-252, F-353, F-37 (C & R), Op-23-L, Op-28, Op-30, Op-39, BuShips, BuOrd (Ensign P. L. Vissat), BuOrd, Atlantic Fleet Anti-Submarine Unit, Fleet Maintenance Division.

RECORDED - ONLY BY USE OF

912 11-12-63

SUMMARY REPORT OF STATEMENTS OF SURVIVORS ON SINKING OF NIC. M/V "SAMA",
MAY 3, 1942, IN LAT. 25:04 N., LONG. 79:45 W.

1. Subject vessel was owned by the Suwannee Fruit and Steamship Company, Jacksonville, Florida. Gross tonnage - 567; length - 166'; unarmed. The "SAMA" was in the banana trade and was loaded at the time of the sinking. On 4-30-42 at 1930 subject vessel departed Baracoa, Cuba, for Jacksonville.

2. The crew of the M/V "SAMA" consisted of 11 men, including the Captain, and represented eight nationalities. There were no suspects in the crew.

3. At 0115 EST May 3, 1942, the explosion occurred. There were three men on deck, the Mate and one man stationed on the bridge and Walter TUCKER, AB, was on watch on the forecastle head. All other hands, including the Captain, were below. No submarine was seen either before or after the attack. Neither the track nor sound of a torpedo was observed. It was a clear moonlight night with a light breeze. When the explosion occurred men took to the lifeboats and all were in and away in approximately seven minutes.

4. Several of the crew stated they started for the lifeboat on the port side but found that the explosion had blown away the entire midsection on that side of the ship. Looking down in the hole it was observed that the icebox and cargo located in that section were gone, and it appeared that a section of the bottom of the vessel had been blown out. These men had to turn and gain the lifeboat on the opposite deck. The boat was launched with all hands aboard and as they pulled away the "SAMA" rolled on her side, showing a hole amidships six or seven feet in diameter.

5. All men aboard were convinced they were torpedoed although no submarine or torpedo was seen or heard. It is not impossible that the explosion resulted from a floating mine.

6. The lifeboat, after having observed the sinking, gained approximately twenty miles under sail and rowing in the next six hours, and was picked up by the Br. S/S "ATHLET RECEIPT" at 0730 seven miles from Pacific Reef and landed at Fort Everglades the same date.

7. The Br. M/V "J.E.KINNEY" was observed in the vicinity of the "SAMA" before and after the sinking. It was learned upon inspection of log and questioning of that vessel's officers by 6ND Boarding Officers at Jacksonville, Florida, May 13, 1942, that the "J.E.KINNEY" waited from 0100 EST until daylight May 3rd in order to cross the Gulf Stream, and that no connection exists between subject vessel and the sinking of the "SAMA".

CREW LIST OF N.I.C. M/V "SALA", SUNK MAY 3, 1942.

1.	GAARD, Anders	Captain	57	Norwegian
2.	TANGVOLD, Erik	Ch. Officer	39	Norwegian
3.	FREDRIKSEN, Karl	2nd Officer	35	Norwegian
4.	PETERSON, Didrik	AB	36	Latvian
5.	TUCKER, Walter	AB	40	Canadian
6.	NOPIER, Cecil Monroe	AB	17	American
7.	SMITH, Alexander	AB	35	British
8.	OURSLER, William C.	Ch. Engineer	53	American
9.	HANSIN, Erling	1st Asst.	20	Danish
10.	VASLEV, Ole	Oiler	20	Danish
11.	HANKINS, Frank	Oiler	17	American
12.	PRUSICH, Peter	Steward	36	Austrian
13.	MARTINEZ, Armando	Messman	17	Cuban
14.	RODRIGUEZ O., Ginas	Radio Operator	24	Cuban

All of crew survived.

1113

Headquarters
SEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
Office of the District Intelligence Officer
833 du Pont Building
Miami, Florida

CN22/ND7
AB:AL6-3:QSL
(SAMA)
(16-B-5-1r)

June 2, 1942

From: The District Intelligence Officer, SEVENTH Naval District.
To : The Chief of Naval Operations (Director of Naval Intelligence).
Subject: "SAMA", Nic. M/V - Sinking of, May 3, 1942, in Lat. 25:04 N.,
Long. 79:45 W.
Enclosure: (A) Combat Intelligence Report on subject incident.
(B) Summary of survivors' statements of subject incident.
(C) Crew List of subject vessel.
(D) NMI 142 as executed by Master of subject vessel.

1. Enclosures (A) through (D) forwarded for information.

*Copy
made
6/2/42*

R. M. FORTSON.

Copies: ComCh-ComSEVEN-DIO's 1-3-4-5-6-8-10-15.
British Routing Officer, Key West, Fla.
Zones 1-2-4.

RECEIVED NAVY DEPT
MAY 12 1942
FILE 912 DATE 11/12-63

Office of Naval Intelligence
NAVY DEPARTMENT

Enclosure "D"

Intelligence Report

ENEMY ATTACK ON MERCHANT SHIPS

From: A. GAARD, At: Port Everglades, Fla. Date: 5/3/42
 Master
 Subject: "SAMA", Nic. M/V, Torpedoing and Sinking of.

Name of Ship: "SAMA" Flag: Nicaraguan Type: M/V (Converted
 four mast schooner)

Gross Tonnage: 567 Whether Armed: No

Date of: 5/3/42 Position at Attack: 25:04 N, 79:45 W.
 Bearing 291 T, 25 3/4 miles
 Carysfort

Whether Sunk, Captured or Escaped: Sunk

PARTICULARS OF SHIP AND VOYAGE

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Answers</u>
1. (a) Port of Departure (b) Date of Sailing (c) Destination (d) Route Instructions	Baracoa, Cuba Baracoa, Cuba, 4/30/42, 1930 EST (Plus 5) Jacksonville, Florida Inside Current
2. Name of owners and charters (if any). General description and weight of cargo. (If on Government Service the fact should be stated)	Suwannee Fruit and S/S Co., Jacksonville, Florida
3. Full Christian Name, Surname and Nationality of Master.	A. GAARD

CONDITIONS OF ATTACK

4. (a) Ship's position, date, and time when enemy was sighted, or (b) when attack commenced (c) what warning given? (d) Ship's position, date and time 1. when ship sank, or 2. when ship was abandoned (e) Ships position, date and time ship was abandoned	(b) 25:04 N, 79:45 W. 0115 -EST (Plus 5) Zone Time 5/3/42 None Same as 1 (b) Sunk 15 minutes later See 4 (b)
5. (a) What was the cause of ship sinking (torpedo, gunfire, bombs or mine)	I believe it was a torpedo

- | | |
|---|---|
| (b) Was she seen to sink? | Yes |
| 6. Course and speed of ship when enemy was first sighted or when attack commenced | 9 Knots 340° |
| 7. (a) Was ship zigzagging? If so
(b) Nature of zigzag | No |
| 8. State of weather and sea, direction and force of wind; visibility | Clear - N.E. wind 3, sea - N.E. - good visibility, moonlight. |
| 9. (a) Was ship attacked with torpedo by submerged submarine:
If so was:
(b) periscope of submarine or
(c) track of torpedo seen before vessel was struck? If so, at what distance from own ship and what avoiding action was taken?
(d) Did submarine subsequently come to the surface? If so, when? | Believe it was submerged, I did not see it.
No
No
No |
| 10. (a) Was ship attacked with gunfire?
If so,
(b) Was enemy seen prior to the attack?
(c) Was any, and if so what, warning or order given by enemy? | No
No
X |
| 11. (a) How man look-outs were on watch?
(b) Where were they stationed? | Three (3) on watch
Mate and two sailors on bridge |
| 12. Speed and course of aircraft, raider, or submarine relative to ship when first sighted, or when attack commenced | Not sighted |
| 13. (a) What colors, if any, was ship flying at time of attack?
(b) When were they hoisted? | Nicaraguan - Aft. |
| 14. (a) If attack took place at night, what lights, if any, was ship showing?
(b) If navigation lights were burning, were they dimmed? | Blackout was complete
No |
| 15. How was ship maneuvered after sighting enemy? | Sank in 10 minutes |
| 16. (a) Were any other vessels in sight?
(b) If so, what were their positions and movements and names if known
(c) Did any signal pass between them and the ship or enemy? | "G. E. MENNY", Halifax, 0100
X
No signals |

NNI-142

Explosive Charges

NOTE: Question 30 omitted - No answer given

Gunfire

NOTE: Questions 31-35 omitted as ship not armed

Smoke

36. Was ship supplied with smoke apparatus? No
37. (a) Were there any casualties? Yes, Captain had head scratches
38. (a) What was the number and nationality of the passengers & crew? See list
(b) How did they behave? Very well
39. (a) What became of the passengers & crew after abandoning ship? Picked up 0730 EDT, 7 miles from Pacific Reef, bearing 085
(b) Were any taken prisoner? None

PARTICULARS OF ENEMY CRAFT

NOTE: Questions 40-49 omitted as none were seen.

50. General remarks by interviewing officer:

In my opinion, there is a strong possibility that vessel struck a mine. It is doubtful that a submarine would fire a torpedo at a 567 gross ton converted schooner, transporting bananas

/s/ George V. Salzer Jr.
Ensign, USNR.
Interviewing Officer