

DISPATCHES

REMARKS

After the ship was torpedoed and abandoned, but before sinking, submarine surfaced and ordered along-side a jolly boat whose occupants were questioned about name of ship and tonnage. Survivors were given a few cigarettes and French matches. Sub described as a large Italian type, manned by Germans, light grey, new paint, no stripes or streaks, high narrow conning tower 1 heavy gun fwd, 1 lighter gun aft, bow blunt and high stern low and elongated. On port side of conning tower appeared letters H and N between which was pink or reddish shield with No. 26 beneath. Across center of shield was a silver grey figure resembling a thin fluttering banner. The sub commander was slim and active German, accent but good English. Sub dived at 0250.

The Master and his chief Radio Operator expressed the belief that more water, condensed milk, etc, are more desirable as rations than chocolate, biscuit, and malted milk tablets.

The rescue ship was attracted by the lifeboat's red sails and a large yellow flag.

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

Op-16-B-5
CONFIDENTIAL

June 8, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

Subject: Summary of Statements by Survivors of SS STANBANK, British Steamer, 5,979 G.T., Stanhope Steamship Co., Ltd., owners.

1. The STANBANK was torpedoed without warning at 0220 EWT on May 5, 1942 at 34°55'N - 61°47' W., while enroute from New York City to Capetown, with a general cargo of 6,500 tons. The ship was seen to sink by survivors at 0240 EWT, May 5, 1942.

2. The ship was on a course 159° true, speed 9½ knots, not zigzagging moonlight attack, radio not previously used, completely blacked out, four lookouts, 2 aft by guns and 2 on bridge, weather fine, smooth sea, light variable airs, good visibility, no ships in sight.

3. The torpedo struck on the starboard side, under the bridge, 20 feet below the waterline. There was internal damage to No.2 hold and No.1 boat, starboard, was blown away. The engines were stopped and a distress SSS message sent, no reply received. Ship was armed with one 4" gun, 2 Oerlichen, 2 twin Lewis, and 1 gymbol gun for rockets. No counter offensive was offered. Confidential codes thrown overboard in weighted, perforated boxes.

4. The entire crew of 49, including 12 Arabs, abandoned ship at 0240 EWT, May 5, 1942 in 2 boats and 3 rafts. 17 men were placed on the Second Officer's boat and headed for Bermuda. These have not been located to date. The remaining 32 members, including the Captain, were picked up by the SS RHEXENOR at 1420 EWT, May 14 and landed at Bermuda at 0800 May 15. The RHEXENOR was attracted by the lifeboat's red sails and a large yellow flag.

5. After the STANBANK was torpedoed and abandoned, but before sinking, submarine surfaced and ordered alongside a jolly boat whose occupants were questioned about name of their ship and tonnage. Survivors were given a few cigarettes and French matches. Submarine described as a large Italian type, manned by Germans, light grey, new paint, no stripes or streaks, high narrow conning tower, 1 heavy gun forward, 1 lighter gun aft, bow blunt and high, stern low and elongated. On port side of conning tower appeared letters H and M between which was pink or reddish shield with No.26 beneath. Across center of shield was a silver grey figure resembling a thin fluttering banner. The sub commander was slim and active German, accent but good English. Submarine dived at 0250.

6. The Master and his chief Radio Operator expressed the belief that more water, condensed milk, etc. are more desirable as rations than chocolate, biscuit, and malted milk tablets.

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

CC: ONI B-8, 16-D-4, F-9 (4 copies), F-10, Cominch, Cominch F-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.

Authority NND 100111
MARA Date 8-7-11

STANBANK sailed New York May 1st for Alexandria and Port Sudan. Due
 Port Sudan June 25th Prince Berth British Flag Overall length 401 ft.
 Estimated arrival draught 22 ft. 11 inches.

British Food Mission	509 Tons
British Air Commission	84 "
Dept. of Munitions & Supplies, Canada	389 "
British Purchasing Commission	3,688 "
British Petroleum Mission	1,321 "
Commercial	2 "
Navy Army Air Force Institute	<u>491 "</u>
TOTAL	<u>6,484 "</u>

CLEARED FOR PORT SUDAN

BRITISH AIR COMMISSION -

Airplane parts, consigned Suez, Lease-Lend	6 Tons
" " " "	581 lbs.
" " " "	696 lbs.
333 Sets spare parts for 30-caliber machine guns	642 lbs.
1,216 " " " " 50- " " "	10 Tons

CLEARED FOR ALEXANDRIA

BRITISH AIR COMMISSION -

Wing assemblies, consigned Suez	5 Tons
6 Curtiss Wright Kittyhawks, boxed, Lease-Lend	43 "
Batteries consigned Suez, Lease-Lend	4 "
Wing Assemblies	14 "
Airplane tools, Lease-Lend	1,165 lbs.
" Manuals consigned Aden	56 "
" parts, Lease-Lend	311 "

BRITISH PURCHASING COMMISSION -

10 Pieces Carriage motor 105 MM Howitzer T-19 complete, Lease-Lend	77 Tons
5,990,400 303-caliber service cartridges, Lease-Lend	180 "
2,000,500 30-caliber armor piercing cartridges, consigned Helwan, Lease-Lend	66 "
590,250 50-caliber armor piercing cartridges, consigned Helwan	84 "
1,000,000 45-caliber service cartridges, Lease-Lend	25 "
200,000 50-caliber tracer cartridges, consigned Helwan, Lease-Lend	28 "
791,000 50-caliber links, consigned Helwan, Lease-Lend	18 "
3,000 303-caliber rifles, Lease-Lend	20 "
Spare parts for telescope mounts M-6 for 37 MM anti-tank guns, consigned Ankara	1,015 lbs.
400,000 30-caliber tracer cartridges, Lease-Lend	13 Tons
Technical Publications, Lease-Lend	295 lbs.
2,000,000 30-caliber links consigned Helwan, Lease-Lend	11 Tons
Spare parts for 105 MM Howitzers, Lease-Lend	247 lbs.
Ford Auto parts consigned Tel El Kabir	43 Tons
Spare parts for 155 MM Howitzers, Carriage, Lease-Lend	16 lbs.
Sawing machines consigned Suez, Lease-Lend	20 Tons
Planers, consigned Suez	18 Tons
Pumps	19 "
Radial machines and electrical equipment, consigned Suez.	16 "

FORMITY NARA Date 8-17-11

	Pumps consigned Suez, Lease-Lend	6	Tons
	Grinding machines consigned Turkey, Lease-Lend	5	"
	Tools, Lease-Lend	5	"
	Machinery, N.O.S. consigned Suez	1	"
	Machinery and tools, N.O.S.	1	"
	Machinery, N.O.S. consigned Suez, Lease-Lend	5	"
	Terneplate, Lease-Lend	633	"
	Borers, Lease-Lend	3	"
	Conduit pipe, consigned Suez, Lease-Lend	90	"
	Bituminous coal	1,611	"
	Generators and spare parts, Lease-Lend	70	"
	Copper wire, Lease-Lend	132	"
	Insulator wooden pins, Lease-Lend	57	"
138	Loose tires with tubes inserted 1400x20, Lease-Lend	13	"
967	" " 1050x20, Lease-Lend	66	"
661	" " 1050x20, consigned Tel El Kebir, Lease-Lend.	45	"
	Copper Cable, Lease-Lend	17	"
	Pine Cross arms, Lease-Lend	39	"
	Electrical Appliances, Lease-Lend	14	"
	Switchboards, Lease-Lend	6	"
	Meter sets, Lease-Lend	4	"
	Electrical Appliances consigned Suez	1	"
	Refrigerator condensers, Lease-Lend	3	"
	Telegraph sets, Lease-Lend	2	"
	Shade Lenses, consigned Suez	31	lbs.
3	Heavy Vulcanizing plants, Lease-Lend	1	Tons
	Firebrick consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	34	Tons
13,840	Wire-bound boxes consigned Massawa, Lease-Lend	32	"
	Refractories consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	39	"
	Steel wire rope, Lease-Lend	20	"
	" " " consigned Port Sudan, Lease-Lend	4	"
	Wire Cloth, Lease-Lend	15	"
	Asbestos cement pipe, Lease-Lend	24	"
160	Cylinders filled with Acetylene, Lease-Lend	15	"
5,000	Pairs rubber knee boots, consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	13	"
30	Cargo trays consigned Suez, Lease-Lend	6	"
	Wood telegraph poles, Lease-Lend	10	"
	Hydrogrime consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	755	lbs.
	Gelatin consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	1,220	lbs.
	Methylene Blue consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	31	"
	Calcium Gluconate consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	1,350	"
825	One-Pound bottles Oithammol, consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	2,392	"
	Balson Peru consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	800	"
	Bichloride of Mercury consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	614	"
	Tannic acid consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	1,635	"
	Spirits of Ammonia consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	33	"
	Oil of Mustard consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	42	"
	Hydrochloric acid consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	2,600	"
	Lead Acetate consigned Ankara, Lease-Lend	1,210	"
	Sulphaguandine, Lease-Lend	3,000	"
	" Powder, Lease-Lend	1,210	"
	Serum, Lease-Lend	47	"
	Pen Holders, Lease-Lend	5	"
	Standard Hardware screws, Lease-Lend	7	"
	Technical Publications, Lease-Lend	30	"
DEPARTMENT OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLIES, CANADA.			
12	40 MM Bofors A.A. Equipment	41	Tons
16	Artillery Trailers and Ammunition trays	21	"
36	GMC 3-Ton 158" AX4 trucks	185	"
4,422,480	303-Caliber service cartridges	142	"

Authority (NND) 100111
 8-12-11
 KARMA Date

BRITISH PETROLEUM MISSION -

7,676	Cases containing 84,544 gallons Aviation Lubricating oil, Radbill Oil Company, order No. 98206 Consigned Port Sudan, advise Petroleum Department Lease-Lend	310 Tons
3,030	Drums containing 163,620 gallons Aviation Lubricating oil, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey Order No. 83-A, Advise Petroleum Department, Lease-Lend	610 "
500	Drums containing 27,000 gallons Aviation Lubricating oil Valvoline Oil Company, Order No. 86-A, advise Petroleum Department, Lease-Lend	101 "
5,996	Drums containing 36,000 gallons Aviation Lubricating oil, Alliance Oil Company, Order No. 96074 advise Petroleum Department, Lease-Lend	134 "
4,371	Drums containing 26,226 gallons Aviation Lubricating oil, Valvoline Oil Company order No. 299-A, advise Petroleum Department, Lease-Lend	99 "
1,200	Cases Grease, Magie oil Company Order No. 301-A Advise Petroleum Department, Lease-Lend	44 "
1,000	Drums containing 6,000 gallons Aviation Lubricating oil, Keystone Oil Company Order No. 98,205 Advise Petroleum Department, Lease-Lend	23 "

BRITISH FOOD MISSION -

Evaporated Milk, Lease-Lend	207 "
Pork Sausage, Lease-Lend	302 "

NAVY ARMY AIR FORCE INSTITUTE -

Beer	491 "
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COMMERCIAL -

Miscellaneous	2 "
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SPECIAL STOWAGE

Airplanes

On Deck

Hatch 1

2 cases Fuselages

Hatch 2

4 Cases Fuselages

Hatch 3

4 Cases Wing Assemblies

Hatch 4

4 Cases Wing Assemblies

Hatch 5

6 Cases Wings

Derrick Capacity

Authority NND 140122
KARA Date 8-17-11

Alliance Oil Company, Order No. 96074 advise Petro-		
leum Department, Lease-Lend		134 "
4,371	Drums containing 26,226 gallons Aviation Lubricating oil, Valvoline Oil Company order No. 299-A, advise Petroleum Department, Lease-Lend	99 "
1,200	Cases Grease, Magie oil Company Order No. 301-A Advise Petroleum Department, Lease-Lend	44 "
1,000	Drums containing 6,000 gallons Aviation Lubricating oil, Keystone Oil Company Order No. 98,205 Advise Petroleum Department, Lease-Lend	23 "

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Pork Sausage, Lease-Lend	302 "

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COMMERCIAL -

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SPECIAL STOWAGE

Airplanes

On Deck

Hatch 1

2 cases Fuselages

Hatch 2

4 Cases Fuselages

Hatch 3

4 Cases Wing Assemblies

Hatch 4

4 Cases Wing Assemblies

Hatch 5

6 Cases Wings
Derrick Capacity

Two 3-Ton Hatch 3
Two 5-Ton Hatches 1, 2, 5
Two 10-Ton Hatch 4
One 30-Ton Hatch 2

GAROC

Lower Hold

Hatch 1

8 Pieces 8 Tons each

Hatch 5

2 pieces 8 Tons each.