

382 Glorietta Boulevard
Coronado, Calif., 92118

January 31, 1975

Capt. Grahame F. Shrader
233 Fifth Avenue North
Edmonds, Wash. 98020

Dear Captain:

Thanks for your letter and the clipping about the torpedo attack on the Fort Camosun. About the books: You mention your price as \$2.50 a copy, making a profit to the museum \$1.25 each. I took it up with our people, and at this rate, they would like a dozen copies on consignment. They would be addressed to

Maritime Museum Assn. of San Diego
Bark Star of India
1306 N. Harbor Drive
San Diego CA 92101.

Now, about the sinking of the Camden, a week after she was torpedoed. As I recall, she was involved in a three-way snafu, in which the Navy elbowed the Coast Guard out of the attempted salvage, on the ground that the Coast Guard was part of the Navy during the war -- and while this rhubarb was going on, some expert from the War Shipping Administration muscled in and insisted upon taking charge because she was a merchant ship. All the while, the poor old Camden's bow was getting higher and her stern lower, until she was finally drawing 56 feet aft, and she settled the inter-bureau problem by quietly going down. I heard some talk at the time about an explosion just before she sank, but never heard any of the details, or any explanation. Could some steel deck-fitting have ripped loose and slammed into some other steel, producing a spark which could have ignited what was left in one of her tanks? I guess we'll never know.

The unidentified "sinking" of 3/2/42 is new to me. A vague possibility might be the alleged attack on the L. P. St. Clair about that time. A destroyer came to her aid and there was some gunfire, but no hits.

If I were you, I'd get on the tail of this Oregon State character and tell him that he has had your photos long enough. Through the loss of some valuable negatives, I have learned to be pretty hard-nosed about this sort of thing. So if anyone wants the use of one of my negatives today, I have prints made commercially and send him the prints -- and the photographs' prints. -- Some had had negatives, even to your best friend.

Sincerely,

Jersey Mac Mullen

cc:
Mar. Mus. Assn. of S.D.

