

SHIPS SUNK BY ENEMY IN INDIAN WATERS

Fruitless Five-year Search for Survivors

OVER the last five years, the Government of India have been pursuing enquiries in South-East Asia, the Far East, Africa, India and latterly in Japan, in an effort to trace survivors of ships and country-craft lost in Indian waters during the war. It is a matter for regret, however, that no information whatsoever has become available, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on March 26.

In view of this and also of the fact that communications from all parts of the Far Eastern territories have since been resumed and that any survivors would have by now established contact with their relatives and friends in India had they been alive, it must be presumed that those who have not been accounted for are dead.

The vessels concerned were the S.S. *Tilawa*, the *Jalarajan* and the *Elysia*, the S.S. *Haichang*, the motor vessel *Tandjong Penang*, the country-craft *Majlis*, *Hydari*, *Alamin*, *Daria Doulat*, *Ganjo Sugar Pasa*, *Sawai Ganjo*, *Mahmudi*, *Karim Sawai*, *Harisinger*, *Malti*, and the dhows *Hariprasad*, *Sandal Razak* and *Sandal Karim*.

It is known that there were Japanese submarine operations in the Indian Ocean in November, 1942, September, 1943, and March, 1945.

The S.S. *Tilawa* was sunk by enemy action on the night of November 23, 1942, somewhere near Mombasa, six days after leaving Bombay for East Africa. Naval Headquarters reported early in December, 1942, that 641 survivors had been picked up and that, as far as was then known, 260 persons, including some Europeans, were still missing.

Non-official sources reported that the Japanese radio (Singapore or Tokyo) had announced that some of the survivors had been picked up, presumably by an enemy vessel, and taken to Penang. Official and non-official sources (such as the International Red Cross) investigated the report, which proved baseless.

The country-craft *Ganjo Sugar Pasa* (Captain, 13 crew and 41 passengers) and the *Malti* (Captain, six crew and 28 passengers) were reported missing in September, 1943.

They left Mozambique, Portuguese East Africa, on September 3, 1943, for Zanzibar, British Africa, where after unloading some cargo and reloading further cargo and passengers, they sailed on September 21, 1943, for Bombay.

On January 12, 1944, it was rumoured that, in a broadcast from Tokio, the Tindal of the *Ganjo Sugar Pasa* declared that the passengers were all well and had been taken to Japanese-

occupied territory. There was yet another rumour that the *Malti* had anchored near Hong-Kong. The authorities in South-East Asia addressed enquiries to the Japanese Government in April, 1946, after making their own investigations, and were informed that no information was obtainable.

The S.S. *Jalarajan* an Indian merchant ship, was torpedoed off the west coast of Batoe Islands on January 15-16, 1942. The survivors numbering between 40 and 50 included an American war correspondent, Frank Noel of the Associated Press.

The motor vessel *Tandjong Penang* which had been requisitioned by the Government of India in 1941, was sunk in in the Banka Strait while evacuating civilians from Singapore in 1942.

The *Elysia* is reported to have been sunk by enemy action between Cape Town and Madagascar about June 5, 1942.

The *Karim Sawai* left Karachi on October 2, 1943, apparently in company with the *Harisinger*. Survivors

of the *Harisinger* stated that both had been sunk by an enemy submarine.

The *Daria Doulat*, left Bombay on October 2, 1943, for Cutch and has not been heard of since. The same day a submarine sunk the S.S. *Haichang* approximately 40 miles west of Bombay.

The country-craft *Majlis*, *Hydari*, and *Alamin* were also sunk early in October, 1943.

Survivors of the "Majlis"

The only two survivors of the *Majlis*, Saleh Muhammad and Saleh Yakub (who had been wounded) deposed before the Commissioner of Police, Cutch State, that the *Majlis* had been sunk by a submarine. Survivors of the *Hydari* and *Alamin* were picked up by H.M.S. *Roebuck* and landed at Aden.

The *Mahmudi* and the *Sawai Ganjo*, sailing in company, were attacked by an enemy submarine on October 10, 1943. The *Sawai Ganjo* was sunk. The *Mahmudi*, which sustained little damage, picked up two wounded Khalasis, Haji Muhammad and Yusuf Abdulla of the *Sawai Ganjo*, who were landed at Calicut.

The dhow *Hariprasad* left Kathiawar for Mombasa on March 2, 1944, but failed to reach her destination. The dhows *Sandal Razak* and *Sandal Karim* were sunk by the enemy on February 8, 1944.

WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX IN RANGOON

The table below shows the percentage variations in the estimated cost, on an austerity basis, of one month's supply of essential foodstuffs and commodities for the principal groups

of Indian work-people, viz., Tamils, Telegus and Oriyas on a singleman basis. The average cost of the same items in 1941 is represented by the base figure of 100.

Months.	G R O U P S .						Index for rent	Consumer's Price Index.
	Food.	Fuel and Lighting	Clothing	Miscellaneous.	All items combined	Index		
January, 1946 ..	542	221	1,702	455	581	..	..
February, 1946 ..	474	203	605	455	246	..	..
March, 1946 ..	388	194	327	440	369	..	..
April, 1946 ..	382	228	327	440	368	..	..
May, 1946 ..	409	243	327	429	389	..	..
June, 1946 ..	430	194	327	425	400	..	..
July, 1946 ..	426	184	327	442	397	..	..
August, 1946 ..	431	201	327	421	40	..	..
September, 1946 ..	395	214	327	421	374	266	362	
October, 1946 ..	353	203	327	421	342	266	332	
November, 1946 ..	279	173	327	421	284	266	282	
December, 1946 ..	283	189	327	413	288	266	285	