

011330-011340-0209

for Mr. Eales

*ms. by 12.9 587*

X

"BARBATTIA"

L.L. 31.1.57

"OPALIA"

MISCELLANEOUS

THE SUEZ CANAL

London, Jan. 30.—The Egyptians have put a Russian in command of the British motor tanker BARBATTIA, which was seized at the beginning of the Suez operation, according to reports reaching London. The tanker also has a Russian chief engineer and radio officer, with an Egyptian crew. Additional details about the BARBATTIA were contained in a letter from an Egyptian in Suez, which was sent to a Maltese businessman. The letter says the Egyptians have painted the BARBATTIA grey and emblazoned a hammer and sickle on her funnel. The motor tankers OPALIA and BARBATTIA were at Suez when the Anglo-French ultimatum was given. They were seized about Nov. 6. OPALIA was fired and sunk.  
"The Daily Telegraph"

This is the first report on these ships, and cannot be accepted without confirmation.

Will let you have all press reports.

Meanwhile? ? Owners

? R.N.C.

(Sgd.) W. J. B.

4.2.57.

*Noted.*

*WJ*

*7.2*

*Await further information.*

*Am. S. h.*

*All Tankers, still awaiting confirmation 1.5.57 WJ*



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