

11. S.S. ARKANSAS

U.S. Tanker; built 1919; 6,452 gross tons; no cargo.
 Departed Santos, Brazil, 31 January, 1942, for Aruba.
 Torpedoed while at dock waiting to load, 16 February, 1942, 0300.
 Weather, clear; sea, smooth; wind, slight SE.
 On board, 39; saved, 39.
 Vessel: salvaged.

The dock and vessel were completely blacked out when, at 0300, a torpedo struck on the starboard side forward of amidships, making a large hole where it penetrated, and a number of smaller holes on the opposite side where fragments were blown through.

The crew went ashore by the gangplank, and the Master ordered the sea valve opened on the port side to counteract a starboard list which had developed. In the morning, the vessel was reboarded, and a survey of the damage made. A second torpedo, which had evidently missed the ship and run up on the beach, exploded while being removed, and killed four shore men who were engaged in taking it away.

The tanker proceeded under her own power to the other end of the island, where temporary repairs were made, and later continued on to Galveston, where she arrived 18 March, 1942, for complete overhaul before being returned to service.

