(See also Group 2; 21 March, 1942)

U.S. Tanker, built 1941; 11,355 gross tons; in ballast.

Departed Reykjavik, Iceland, 8 February, 1943, for New York, N.Y. in convoy. Torpedoed 15 February, 1943, 1045 AWT: 150 mi. off Cape Race.

Weather, unknown.

On board, 66; saved, 1.

Vessel: total loss.

On 11 February, 1943, she was proceeding in convoy from Reykjavik, Iceland, to New York, and dropped behind during the night. On
15 February, at 1045, she was hit by three torpedoes 150 miles from
Cape Race. She broke in two and sank, with all hands, except one man
who jumped with a life preserver and was captured and interned.

ship went down stern first about 3 hours later.

The survivors were picked up by the British HMS TOTLAND, where the burned and injured were cared for. A galleyman from the ESSO BATON ROUGE, a former physician, was instrumental in saving the life of one of the badly injured gun crew when he was given up by the ship's surgeon on the TOTLAND. The injured were put ashore at Antigua on 4 March, and the other survivors transferred to a Dutch ship, and taken to Trinidad and Curagao for repatriation.

Russell O. Wirtz, of the ESSO BATON ROUGE, by his skill and devotion saved several lives and received the Merchant Marine Distinguished Service