

20 January, 1943

109 M.S. BRILLIANT(2)
(See above, 18 November, 1942)

Departed St. John, Newfoundland, 18 January, 1943, for Halifax.
Broke in two from previous enemy action, 20 January, 1943, 1340 AWT.
Weather, overcast; sea, rough; wind, SE gale. 46°13 N.-58°48 W.
On board, 55; saved, 44.
Vessel: total loss.

Temporary repairs had been made to the BRILLIANT, and she had been given a seaworthy certificate to proceed to Halifax for complete overhaul. On the day after leaving, the weather turned foul, a SE gale blowing up, shifting to SW, then W, through a period of 24 hours. At 1340 Newfoundland time, with the gale coming from WNW, and confused mountainous seas, the ship could no longer stand the strain, and broke in two at #7 tank. Eleven men, including the heroic Junior Third Officer, were on the bow section, and, although a Canadian tug stood by through the night, these men could not be rescued, and this section foundered before morning. The forty-four on the stern section remained there until taken off by the rescue vessel 24 January, 1943. This section then presumably sank or was sent to the bottom by the competent authorities.