

26 May, 1942

71. S.S. CARRABULLE

U.S. Tanker; built, 1920; 5,030 gross tons; cargo, liquid asphalt.
Departed New Orleans, La., 25 May, 1942, for San Juan, P.R.
Shelled and torpedoed, 26 May, 1942, 0400 CWT; 26°10 N.- 89°W.
Weather, clear; sea, calm; wind, light southeast.
On board, 40; saved, 18.
Vessel: total loss.

The submarine was observed by the Second Mate at 0350 on the starboard beam, paralleling the ship's course, and at 0400, by a shot across the bow, it signified its intention, then commenced shelling the CARRABULLE, pouring 6 or 7 per minute into her bridge and superstructure. The Master ordered the ship abandoned at 0425, and this was done by all but the radio operator, who remained on board until a few moments before the vessel sank at 0530. The men in the first lifeboat to get away were questioned by the submarine commander as to whether all the crew was off the ship, and upon hearing that there was one more boat to come, a torpedo was launched almost immediately. This struck the lifeboat squarely, instantly killing 22 of the 24 men in it, including the Master, and penetrating the engine room beyond.

The survivors were rescued about 0700 the same morning, and taken aboard the S.S. THOMPSON LYKES, to New Orleans. They reported that "U-36" appeared on the submarine, which was large, and believed to be German.

Frank R. Santina, Second Mate, received the Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal for his heroism when the S.S. CARRABULLE was torpedoed and sunk.

