

April, 1942

51. S.S. CONNECTICUT

U.S. Tanker; built, 1938; 8,684 gross tons; cargo, gasoline.  
Departed Port Arthur, Texas, 21 March, 1942, for Capetown, S.A.  
Torpedoed by surface raider, 23 April, 1942, 0210, 23°50 S.- 17°50 W.  
On board, 54; saved, 19, one of whom died from injuries, and two in  
prison camp.  
Vessel: total loss.

A message from the CONNECTICUT was intercepted on 8 April,  
stating "suspicious vessel following us", and giving the position as  
11°13 N. and 61°35 W., and the tanker was not directly heard from again.  
She was due in Capetown 29 April, and on 25 May, 1942, the Navy declared  
her overdue and presumed lost as a result of enemy action.

In January, 1943, information was received from a Norwegian  
Merchant Marine officer, indicating that the CONNECTICUT was intercepted  
and sunk by two torpedoes from a German surface raider, and that the  
crew got off in three boats, only one of which, however, survived the  
burning gasoline on the water. The crew members from this boat were  
taken aboard the raider, and later transferred several times, and  
ultimately were put ashore in Japan for internment. Three officers and  
fourteen men were reported to be in the group, but only sixteen survived.

The sixteen survivors were repatriated from Japanese internment  
camps, and reached this country early in October, 1945.

