

25 June, 1943

124 S.S. EAGLE

U.S. Tanker, built 1917; 6,003 gross tons; in ballast.
Departed Rio de Janeiro, 24 June, 1943, for Bahia, Brazil.
Attacked 25 June, 1943 0045; 23°06 S.-41°54 W.
Weather, clear; sea, slight swell; wind, moderate N.E.
On board, 52; saved, 52.
Vessel: salvaged.

A phosphorescent glow was seen by the Armed Guard lookout to be approaching the ship in a straight line. No alarm was given, and no explosion resulted, but a few minutes later a similar phenomenon attracted his attention, and the Mate on watch was notified, and saw through his glasses what he concluded to be a periscope. At that moment there was an explosion in the forepeak, which distorted and ruptured port and starboard hull plating. The forward pumproom was flooded, and the deck just forward of the engine room buckled. Another torpedo was seen approaching aft, but it missed the ship by about 15 feet.

The propulsion machinery was not injured. Shots were fired by the Armed Guard in the direction where the submarine was thought to be, and the ship was ordered full speed ahead on an evasive course, and made port under her own power. An examination of the damage sustained did not prove conclusively whether the ship was struck by a torpedo or a mine, but crew members stated that an immense column of water was flung into the air at the time of the explosion, possibly leading to the conclusion that the torpedo struck a glancing blow at the stem, and exploded underneath the ship.

