

28 August, 1942

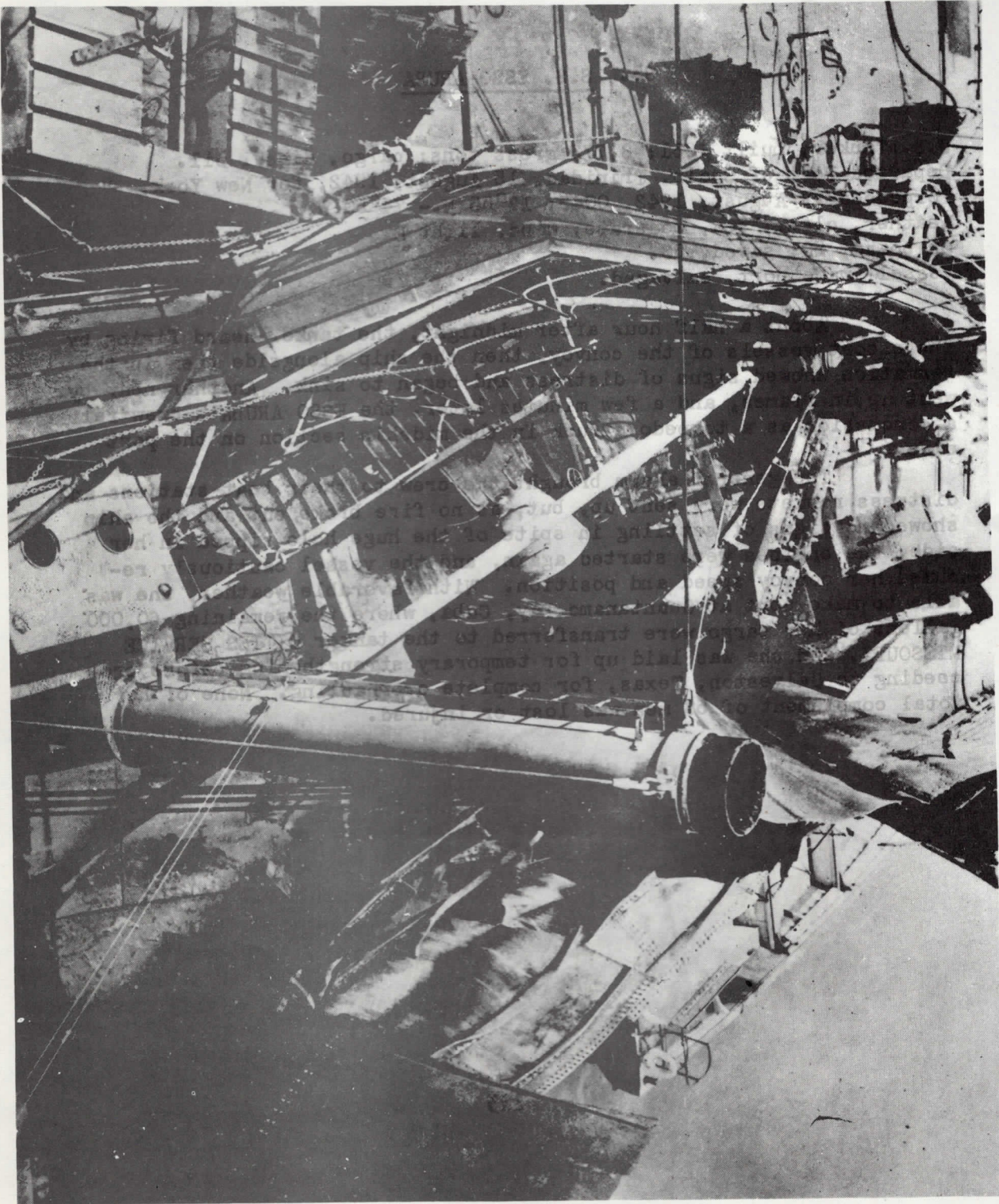
93. S.S. ESSO ARUBA

U.S. Tanker, built 1931; 8,773 gross tons; cargo, diesel oil.
Departed Port of Spain, Trinidad, 15 August, 1942, for New York.
Torpedoed 28 August, 1942, 0043; 17°55 N.- 74°50 W.
Weather, clear, sea, moderate; wind, light E.
On board, 58; saved, 58.
Vessel: made port, salvaged.

About a half hour after midnight, the tanker heard firing by the escort vessels of the convoy, then the ship alongside them in the formation showed signs of distress and began to sink. Another near by went up in flames, and a few minutes later, the ESSO ARUBA's crew felt a concussion as a torpedo struck in the midship section on the port side.

The general alarm brought the crew to their boat stations and distress rockets were sent up, but, as no fire broke out and the ship showed no signs of settling in spite of the huge hole ripped in her side, the engines were started again, and the vessel cautiously resumed her convoy speed and position. With favorable weather, she was able to make port at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where the remaining 60,000 gallons of her cargo were transferred to the tanker CITIES SERVICE MISSOURI, and she was laid up for temporary strengthening before proceeding to Galveston, Texas, for complete overhauling. None of her total complement of 58 men was lost or injured.

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