

11 June, 1942

77. S.S. F. W. ABRAMS

U.S. Tanker; built, 1920; 9,310 gross tons; load, fuel oil.
 Departed Aruba for New York.
 Torpedoed or mined 11 June, 1942, 0640 EWT, off Cape Hatteras.
 Weather, rainy; fog; sea, moderate; wind, brisk South Southeast.
 On board, 36; saved, 36.
 Vessel: grounded, total loss.

The ABRAMS was first struck at 0640, with a visibility of but a quarter mile, rain squalls alternating with fog. The Master, who had been in foreign waters for a time, thought his ship attacked by a submarine, but it is considered by competent authority that he inadvertently struck mines. A second explosion flooded the pump room and buckled the deck plates. The anchor cable became entangled, and the ship drifted until the bow touched bottom. The tanker was abandoned by all hands at 0740, about an hour after the first explosion. An attempt at salvage was later made, but without success, and vessel and cargo were a total loss.

