

27 May 1943

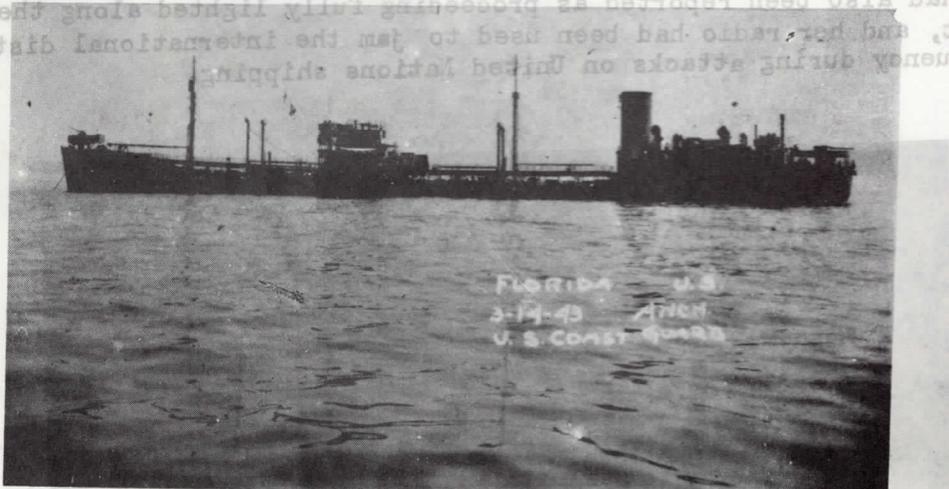
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122 M.S. FLORIDA .2.2 ISI

U.S. Tanker, built 1937; 8,580 gross tons; in ballast.
 Departed Natal, Brazil, 27 May, 1943, for Trinidad, B.W.I., in convoy.
 Torpedoed, 27 May, 1943, 2315 Ship's time; 03°56 S.- 73°43 W.
 Weather, clear; sea, moderate; wind, fresh S.E.
 On board, 79; saved, 79.
 Vessel: salvaged.

This tanker was in position #53 in the convoy when she was hit astern by a torpedo which demolished the propellor and steering gear, and caused immediate flooding. The weight of the water in the flooded stern section made the ship buckle, and the order to abandon was given by the Master. #4 lifeboat was swamped due to inefficient launching, but the crew left the vessel in the remaining 3 boats and the port forward and starboard after life rafts. They were picked up about an hour later by the PC-592, and landed at Fortaleza, Brazil.

The Master later reboarded the tanker with two other crew members, and she was taken in tow by the USS SAUCY, and safely brought in behind the breakwater at Fortaleza, and later drydocked at San Juan, P.R., for complete repairs.



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