

SS JEAN NICOLET

SS FRANCIS C. HARRINGTON SS JEAN NICOLET was torpedoed, shelled, and sunk by a Japanese submarine in position 03:00 S, 74:30 E. After the FRANCIS C. HARRINGTON struck a mine on Omaha Beach on 7 June, 1944, she suffered severe damage to her shaft. In this case, later publicized as "The ship with the wooden bearings", the Chief Engineer's ingenuity, combined with the teamwork of his engine room crew, repaired the damaged ship with, among other things, wooden bearings for the shaft. These makeshift repairs enabled the ship to sail about 70 miles to safe harbor.

On the forward end of the sub, stripped of their belongings, including life preservers, with hands tied behind their backs and foreheads touching the submarine's deck while the Jap tormentors clubbed them at random.

Finally the motors of Allied planes forced the submarine to crash dive with no thought of the bound survivors of the JEAN NICOLET. Only 23 of the 100 personnel on board finally survived on rubber rafts and "Mas Warts" dropped by Allied planes and they related the sordid details of this infamous disaster.