

8 June, 1942

75. S.S. FRANKLIN K. LANE

U.S. Tanker; built, 1920; 6,589 gross tons; cargo, crude oil.
 Departed Trinidad, for Aruba, N.W.I., in convoy.
 Torpedoed 8 June, 1942, 1815 EWT; 11°12' N.- 66°08' W.
 Weather, clear; sea, choppy; wind, moderate E.
 On board, 41; saved, 37.
 Vessel: total loss.

This tanker was reading signals for a change of position in the convoy when attacked. One torpedo was seen to miss the ship, but a second hit starboard aft of the bridge, and a column of smoke immediately arose, followed by flames, enveloping the bridge. #1 lifeboat was burned, and the falls burned through on #2, dropping it into the water. The survivors got off in the two after boats and #1 raft. The ship buckled amidships, and was burned out, but still smoking and steaming next morning, when she was sunk by gunfire from the British Escort Vessel, in order not to be a menace to navigation.

The survivors were in the boats for about 3 hours before being picked up. The Master was one of the four missing and presumed lost.

A Belgian vessel in the convoy was torpedoed and sunk a few minutes after the FRANKLIN K. LANE was hit.

