

3 July, 1942

84. S.S. GULF BELLE

U.S. Tanker, built 1936; 7,104 gross tons; in ballast.

Departed Belem, Para., for Aruba, N.W.I.

Torpedoed, 3 July, 1942, 0025; 11°40 N.- 60°39 W.

Weather, overcast; sea, choppy.

On board, 49; saved, 47.

Vessel: salvaged.

A torpedo hit on the starboard quarter, ripping a hole in the engine room and killing two men on watch below. Although the engines were disabled, the vessel was not in a sinking condition, but when the Master ordered the crew to stand by the boats, the order was either misunderstood or disobeyed, and two boats cast off, one of which later returned. The men in the other, #4 lifeboat were picked up by HMS WARWICK and rejoined the ship at Port of Spain.

The submarine surfaced close by one of the boats and one shot was fired from the tanker, after which the U-boat submerged. In the morning, a patrol plane flew over, and soon afterwards HMS WARWICK took the disabled vessel in tow for Port of Spain, Trinidad.

