

13 May, 1942

62. S.S. GULF PENN

U.S. Tanker; built, 1921; 8,863 gross tons; cargo, fuel oil.
Departed Port Arthur, Texas, for Philadelphia, Pa.
Torpedoed 13 May, 1942, 1450; 28°29 N.- 89°12 W.
Weather, clear; sea, moderate; wind, light E.S.E.
On board, 38; saved, 25.
Vessel: total loss.

Early in the afternoon, just after a patrol bomber had made a circle over the ship, and approximately 30 miles off South Pass, she was struck by a torpedo from a submerged U-boat. The torpedo exploded in the engine room, probably entering from the starboard side, and killing all personnel on duty there. The ship started turning to the left, but lost way as the stern settled quickly. #1 and #2 boats got off, and picked up some survivors who were thrown into the water as the ship went under within five minutes. Aboard #1 boat, one of the injured men died before help reached them, an hour and a half later, through the assistance of a Coast Guard plane. The plane flew over to indicate that they had been seen, then directed the Honduran ship TELDE to their rescue, and they were landed at Pilottown, and subsequently transferred to the Naval Station at New Orleans.

