

13 May, 1942

61. S.S. GULF PRINCE
(See also Group 7; 10 July, 1943)

U.S. Tanker; built, 1921; 6,560 gross tons; cargo, crude oil.
 Departed Port Arthur, Texas, for New York.
 Torpedoed 13 May, 1942, 0600, 83 miles from S.W. Pass, New Orleans, La.
 Weather, clear; sea, moderate; wind, light ExS.
 On board, 42; saved, 42.
 Vessel: not abandoned, salvaged.

The periscope of the attacking submarine was noted some minutes before two torpedoes were launched, and when their wakes were seen to leave the attacker, the Master ordered hard left, and the torpedoes passed harmlessly across under the stern. By a series of rapid and well timed zigzags, the Master was able to avoid a second pair of torpedoes, but one of a third pair struck a glancing blow near #8 tank but did not explode. The seams, however, were sprung, and this allowed considerable cargo to be lost from that tank. The general alarm was rung, but it was not necessary to abandon ship, and the vessel was piloted to New Orleans, where the rest of the cargo was discharged and she was drydocked for repairs; and later returned to service.

The Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Peter Joseph Sigona for his heroism and skill as Master of the S.S. GULF PRINCE when she was damaged by enemy action.

