

103 S.S. HAHIRA 101

U.S. Tanker, built 1920; 6,855 gross tons; cargo, fuel oil.
 Departed New York, 24 October, 1942, for United Kingdom, in convoy.
 Torpedoed 3 November, 1942, 0745; 54°15' N.-41°57' W.
 Weather, clear; sea, moderate; wind, light N.E.
 On board, 55; saved, 52.
 Vessel: total loss.

This ship was in position 82 in convoy, in the outboard starboard column, moving up to 81 when the leading ship was sunk. A large number of ships from this convoy were sunk, and the number of escort vessels was reported inadequate, since the convoy was attacked by a "wolf-pack" of at least 7 submarines, only one of which was known to be sunk. The excessive use of snowflakes for night illumination was protested, and there is a possibility that a "neutral" vessel in the convoy signalled the enemy by means of a large staysail hoisted on the foremast. (This ship dropped out of the convoy after the attack.)

The HAHIRA was hit by a torpedo from starboard, aft, on the third day of the attack, and was the 15th ship of the convoy to be lost. Fire broke out, and #1 lifeboat was burned, but the abandon ship order given by the Master was carried out in an orderly manner at 1350, the crew leaving in the remaining three lifeboats and one raft. They were picked up within a half hour by the HMS STOCKPORT, which was especially equipped as a rescue ship for the convoy. Together with crews from other torpedoed vessels, they left the convoy and were landed at Reykjavik, Iceland, 8 November, 1942, and subsequently repatriated in various ships.

