

31 August, 1942

U.S. Tanker, built 1942; 10,907 gross tons; in ballast.
 Departed Swansea, Wales, 25 August, 1942, for Aruba, N.W.I.
 Torpedoed 31 August, 1942, 0145 GMT; 42°00 N.- 29°05 W.
 Weather, cloudy; sea, moderate; wind, fresh WSW.
 On board, 56; saved, 28.
 Vessel: total loss.

This ship was first attacked about 0800, 30 August, by a submarine which surfaced and was sighted by the lookouts. The gun crew on the tanker opened fire, and the enemy craft replied, and shots were exchanged for about 45 minutes, none of which apparently scored hits. The U-boat then gradually submerged and disappeared in a westerly direction. An SSS was sent out at this time, and received by the USS BENSON, which proceeded to the position given, but, finding nothing, concluded the message was a hoax, since they had no record of a vessel of that name.

At 2358 that night, the CARNES was rocked by a loud explosion on the starboard side forward of the bridge, and at 0002 by a second, port, and in way of #4 tank. The engines were secured, and the Master gave the order to abandon ship. The crew left in the two port lifeboats, with 30 men in one and 26 in the other, and got together at dawn, equalizing the loads to 28 each. The submarine fired four more torpedoes into the doomed ship, and she broke in two and sank at 0045. The attacker was not seen at this time, but was believed to be the same one engaged in the morning attack.

The boats, one in charge of the Master and one in charge of the Chief Mate, remained together during the day of the 31st, proceeding under sail in a southerly direction toward the Azores. About dusk, the wind freshened and the Chief Mate decided to ride to a sea anchor through the night. Next day the wind increased to gale force with high seas, and the Master's boat was not sighted again. By noon, 2 September, the weather cleared sufficiently to obtain a sight, and the boat's course was corrected, and sail set. Land was sighted late in the afternoon of 4 September, all hands being well and in good spirits. Bad weather obscured the landfall, and the Mate decided to ride to a sea anchor until morning. Next day, sail was made early, and land again sighted. The wind dropped, and the boat was rowed ashore, the men landing on Terceira, Azores, about 1930, 5 September, 1942. They were taken to Ponta Delgada.

The Master's boat was not heard from again, and is presumed to have been lost in the gale and heavy seas of 1-2 September.

