

SS JAMES K. POLK

On the 9th of March, 1943, while enroute in convoy from Bahia, Brazil, to Paramaribo, Surinam, the Liberty ship JAMES K. POLK, received a torpedo hit in the machinery spaces while in position 07.11 N, 52.30 W. Fourteen hours after the attack, the master ordered all the crew except himself and seven volunteers aboard an escort vessel which had come alongside since there was constant danger of further attack.

In view of the fact that the machinery was demolished, the eight men remaining on the SS JAMES K. POLK rigged tarpaulins on the foremast and mizzenmast and sailed the crippled ship 350 miles before meeting an Allied ship which towed them a further distance of 450 miles to port, making a grand total of 800 miles in which a courageous handful of men, refusing to give up the ship, furnished the skill to bring her into port through their own resourcefulness.