

SS MATTHEW P. DEADY

SS JOHN A. JOHNSON

On 29 October, 1944, the SS JOHN A. JOHNSON was torpedoed shelled, and finally sunk by a Japanese submarine in position 29.36N., 141.33 West, while independently enroute from San Francisco to Pearl Harbor with seven thousand tons of military supplies, including explosives. The crew of 70 abandoned ship using three liferafts and three lifeboats. However, shortly after the abandonment of the ship, the submarine surfaced and commenced to ram and strafe the men in the boats and rafts, killing ten and wounding six others. The detection of the motors of a Pan American plane forced the submarine to abruptly terminate its atrocious activities and crash dive.

After spending 16 hours in the boats and rafts, an Allied ship rescued the survivors near the scene of the attack.

This case, as well as that of the JEAN NICOLET, readily indicates the hazards that were encountered by the men of the Merchant Marine.