

28 May, 1942

72. S.S. NEW JERSEY

U.S. Tanker; built, 1921; 6,414 gross tons; in ballast.
 Departed Baltimore, Md., 20 May, 1942, for Aruba, N.W.I.
 Torpedoed and shelled, 28 May, 1942, 0440; 18°32 N.- 82°28 W.
 Weather, overcast; sea, choppy; wind, fresh E.
 On board, 41; saved, 41.
 Vessel: total loss.

The ship was hit aft of the bridge, port side, and an order to abandon was given immediately, as she took a heavy list. The men all got off in two lifeboats, and a few minutes later another torpedo was fired into her, and the submarine commenced shelling soon after the boats were clear. The shells set fire to the after housing, and the tanker went down, stern first, about 0520.

The submarine surfaced in the vicinity soon after firing the first torpedo, and the Master felt that, owing to their promptness in obeying the abandon ship order, the gun crew lost an excellent opportunity to destroy the enemy craft, and thus save the tanker.

One boat was picked up by the USS TATNALL, 31 May, and the survivors taken to Kingstown, Jamaica, while the other boat was found by the USS BIDDLE on 1 June, and the men taken in 3 June.

