

8 April, 1942

42. S.S. OKLAHOMA (1)
(See also Group 8 - No. 146)

U.S. Tanker; built, 1940; 9,264 gross tons; cargo, refined oils.
Departed Southern port for Providence, R.I.
Torpedoed and shelled, 8 April, 1942, 0100; 31°13 N.- 80°05 W.
Weather, clear; sea, calm; wind, light S.E.
On board, 38; saved, 19.
Vessel: salvaged.

The OKLAHOMA was torpedoed and shelled when proceeding North along the coast, about 12 miles off Brunswick, Ga. Earlier in the day she had overtaken and passed the ESSO BATON ROUGE, which was torpedoed a short time afterward, and whose boats were brought in to St. Simon Island Coast Guard Station at the same time. The gun flashes from the submarine shelling the OKLAHOMA were seen by the men in the ESSO BATON ROUGE's boats four miles away almost simultaneously with the torpedoing of that ship, and it is assumed that two or more U-boats must have been involved in the attack.

Of the OKLAHOMA's complement of 38, 19 perished - one by torpedo or shell explosion, and the others by drowning.

The tanker, down by the head, was reboarded, and was towed to safety the following day, and later taken to the Sun Shipbuilding Co. docks at Chester, Pa., for rebuilding.

