

19 February, 1942

13. S.S. PAN MASSACHUSETTS

U.S. Tanker; built 1919; 8,201 gross tons; cargo, gas and fuel oil.
Departed Texas City, Tex., 15 February, 1942, for New York City.
Torpedoed and shelled, 19 February, 1942, 1342 EWT.
Weather, misty, squally; sea, rough, wind, moderate N.
On board, 38; saved, 18.
Vessel: total loss.

This ship was struck without warning, probably by two torpedoes nearly amidships, and was instantly showered with burning gasoline from the cargo, and the lifeboats and rafts, if not burned in the chocks, caught fire immediately upon being lowered into the blazing sea. The survivors gathered in the bow, and slid down a heavy hawser whenever a fairly open place appeared in the flames. Many never came up.

The British tanker ELIZABETH MASSEY, which had been passed by the PAN MASSACHUSETTS only a short time before, braved the danger of torpedo and shell to come to the aid of the stricken vessel and pick up the survivors. This was completed about 2 hours after the attack, and the rescued men were taken in to Jacksonville, where 10 of the men who were badly burned were hospitalized.

The ship broke in two and sank 50 miles north of Jupiter Lighthouse.

No photograph of this tanker is available.

