

29 October, 1942

102. S.S. PAN NEW YORK .101

U.S. Tanker, built 1938; 7,701 gross tons; cargo, gasoline. Departed New York, 18 October, 1942, for Glasgow, Scotland, in convoy. Torpedoed 29 October, 1942, 0120 Ship's Time; 54° N. - 23° W. Weather, cloudy; sea, rough; wind, strong ENE. On board, 56; saved, 14. Vessel: total loss.

This vessel was in convoy position 42, and five other ships of this convoy were lost on this and the preceding day. A torpedo hit in #3 tank port side, and blazing gasoline was sprayed over the entire ship, and the deck officers on the bridge are believed to have been instantly killed. The radio operator escaped from the midship house with the aid of a gas mask, but all other personnel there are believed to have been overcome by smoke and fumes. The general alarm was heard for a few seconds before the power failed. One lifeboat had been lost during the night owing to heavy weather, and the seas were so high that it was impossible to launch any of the remaining boats at this time. Two men jumped overboard in lifesaving suits, which became waterlogged, and one cut his way out of his, while the other was lost in an attempt to haul him aboard the escort vessel. Thirteen men remained aft on the tanker through the night, after a fourteenth had been lost in flaming gasoline when he jumped in an effort to reach the corvette. These crew members were all safely rescued at daylight by the escort, as they jumped one by one, and were taken aboard the Canadian ship.

The PAN NEW YORK was sunk by escort depth charges at 1203 the same day.

