

15 April, 1944

140 S.S. PAN PENNSYLVANIA

U.S. Tanker; built 1943; 10,017 gross tons; cargo, gasoline and planes.
Departed New York 15 April, 1944, in convoy for United Kingdom.
Torpedoed 15 April, 1944, 0805 EWT, 150 miles E. Ambrose Light.
Weather, hazy; sea, slight swells; wind, moderate NNE.
On board, 81; saved, 56.
Vessel: total loss.

One day out of port, this vessel was torpedoed just as the convoy was forming. Owing to certain necessary commitments ashore, it had been impossible to hold a boat drill before sailing, and when the torpedo struck on the port side, aft, several of the crew, in a panic, started to lower #1 and #4 boats without orders. The Master did not immediately give the order to abandon ship, and tried to stop the men from lowering the boats; however, #3 hit the water and swamped, as the tanker still had considerable way on, and the men in it were lost. At 0845, when the report was received that the engine room was filling with gas and afire, the order to abandon was given, but 3 men were crushed in lowering #2 boat on the weather side. The survivors in the two lifeboats were picked up by the escort vessels after about 45 minutes, and the submarine was brought to the surface by depth charges, and its crew of 11 taken prisoner.

The derelict tanker capsized, its gasoline still burning, and was bombed and sunk by Allied planes on 18 April.