

95. S.S. PATRICK J. HURLEY

U.S. Tanker, built 1941; 10,864 gross tons; cargo, gas and oil.  
 Departed Aruba, N.W.I., 7 September, 1942, for Avonmouth, England.  
 Shelled and sunk, 12 September, 1942, 2030; 22°10 N.- 47°4 W.  
 Weather, clear; sea, calm; wind, light S.E.  
 On board, 62; saved, 45.  
 Vessel: total loss.

The lookout sighted the submarine about 150 yards off the starboard bow, and the enemy immediately opened fire with machine guns, green tracer shells, and heavy shells believed to be from a 5" gun, and they displayed excellent marksmanship. The gun crew fired on the submarine, and several hits were scored, but with unknown results, and, as the tanker was soon ablaze from stem to stern, the guns had to be abandoned. The crew left the ship in #2 and #4 lifeboats and two rafts. One of the boats capsized in launching, but was righted at daylight, and the men from the rafts were distributed between the two boats - 22 in one and 23 in the other. The column of smoke from the burning vessel disappeared abruptly just after dawn, and she is presumed to have sunk at that time.

One lifeboat was picked up by the Swedish SS ETNA after seven days, and the survivors landed in New York on 2 October. The occupants of the other boat, after sailing for twenty days, finally sighted a British Merchantman, which took them aboard and landed them at Charleston, S.Car., leaving a total of 17 unaccounted for and presumed lost with the ship.

