

7 July, 1942

85. S.S. PAUL H. HARWOOD

U.S. Tanker, built 1918; 6,610 gross tons; in ballast.

Departed New York, 24 June, 1942, for Port Arthur, Texas.

Torpedoed 7 July, 1942, 0320 CWT; 29°26' N. - 87°38' W.

Weather, cloudy; sea, calm; wind, light.

On board, 56; saved, 56.

Vessel: salvaged.

This tanker was traveling in convoy with three other ships, escorted by a destroyer, when without warning a torpedo struck abaft midships on the port side. A large hole was torn in the ship's side, but the engine room was untouched, and the machinery functioned as usual. One raft was tripped accidentally, either by the concussion or by a hasty crew member, and trailed beside the ship on its painter, but no boats were launched in order to abandon the vessel. She was able to proceed at only a slightly reduced speed, and when the destroyer came alongside to see if help was needed, she was able to reply in the negative, and the Naval vessel continued on its search for the submarine; and was not again sighted until the HARWOOD was anchored at Pilottown.

There were no casualties.

