

S.S. POTLATCH

On 27 June, 1942, the SS POTLATCH, a freighter of 6065 gross tons, built in 1920, was torpedoed and sunk in position 19.20N, 53.18W, while independently en route from New York to Suez, via Trinidad. The ship sank two minutes after being hit and forty-nine out of the fifty-five aboard abandoned her using one lifeboat and three liferafts. Later, all forty-nine transferred to a forty person lifeboat and in thirty-two days sailed to Acklin Island.

In this case the obvious lack of time to launch boats was supplemented by life rafts which provided a temporary refuge until the lifeboat was reached. The lifeboat was well provisioned and well constructed as proven by the fact that there were forty-nine persons in a forty person lifeboat for thirty-two days.

had the lifeboat not been on board, there unquestionably would not have been any survivors to report the tragic details of this disaster.