

13 August 1942

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91. S.S. R. M. PARKER, JR.

U.S. Tanker, built 1919; 6,779 gross tons; in ballast.  
Departed Baltimore, Md., for Port Arthur, Texas.  
Torpedoed and shelled, 13 August, 1942; 0048 CWT; 28°37 N.- 90°48 W.  
Weather, clear; sea, calm; wind, light W.  
On board, 44; saved, 44.  
Vessel: total loss.

The wake of the torpedo was seen by the lookouts aft a few seconds before it struck on the port side amidships, followed less than ten seconds later, by another in nearly the same spot. Although both main and emergency antennae were down, a distress message was sent on the auxiliary transmitter in the hope that it would carry the short distance to shore stations. The port forward lifeboat was destroyed by the explosion, but the crew abandoned ship, on the Master's orders, in the three remaining boats.

After the ship was abandoned, the submarine surfaced, and fired 5 shells into her, one of which apparently hit the ready box on the after gun platform and fired the magazine. The ship went down by the stern soon afterwards, till it rested on bottom with a part of the upper works above water.

The men in the boats were seen by a patrol plane at daylight, and picked up by the CG Auxiliary PIONEER, a shrimp lugger, and taken to Morgan City, La., landing at 2020 CWT the same day. There were no casualties.

