

4 October, 1942

98. S.S. ROBERT H. COLLEY

U.S. Tanker, built 1938; 11,651 gross tons; cargo, fuel oil.
 Departed New York, 24 September, 1942, in convoy for United Kingdom.
 Torpedoed 4 October, 1942, 1640 Ship's time; 59°06 N. 26°15 W.
 Weather, overcast; sea, very rough; wind, gale force, W.
 On board, 61; saved, 33.
 Vessel: total loss.

Traveling in a convoy of 36 merchant vessels with 5 British corvettes and 1 destroyer, this ship was hit by a torpedo just forward of her mainmast, and immediately broke in two in the heavy sea which was running. Both halves remained afloat until the following day, although none of those marooned forward is known to have survived. Two rafts and two boats were put over from the stern section; no one left on the rafts, but 11 men got away in the boats and were not heard from again. 33 remained on the stern section through the night, and were taken off next morning by the H.M.S. BORAGE with great difficulty in the heavy weather, and excellent seamanship and bravery.

The forward section probably sank some time during the night, and the after part was sent to the bottom by gunfire and depth charges from the escort vessel at 1600, 5 October. The 33 survivors were landed at Londonderry, North Ireland, at 0730, 11 October, 1942.

