

100. S. S. SWIFTSURE

U.S. Tanker, built 1921; 8,206 gross tons; cargo, diesel oil.
 Departed Abadan, Persia, for Capetown, S.A.
 Torpedoed 8 October, 2150 L.A.T.; 34°40 S.- 18°25 E.
 Weather, hazy; sea, long swells; wind, light N.W.
 On board, 33; saved, 33.
 Vessel: total loss.

The track of the torpedo was seen when still 200 yards away, approaching from abaft the beam, but it was impossible to maneuver the ship in time to avoid the hit. The #8 tank was blasted open, and switchboards and ammonia lines of the refrigerator were damaged. The vessel almost immediately caught fire, and, after fighting the flames for over 1/2 hour, the Master ordered her abandoned. All crew members got off safely in #1, #3 and #4 lifeboats, and circled the burning ship for some time in the hope that the flames would die down. A short time later, a British mine sweeper came out and took the men to Capetown where minor injuries were treated. The Master wished to board the vessel again next day, in the hope of salvaging her, but she disappeared before the British craft transporting him reached the locality.

The survivors left Capetown 21 October, 1942, on the Dutch vessel MV ZAANDAM, which was also torpedoed 2 November, 1942, and a number of the SWIFTSURE's crew lost at that time.

