

22 May, 1942

69. S.S. WM. BOYCE THOMPSON (1)  
 (See also Group 7, 7 July, 1943)

U.S. Tanker; built, 1921; 7,061 gross tons; in ballast.

Departed New York for Curacao, N.W.I.

Torpedoed 22 May, 1942, 1905 EWT; 16°26' N.- 77°51' W.

Weather, clear; sea, moderate; wind, fresh SSE.

On board, 39; saved, 39.

Vessel: made port, salvaged.

The attack on this vessel was made at dusk, and a torpedo struck to starboard almost amidships. The boat stations were manned, but the list to starboard which had immediately resulted was corrected by shifting ballast. The Master, finding the machinery and steering gear uninjured, altered the ship's course and ordered the Chief Engineer to make full speed and all possible smoke, and the vessel made port under her own power. The #1 lifeboat was destroyed by the explosion, and #3 was partly lowered hastily by some of the crew, and the side stove in before it was hoisted up again. About 2-1/2 hours after the attack, an explosion was observed in the shoal water to port, and may have been another torpedo which missed its mark, or even the submarine itself trying to get around and attack from the other side, and striking the reef instead.

