

7 July, 1943

126 S.S. WM. BOYCE THOMPSON (2)
(See also 22 May, 1942)

U.S. Tanker, built 1921; 7,061 gross tons; in ballast.
Departed Bahia, Brazil, 3 July, 1943, for Trinidad, in convoy.
Torpedoed 7 July, 1943, 0145; 04°00 S.- 36°00 W.
On board, 57; saved, 53.
Vessel: total loss.

The vessel carried the convoy Commodore and 5 of his staff in addition to the crew and armed guard, and was in convoy station #41 when hit by a torpedo which demolished the engine room completely. Within 8 minutes of the attack, 12 crew members abandoned the tanker in #4 lifeboat against the orders of the Captain, and were picked up by other ships of the convoy. As the vessel was out of control and settling slowly, the remainder of the crew was ordered to abandon her about 0900 on 7 July, and were taken aboard the SS SURPRISE and landed at Recife 10 July, 1943, where one survivor died in the hospital.

The ship capsized around midnight of the same day, and the convoy escort fired shots and depth charges into the hulk, which finally sank at 1830, 9 July, 1942. The JAMES ROBERTSON, aboard which those who left the WM. BOYCE THOMPSON prematurely were taken, was attacked and sunk the same night, and those men sailed three days in the JAMES ROBERTSON's lifeboat until they landed at Fort Luiza, Brazil.

