

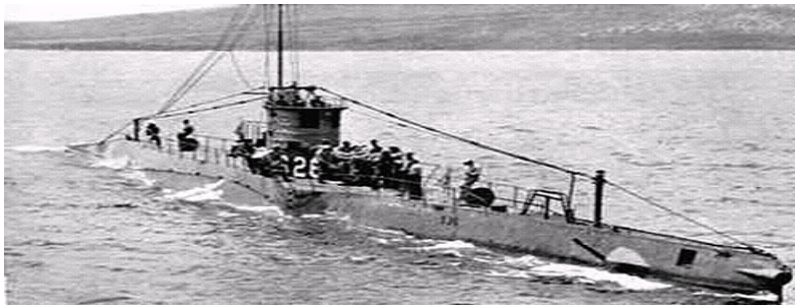


Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

USS S-26 (SS 131)

January 24, 1942 - 46 Men Lost

S-26, led by LCDR E.C. Hawk, was lost on January 24, 1942 in the Gulf of Panama about 14 miles west of San Jose Light in three hundred feet of water. There were three survivors, two officers, one of whom was the Commanding Officer, and one enlisted man. These people were on the bridge at the time of the collision; the fourth person on the bridge, an enlisted man, was lost.



S-26 was proceeding from Balboa, C.Z. to its patrol station in company with S-21, S-29 and S-44 and an escort vessel, PC-460, at the time of the disaster. At 2210 the escort vessel sent a visual message to the submarines that she was leaving the formation and that they could proceed on the duty assigned. S-21 was the only submarine to receive this message. Shortly thereafter PC-460 struck S-26 on the starboard side of the torpedo room and the submarine sank within a few seconds.

Salvage operations were started immediately under Captain T.J. Doyle, USN, Commander Submarine Squadron Three and Submarine Base, Coco Solo, Canal Zone, and attempts at rescue were made, but without success. The submarine was not raised. She had previously made one war patrol, but had inflicted no damage on the enemy.

Sailors Lost On USS S-26 (SS 131) 1-24-1942

Adams, L. W. MM2

USS S-26 (SS 131)

Amick, L. A. S2
Anderson, G. W. EM2
Baranick, G. F2
Bauer, C. A. MM1
Baumbach, A. S2
Biebuyck, W. S1
Brown, C. Y1
Burchart, E. B MM1
Burroughs, G. O. F2
Claflin, C. R. F2
Clark, C. C. F1
Clough, R. K. MM2
Crabtree, E. O. S1
Crumbley, B. CEM
Dawson, J. D. RM3
Ehrle, E. GM3
Evans, D. B. CMM
Freeman, R. A. MM2
Gamble, R. F. MM2
Gill, J. M. CTMA
Holt, R. E. QM2
Homic, B. S. MM1
Johnson, N. MATT1
Kasserbaum, J. J. MM1
Lorente, W. C. EM1
Love, L. M. S1
Machlachlan, R. RM1
Mattes, R. C. TM3
Nelson, R. E. AS
O'Brien, J. P. SM3
Peters, T. V. LT
Peterson, A. B. F1
Plyer, H. B. MM2
Ramsey, C. R. EM2
Rifkin, S. S. F2
Russell, G. G. EM2
Russler, C. E. SM1
Seibert, W. C. TM3
Shattuck, H. F. CTM
Shmutz, J. M. CRM
Stubbins, J. B. ENS
Taylor, H. L. ENS
Thompson, T. C. SC3
Tow, P. H. TM3
Vezina, R. D. F2