

# Canadian Merchant Ship Losses, 1939-1945

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## **Introduction**

The Canadian Merchant Marine had only forty-one ocean-going merchant ships at the outbreak of the Second World War. During the war this fleet expanded sharply because Canadian shipyards produced 403 merchant vessels. Most were taken over by Great Britain or the United States, but a significant number sailed under the Canadian flag. The cost of the war was high: fifty-eight Canadian-registered merchant ships were lost to enemy action - or probable enemy action — and 1146 Canadian merchant mariners perished at sea or in Axis prison camps. In addition, six Canadian government-owned, but British-registered, and eight Newfoundland-registered, merchantmen were lost to enemy action. Many other vessels serving the war effort were also lost at sea.

The following tables record the wartime losses of Canadian merchant ships. They are broken down by place of registry (Canada, Britain, Newfoundland), cause of loss (enemy action, marine accident), and extent of damage (total loss, repaired and returned to service). The lists provide the date, position, and cause of loss, the owner, tonnage, and whether the ship was sailing independently or in convoy. Information regarding crew size and casualties is included in the end notes if available. The quality of the sources for casualty and crew figures is uneven; hence, they must be used with caution. Discrepancies abound. The lists are as complete as possible but it is recognized that new information may come to light and some merchant ships may have slipped through the cracks of official records. Mystery still surrounds the fate of some of the vessels listed below.

## **Canadian-Registered Merchantmen Lost to Enemy Action**

This list includes only merchant ships registered in Canada which were lost, or probably lost, to enemy action. It does not include ships registered in Newfoundland, Canadian-owned ships registered in Britain, or ships lost to marine causes. The Canadian government owned merchant ships through Canadian National Steamships, Canadian Government Merchant Marine, and Park Steamship Company. There is still some doubt regarding the circumstances of the loss of four of these merchant ships: *Kenordoc*, *Proteus*, *Nereus*, and *Robert W. Pomeroy*.

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Date	Ship (Convoy)	Owner	Cause of Loss	Tonnage	Position
<b>1940</b>					
15 June	<i>Erik Boye'</i> (HX-48)	Canadian Government	Torpedoed by <i>U-38</i>	2,238	South of Ireland, 50-37N 08-44W
5 July	<i>Magog'</i> (HX-52)	Canada Steamships	Torpedoed and Shelled by <i>U-99</i>	2,053	South of Ireland 50-3 IN 11-05W
10 July	<i>Waterloo'</i>	Canada Steamships	Bombed by German aircraft	1,905	North Sea 52-53N 02-19E
22 Aug.	<i>Thorola*</i>	Quebec & Ontario Transportation	Bombed by German aircraft	1,689	Irish Sea 51-46N 05-38W
15 Sept.	<i>Kenordoc'</i> (SC-3)	Paterson Steamships	Torpedoed or Shelled by U-boat	1,780	North Atlantic 57-42N 15-02W
15 Oct.	<i>Saint Maid'</i> (HX-77)	Canadian Government	Torpedoed by <i>U-101</i>	5,779	North Atlantic 57-58N 16-32W
16 Oct.	<i>Trevisa'</i> (SC-7)	Canadian Lake Carriers	Torpedoed by <i>U-124</i>	1,813	North Atlantic 57-28N 20-30W
<b>1941</b>					
6 Feb.	<i>Maplecourf</i> (SC-20)	United Towing & Salvage	Torpedoed by (7-/07)	3,388	North Atlantic 55-39N 15-56W
21 Feb.	<i>Canadian Cruiser</i>	Canadian Tramp Shipping	Sunk by raider ( <i>Admiral Scheer</i> )	7,178	Indian Ocean 06-36S 47-18E
22 Feb.	<i>A.D. Huff</i>	Atlantic Transportation	Sunk by raider ( <i>Gneisenau</i> )	6,219	North Atlantic 47-12N 40-13W
17 Mar.	<i>J.B. White'''</i> (HX-112)	Atlantic Transportation	Torpedoed by <i>U-99</i>	7,375	North Atlantic 60-57N 12-27W
25 Mar.	<i>Canadolite''</i>	Imperial Oil	Captured by raider ( <i>Kormoran</i> )	11,309	Central Atlantic 02-30N 23-48W
7 Apr.	<i>Portadoc<sup>e</sup></i>	Paterson Steamships	Torpedoed by <i>U-124</i>	1,746	Off Sierra Leone 07-17N 16-53W
3 May	<i>Europa''</i>	Canadian Government	Bombed by German aircraft	10,224	Liverpool, UK
13 July	<i>Collingdoc''</i>	Paterson Steamships	Mined; salvaged and sunk as a blockship	1,780	Thames River, U (off Southend)
15 Oct.	<i>Vancouver Island''</i>	Canadian Government	Torpedoed by <i>U-558</i>	9,472	North Atlantic 53-37N 25-37W
25 Nov.	<i>Proteus'''</i>	Saguenay Terminals	Cause unknown, Sabotage suspected	10,653	Caribbean Sea (unknown)

Dale	Ship (Convoy)	Owner	Cause of Loss	Tonnage	Position
12 Dec.	<i>Nereus</i> "	Saguenay Terminals	Cause unknown, Sabotage suspected	10,647	Caribbean Sea (unknown)
12 Dec.	<i>Shinai</i> "	George L. Shaw	Seized by Japanese Forces	2,410	Kuching, North Borneo
1942					
19 Jan.	<i>Lady Hawkins</i> "	Canadian National Steamships	Torpedoed by <i>U-66</i>	7,988	Off North Carolina 35-00N 72-30W
4 Feb.	<i>Montrolite</i> "	Imperial Oil	Torpedoed by <i>U-109</i>	11,309	N.E. of Bermuda 35-14N 60-05W
5 Feb.	<i>Empress of Asia</i> "	Canadian Pacific	Bombed by Japanese aircraft	16,909	Off Singapore
10 Feb.	<i>Viclolile</i> "	Imperial Oil	Torpedoed by <i>U-564</i>	11,410	N.W. of Bermuda 36-12N 67-14W
22 Feb.	<i>George L Torian</i> "	Upper Lakes	Torpedoed by <i>V-129</i>	1,754	Off Guyana 09-13N 59-04W
23 Feb.	<i>Lennox</i> "	Canada Steamships	Torpedoed by <i>U-129</i>	1,904	Off Guyana 09-15N 58-30W
15 Mar.	<i>Sarniadic</i> "	Paterson Steamships	Torpedoed by <i>U-161</i>	1,940	Caribbean Sea 15-45N 65-00W
1 Apr.	<i>Robert W. Pomeroy</i> " (FN-70)	Upper Lakes	Mined off Cromer, England	1,750	North Sea 53-10N 01-10E
20 Apr.	<i>Vinelanc</i> "	Markland Shipping	Torpedoed by <i>U-154</i>	5,587	Caribbean Sea 23-05N 72-20W
1 May	<i>James E. Newsom</i> "	Zwicker & Geldert	Shelled by <i>U-69</i>	671	N.E. of Bermuda 35-50N 59-40W
5 May	<i>Lady Drake</i> "	Canadian National Steamships	Torpedoed by <i>U-106</i>	7,985	North of Bermuda 35-43N 64-43W
7 May	<i>Mildred Pauline</i> "	Richard T. Scintilli	Shelled by <i>U-136</i>	300	North Atlantic 39-40N 55-00W
8 May	<i>Mont Louis</i> "	Hall Corp.	Torpedoed by <i>U-162</i>	1,905	Off Guyana 08-23N 58-44W
9 May	<i>Calgarolile</i> "	Imperial Oil	Torpedoed and Shelled by <i>U-125</i>	11,941	Caribbean Sea 19-24N 82-30W
21 May	<i>Torondoc</i> "	Paterson Steamships	Torpedoed by <i>U-69</i>	1,927	Caribbean Sea 14-45N 62-15W
21 May	<i>Troisdoc</i> "	Paterson Steamships	Torpedoed by <i>U-558</i>	1,925	Caribbean Sea 18-15N 79-20W

Date	Ship (Convoy)	Owner	Cause or Loss	Tonnage	Position
22 May	<i>Frank B. Baird</i>	Upper Lakes	Shelled by <i>U-158</i>	1,748	S.E. of Bermuda 28-03N 58-50W
30 May	<i>Liverpool Packet</i>	Markland Shipping	Torpedoed by <i>U-432</i>	1,188	Off Cape Sable 43-20N 66-20W
28 June	<i>Mona Marie</i>	Lemuel J. Ritcey	Shelled by <i>U-126</i>	126	Caribbean Sea 12-22N 60-10W
25 July	<i>Lucille U.</i>	Frederick Sutherland	Shelled by <i>U-89</i>	54	Off Cape Sable 42-44N 65-38W
29 July	<i>Prescodoc</i> <sup>TM</sup>	Paterson Steamships	Torpedoed by <i>U-160</i>	1,938	Off Guyana 08-50N 59-05W
17 Aug.	<i>Princess Marguerite</i>	Canadian Pacific	Torpedoed by <i>U-83</i>	5,875	Mediterranean Sea 32-03N 32-47E
3 Sept.	<i>Donald Stewart</i> (LN-7)	Canada Steamships	Torpedoed by <i>U-517</i>	1,781	Belle Isle Strait 50-32N 58-46W
5 Sept.	<i>Lord Strathcona</i>	Dominion Shipping	Torpedoed by <i>U-513</i>	7,335	Conception Bay 47-35N 52-59W
6 Sept.	<i>John A. Holloway</i>	Upper Lakes	Torpedoed by <i>U-164</i>	1,745	Caribbean Sea 14-10N 71-30W
7 Sept.	<i>Oaklon</i> (QS-33)	Gulf & Lake Navigation	Torpedoed by <i>U-517</i>	1,727	Gulf St. Lawrence 48-50N 63-46W
18 Sept.	<i>Norfolk</i>	Canada Steamships	Torpedoed by <i>U-175</i>	1,901	Off Guyana 08-36N 59-20W
9 Oct.	<i>Carolus</i> (NL-9)	Canadian Government	Torpedoed by <i>U-69</i>	2,375	St. Lawrence River 48-47N 68-10W
29 Oct.	<i>Bic Island</i> (HX-212)	Canadian Government	Torpedoed by <i>U-624</i>	4,000	North Atlantic 55-05N 23-27W
2 Nov.	<i>Rose Castle</i>	Dominion Shipping	Torpedoed by <i>U-518</i>	7,803	Conception Bay 47-36N 52-58W
3 Nov.	<i>Chr. J. Kampmann</i> (TAG-18)	Canadian Government	Torpedoed by <i>U-160</i>	2,260	Caribbean Sea 12-06N 62-42W
<b>1943</b>					
19 May	<i>Angelus</i> <sup>o</sup>	Canadian Government	Shelled by <i>U-161</i>	255	North of Bermuda 38-40N 64-00W
6 July	<i>Jasper Park</i> <sup>t</sup>	Park Steamship Company	Torpedoed by (7-/77)	7,129	Indian Ocean 32-52S 42-15E

Date	Ship (Convoy)	Owner	Cause of Loss	Tonnage	Position
<b>1944</b>					
22 Mar.	<i>Watuka</i> " (SH-125)	Nova Scotia Steel & Coal	Torpedoed by <i>U-802</i>	1,621	Off Halifax 44-30N 62-51W
18 June	<i>Albert C. Fiolet</i> ' (EBC-14)	Upper Lakes	Torpedoed by German aircraft	1,764	English Channel 50-28N 01-46W
3 Dec.	<i>Cornwallis</i> "	Canadian National Steamships	Torpedoed by <i>U-1230</i>	5,458	Gulf of Maine 43-59N 68-20W
<b>1945</b>					
23 Feb.	<i>Point Pleasant Park</i> "	Park Steamship Company	Torpedoed and shelled by <i>U-510</i>	7,136	South Atlantic 29-42S 09-58E
13 Mar.	<i>Taber Parla</i> '' (FS-1753)	Park Steamship Company	Torpedoed by midget submarine	2,878	North Sea 52-22N 01-53E
7 May	<i>Avondale Park</i> '	Park Steamship Company	Torpedoed by <i>U-2336</i>	2,878	Firth of Forth 56-1 ON 02-32W

### Newfoundland-Registry Ships Lost to Enemy Action

This list includes merchant ships registered in Newfoundland that were lost to enemy action during the war. These ships are not included in Canadian wartime records because Newfoundland did not join Confederation until 1949.

Date	Ship	Owner	Cause of Loss	Tonnage	Position
<b>1940</b>					
8 July	<i>Number Arm</i> <sup>TM</sup> (HX-53)	Bowater Paper	Torpedoed by <i>U-99</i>	5,758	South of Ireland 50-36N 09-24W
4 Aug.	<i>Geraldine Mary</i> (HX-60)	Donaldson Brothers	Torpedoed by <i>U-52</i>	7,244	North Atlantic 56-46N 15-48W
<b>1941</b>					
9 May	<i>Esmond</i> (OB-318)	Donaldson Brothers	Torpedoed by <i>U-110</i>	4,976	North Atlantic 60-45N 33-02W
20 May	<i>Rothermere</i> ' (HX-126)	Donaldson Brothers	Torpedoed by <i>U-98</i>	5,356	North Atlantic 57-48N 41-36W

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ship</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Cause of Loss</b>	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>1942</b>					
9 May	<i>Kilty's Brook</i> <sup>'''</sup>	Bowater Paper	Torpedoed by <i>U-588</i>	4,031	Off Cape Sable 42-59N 64-56W
11 Oct.	<i>Waterton</i> <sup>''</sup> (BS-31)	Bowater Paper	Torpedoed by <i>U-106</i>	2,140	Cabot Strait 47-07N 59-54W
14 Oct.	<i>Caribou</i> <sup>''</sup>	Newfoundland Government	Torpedoed by <i>11-69</i>	2,222	Cabot Strait 47-19N 59-29W
<b>1944</b>					
3 Sept.	<i>Livingston</i> <sup>''</sup> (ONS-251)	Bowater Paper	Torpedoed by <i>U-541</i>	2,140	Off Cape Breton 46-15N 58-05W

### **Canadian-Registry Merchant Ships Lost to Marine Causes**

This is a partial list of merchant ships registered in Canada which were lost during the war to marine accident or other causes not the result of enemy action. It does not include ships lost in the Great Lakes, less than 500 gross tons, or registered in Newfoundland.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ship</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Cause of Loss</b>	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>1940</b>					
27 Nov.	<i>Lisieu</i> <sup>''</sup>	Canadian Government	Lost in gale	2,594	North Atlantic 48-08N 47-50W
6 Dec.	<i>Watkins F. Nisbet</i>	Upper Lakes	Ran ashore and wrecked; Salved for scrap	1,747	Bristol Channel
<b>1941</b>					
5 Oct.	<i>Mondoc</i> <sup>®</sup>	Paterson Steamships	Struck submerged object and grounded	1,926	Caribbean Sea
<b>1942</b>					
15 Jan.	<i>R.J. Cullen</i>	Atlantic Transportation	Wrecked two miles off Barra Island, Outer Hebrides	6,993	Sea of Hebrides
23 Oct.	<i>Canatco66</i> (LN-11)	Canada Atlantic Transit	Ran aground on Gannet Rock and sank	2,415	Labrador coast 53-56N 56-25W
12 Nov.	<i>Lillian E. Kerr</i> <sup>®</sup>	James L. Publicover	Collision with <i>Alcoa Pilot</i>	521	Gulf of Maine 42-27N 68-35W

Date	Ship	Owner	Cause of Loss	Tonnage	Position
<b>1943</b>					
1 Jan.	<i>Hamildoc</i> **	Paterson Steamships	Foundered in heavy seas; total loss	1,926	Off Trinidad 09-ION 60-30W

### Canadian-Registry Merchant Ships Damaged in Action

This list includes merchantmen registered in Canada that were damaged by enemy action or other war-related causes but survived. It is subjective in that it only includes ships that suffered fairly severe damage. Ships marked with an asterisk (\*) were lost at a later date.

Date	Ship	Owner	Cause of Damage	Tonnage	Position
<b>1940</b>					
16 Nov.	<i>Sherbrooke</i>	Canada Steamships	Bombed by German aircraft	2,052	North Sea (Off Orfordness)
16 Dec.	<i>Bic Island</i> *	Canadian Government	Bombed by German aircraft	4,000	North Atlantic 54-12N 17-45W
21 Dec.	<i>Europa</i> *	Canadian Government	Bombed by German aircraft	10,224	Liverpool, UK
<b>1941</b>					
13 Feb.	<i>Wescliffe Hall</i>	Hall Corp.	Bombed by German aircraft	1,900	North Sea (Off Whitby)
12 Aug.	<i>Eaglescliffe Hall</i>	Hall Corp.	Bombed by German aircraft	1,900	North Sea (Off Sunderland)
17 Aug.	<i>Kindersley</i>	Canada Steamships	Bombed by German aircraft	1,999	North Sea (Off Blyth)
11 Dec.	<i>Colborne</i>	Canadian National Steamships	Bombed by Japanese aircraft	6,230	Penang, Malaysia
<b>1942</b>					
7 Feb.	<i>Maurienne</i> '''	Canadian Government	Caught fire and sank; Salvaged and repaired	3,259	Halifax harbour (Pier 27/28)
10 Mar.	<i>Lady Nelson</i> '''	Canadian National Steamships	Torpedoed by (7-/67 Salvaged and repaired	7,970	Port Castries, St. Lucia
11 Sept.	<i>Cornwallis</i> *	Canadian National Steamships	Torpedoed by <i>U-514</i>	5,458	Bridgetown, Barbados 13-05N 59-36W

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ship</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Cause of Damage</b>	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>1945</b>					
4 Jan.	<i>Nipawan Park'</i> (SH-194)	Park Steamship Company	Torpedoed by <i>U-1232</i>	2,373	Off Halifax 44-28N 62-59W
6 Mar.	<i>Green Hill Park'</i>	Park Steamship Company	Explosion and Fire; Constructive total loss. Sold, repaired, and renamed <i>Phaeax II</i>	7,168	Vancouver harbour
12 Apr.	<i>Silver Star Park</i>	Park Steamship Company	Collision and Fire; Hulk sold, repaired, and renamed <i>Santa Cecilia</i>	7,243	Off New York

### **Canadian Merchant Ships (British Registry) Lost to Enemy Action**

This list includes merchantmen owned by the Canadian government but registered in Great Britain. These ships were owned by a crown corporation, Wartime Merchant Shipping Ltd., which chartered them to the British Ministry of War Transport.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ship</b>	<b>Cause of Loss</b>	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>1943</b>				
2 Dec.	<i>Fort Athabasca'</i>	Explosion of Ammunition ship bombed by aircraft	7,132	Bari harbour, Italy
<b>1944</b>				
25 Jan.	<i>Fort Bellingham''</i> (JW-56A)	Torpedoed by <i>U-360</i> and <i>U-957</i>	7,153	Arctic Ocean 73-25N 25-10E
15 Feb.	<i>Fort St. Nicholas''</i>	Torpedoed by <i>U-410</i>	7,154	Mediterranean Sea 40-34N 14-37E
19 May	<i>Fort Missanabie'''</i> (HA-43)	Torpedoed by <i>U-453</i>	7,147	Mediterranean Sea 38-20N 16-28E
24 June	<i>Fort Norfolk'</i>	Mined off assault beaches, Normandy	7,131	English Channel
15 Dec.	<i>Fort Maisonneuve</i>	Mined, Scheldt Estuary	7,128	Netherlands

**Canadian Merchant Ships (British Registry) Damaged in Action**

This list includes Canadian government-owned merchantmen registered in Great Britain. The list is subjective in that only those severely damaged by enemy action or other war-related mishaps are included. Ships suffering only superficial damage have been excluded.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ship</b>	<b>Cause of Damage</b>	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>1944</b>				
14 Apr.	<i>Fort Crevier</i>	Severely damaged by explosion of <i>Fort Stikine</i> ; Used as a hulk, scrapped 1948	7,130	Bombay, India
14 May	<i>Fort Fidler</i>	Torpedoed by <i>U-616</i>	7,127	Mediterranean Sea 36-45N 00-55E
11 June	<i>Fort McPherson'</i>	Bombed by German aircraft	7,132	English Channel 50-02N 00-36W
26 July	<i>Fort McPherson</i>	Struck by flying bomb while under repair from the previous bombing	7,132	Victoria Dock, London, England
18 Aug.	<i>Fort Gloucester''</i> (FTM-70)	Torpedoed by German E-boat	7,127	English Channel

**Canadian Pacific Ships Lost or Damaged by Enemy Action**

Two Canadian Pacific losses, *Princess Marguerite* and *Empress of Asia*, were Canadian-registered and are included in that list as well. The remaining vessels below were registered in Great Britain. *Niagara* was only part-owned by Canadian Pacific. *Montrose* was converted into an auxiliary cruiser and lost as HMS *Forfar* and is not included here.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ship</b>	<b>Cause and Fate</b>	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>1940</b>				
5 Feb.	<i>Beaverburn</i> (OA-84)	Lost; Torpedoed by <i>U-41</i>	9,874	North Atlantic 49-20N 10-07W
18 June	<i>Niagara</i>	Lost by Mine	13,415	Off New Zealand 35-53S 174-53E

<b>Dale</b>	<b>Ship</b>	<b>Cause and Fate</b>	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>Position</b>
28 Oct.	<i>Empress of Britain</i>	Lost; Torpedoed by <i>U-32</i> after being bombed by German aircraft	42,348	Off Ireland 55-16N 09-50W
5 Nov.	<i>Beaverford</i> (HX-84)	Lost; sunk by raider ( <i>Admiral Scheer</i> )	10,042	North Atlantic 52-26N 32-34W
9 Nov.	<i>Empress of Japan</i>	Damaged; Bombed by German aircraft	26,032	North Atlantic 53-54N 14-28W
<b>1941</b>				
25 Mar.	<i>Beaverbrae</i>	Lost; Bombed by German aircraft	9,956	North Atlantic 60-12N 09-00W
2 Apr.	<i>Beaverdale*</i>	Lost; Torpedoed and shelled by <i>U-48</i>	9,957	North Atlantic 60-50N 29-19
10 Oct.	<i>Duchess of Atholl</i>	Lost; Torpedoed by <i>U-178</i>	20,119	South Atlantic 07-03S 11-12W
<b>1942</b>				
5 Feb.	<i>Empress of Asia</i>	Lost; Bombed by Japanese aircraft	16,909	Off Singapore
17 Aug.	<i>Princess Marguerite</i>	Lost; Torpedoed by <i>U-83</i>	5,875	Mediterranean Sea 32-03N 32-47E
<b>1943</b>				
13 Mar.	<i>Empress of Canada"</i>	Lost; Torpedoed by Italian submarine <i>Da Vinci</i>	21,517	South Atlantic 01-13S 09-57W
14 Mar.	<i>Duchess of York</i>	Damaged; Bombed by German aircraft	20,021	Off Cape Finisterre
11 July	<i>Duchess of York"</i> (OS-51)	Lost; Bombed by German aircraft	20,021	North Atlantic 41-18N 15-24W

### **Canadian-Built, American-Owned Ships Lost to Enemy Action**

These "Fort" ships were built in Canada during the war and sold to the US Maritime Commission under the terms of the Hyde Park Declaration. The US loaned these ships under the lend-lease agreement to Great Britain, where they were registered.

*Canadian Merchant Ship Losses, 1939-1945*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ship</b>	<b>Cause of Loss</b>	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>1942</b>				
17 May	<i>Fort Qu Appelle</i>	Torpedoed by <i>U-135</i>	7,127	North Atlantic 39-50N 63-30W
11 June	<i>Fort Good Hope</i>	Torpedoed by <i>U-159</i>	7,130	Off Panama 10-19N 80-16W
17 Aug.	<i>Fort la Reine</i> (PG-6)	Torpedoed by <i>U-658</i>	7,133	Caribbean Sea 18-80N 75-20W
<b>1943</b>				
6 Mar.	<i>Fort Battle River</i> (KMS-10)	Torpedoed by <i>U-410</i>	7,133	Off Portugal 36-33N 10-22W
17 Mar.	<i>Fort Cedar Lake</i> (SC-122)	Torpedoed by <i>U-338</i> and <i>U-665</i>	7,134	North Atlantic 52-14N 32-15W
20 Mar.	<i>Fort Mumford</i>	Torpedoed by <i>I-27</i> (Japanese submarine)	7,132	Indian Ocean 09-00N 71-00E
30 Mar.	<i>Fort a la Come</i>	Torpedoed by <i>U-596</i>	7,133	Mediterranean Sea 36-52N 01-47E
17 Apr.	<i>Fort Rampart</i> (HX-233)	Torpedoed by <i>U-628</i> and <i>U-226</i>	7,134	North Atlantic 47-22N 21-58W
11 May	<i>Fort Concord</i> (HX-237)	Torpedoed by <i>U-456</i> and/or <i>U-403</i>	7,138	North Atlantic 46-05N 25-20W
16 July	<i>Fort Franklin</i>	Torpedoed by <i>U-181</i>	7,135	Indian Ocean 22-36S 51-22E
20 July	<i>Fort Pelly</i>	Bombed by aircraft	7,131	Augusta, Sicily
24 July	<i>Fort Chilcotin</i>	Torpedoed by <i>U-172</i>	7,133	South Atlantic 15-03S 32-35W
<b>1943</b>				
6 Aug.	<i>Fort Halkett</i>	Torpedoed and shelled by <i>U-185</i>	7,133	South Atlantic 09- 30S 25-50W
13 Sept.	<i>Fort Babine</i>	Bombed by German aircraft	7,135	North Atlantic 41-31N 14-39W
19 Sept.	<i>Fort Longueuil</i>	Torpedoed by <i>U-532</i>	7,128	Indian Ocean 10- 00S 68-00E
23 Sept.	<i>Fort Jemseg</i> (ON-202)	Torpedoed by <i>U-238</i>	7,134	North Atlantic 53-18N 40-24W

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ship</b>	<b>Cause of Loss</b>	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>Position</b>
30 Sept.	<i>Fort Howe</i> (MKS-26)	Torpedoed by <i>U-410</i>	7,133	Mediterranean Sea 37-19N 06-40E
4 Oct.	<i>Fort Fitzgerald</i> (UGS-18)	Torpedoed by German aircraft	7,133	Mediterranean Sea 36-42N 01-17E
<b>1944</b>				
20 Jan.	<i>Fort</i> <i>Buckingham</i>	Torpedoed by <i>U-188</i>	7,122	Indian Ocean 08-19N 66-40E
25 Jan.	<i>Fort la</i> <i>Maune</i>	Torpedoed by <i>U-188</i>	7,130	Indian Ocean 13-04N 56-30E
3 Mar.	<i>Fort</i> <i>McLeod</i>	Torpedoed by <i>I-162</i> (Japanese submarine)	7,127	Indian Ocean 02-01N 77-06E
23 Aug.	<i>Fort Yale</i> (ETC-72)	Torpedoed by <i>U-480</i> while in tow after being damaged by a mine on 8 August	7,134	English Channel 50-23N 00-55W

*Note:* Two other ships in this class were torpedoed but survived. *Fort Lac la Ronge* was torpedoed but salvaged and later scrapped. *Fort Camosun* was torpedoed twice but survived both times. Three others were lost by marine causes or accidents. *Fort Confidence* caught fire and was beached. *Fort Stikine* was lost through an explosion. *Fort Montee* was lost to marine causes.

### **Some Losses of Canadian Interest**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ship</b>	<b>Cause of Loss</b>	<b>Tonnage</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>1940</b>				
2 Dec.	<i>Montrose</i>	Torpedoed by <i>U-99</i>	16,402	North Atlantic 54-35N 18-18W

[SS *Montrose* was owned by Canadian Pacific and registered in Britain. It was converted into an Armed Merchant Cruiser by the Royal Navy and serving as HMS *Forfar* when lost]

### **1941**

15 July	<i>Lady Somers</i>	Torpedoed by Italian submarine Morosini	8,194	North Atlantic 36-00N 21-00W
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[SS *Lady Somers* was owned by Canadian National Steamships and registered in Canada, but was requisitioned by the Admiralty and converted into an ocean boarding vessel. It was serving in this capacity when lost. Thus, for official purposes it is considered a Royal Navy vessel, not a Canadian merchant ship]

**1945**

28 Feb.	<i>Soreldoc</i>	Torpedoed by <i>U-1302</i>	1,926	English Channel 52-15N 05-35W
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[Soreldoc had been Canadian-owned and registered until 1944. In that year it was acquired by the US War Shipping Administration. It was registered in Panama with an American crew when lost]

**Statistics**

Canadian-Registry Merchant Ships Lost to Enemy Action	58
Newfoundland-Registry Merchant Ships Lost to Enemy Action	8
Canadian Government (British-Registry) Ships Lost to Enemy Action	6
Canadian-Registry Merchant Ships Damaged in Action	13
Canadian (British-Registry) Merchant Ships Damaged in Action	5
Canadian-Registry Merchant Ships Lost to Marine Causes	7
Canadian Pacific Ships Lost to Enemy Action	11
Canadian-Built, American-Owned, Ships Lost to Enemy Action	22

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## NOTES

- \* Robert C. Fisher is a naval historian with the Directorate of History at National Defence Headquarters. He would like to thank Drs. Roger Sarty and Kenneth Mackenzie for their support and assistance.
1. There were no casualties. SS *Erik Boye* (ex-Danish) had been taken in prize by the RCN.
  2. There were no fatalities.
  3. There were no fatalities.
  4. Ten men were killed and five wounded.
  5. Seven men were killed and thirteen survived.
  6. SS *Saint Malo* was a French vessel requisitioned by the Canadian Government. Twenty-eight of the forty-four crew were lost with the ship. Sixteen survivors (thirteen Canadians and three Free French) escaped in one lifeboat. Two days later they were taken in tow by a lifeboat from MV *Port Gisborne*. The survivors of *Saint Malo* boarded the other lifeboat on 21 October and were rescued by HM Tug *Salvonia* the following day, after being adrift for ten days.
  7. Seven of the twenty-one crew were killed. Some sources state that the owner was Keystone Transports Ltd.
  8. All thirty-seven crew were lost with the ship.
  9. Two of the crew were killed and the rest taken prisoner.
  10. There were thirty-eight survivors.
  11. The forty-four crew were taken prisoner. The Germans renamed MV *Canadolitetixe Sudetenland*. The Royal Air Force bombed and sank it at Brest on 14 August 1944.
  12. The survivors landed at French Guinea where they were held prisoner until exchanged for enemy prisoners six months later. One man died while incarcerated. SS *Portadoc* was *en route* from Saint John to Freetown, Sierra Leone.

13. There were no casualties. MV *Europa* (ex-Danish) had been taken in prize by the RCN.
14. There were no fatalities.
15. There were no survivors: sixty-five crew, eight DEMS gunners, and thirty-two passengers were lost with the ship. MV *Vancouver Island* (ex-German *Weser*) had been captured by HMCS *Prince Robert* on 25 September 1940.
16. SS *Proteus* sailed from St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands on 23 November with fifty-eight crew and a cargo of bauxite. It was lost without a trace. The Admiralty suspected sabotage because of the similar circumstances of the loss of SS *Nereus* but never confirmed it in either case.
17. SS *Nereus* sailed from St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands on 10 December with a cargo of bauxite and sixty-one persons on board. It was lost without a trace. See SS *Proteus* above.
18. Renamed *Shinai Maru* by the Japanese. Bombed and sunk by American aircraft on 16 September 1944.
19. SS *Lady Hawkins* carried 212 passengers and 109 crew *en route* to the West Indies. The survivors escaped in three lifeboats. Two were never found. The third lifeboat carried seventy-six persons but five died. SS *Coamo* rescued the seventy-one survivors on 20 January and landed them at San Juan, Puerto Rico. In total, 250 of the 321 persons on board were lost.
20. Twenty survivors were rescued by a freighter and landed at Halifax on 10 February. Twenty-seven crew and one DEMS gunner perished.
21. Seven persons were killed and 153 taken prisoner out of some 2200 on board.
22. All on board were killed: forty-five crew and two DEMS gunners.
23. Four survivors of the nineteen crew were rescued by a US Navy flying boat and landed at Trinidad. The German U-boat interrogated the survivors after the sinking and offered them directions, food, and water.
24. Two men were killed. SS *Athelrill* rescued the eighteen survivors. SS *Lennox* was *en route* from Paramaribo, Surinam to Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.
25. There were no survivors.
26. One man was killed.
27. SS *Vineland* was on provisional registry when sunk. Thirty-six survivors landed at Turks Island. One man was lost with the ship.
28. The nine-man crew survived and reached Bermuda.
29. SS *Lady Drake* was *en route* from Bermuda to Saint John with 272 persons on board. Six passengers and six crew were killed.
30. There were no survivors. It was carrying a cargo of molasses from Barbados to St. John's.
31. Thirteen of the twenty-one crew were killed. The eight survivors landed at Georgetown, Guyana.
32. The crew of MV *Calgarolite* escaped in two lifeboats. Twenty-three survivors landed at Isla Mujeres, Mexico on 12 May. Twenty-two survivors reached Isla Pines, Cuba on 13 May.
33. There were no survivors from the twenty-one crew members.
34. The nineteen crew were all rescued.
35. The crew was rescued.
36. There were two fatalities. The nineteen survivors took to the boats and rowed to Seal Island, NS. SS *Liverpool Packet* (ex-*Sonia*) had sailed from New York bound for St. John's via Halifax.
37. The crew survived.

38. The eleven crew escaped, including four wounded, and rowed 100 miles to shore, landing at Shelburne, NS.
39. SS *PredsednikKopajtic* rescued five survivors. Fifteen men went down with the ship which was *en route* from Georgetown, Guyana to Port-of-Spain, Trinidad with a cargo of bauxite.
40. Forty-nine persons were killed out of over 1000 on board.
41. There were three fatalities. HMCS *Shawinigan* and *Trail* rescued seventeen survivors.
42. SS *Lord Strathcona* was lying at anchor off Bell Island after loading a cargo of iron ore at Wabana, NF. The crew abandoned ship before the torpedoes struck.
43. Twenty-three of the twenty-four persons on board survived.
44. The escorts picked up all nineteen crew. SS *Oakton* had sailed from Montreal for Corner Brook with a cargo of coal.
45. US Navy records state that thirteen of nineteen crew survived. British sources claim that fourteen of twenty crew survived. In either case, six men were killed.
46. SS *Carolus* (prize ex-Finnish) had thirty crew on board, including six Canadians. HMCS *Arrowhead* and *Hepatica* rescued the nineteen survivors.
47. SS *Bic Island* (prize ex-Italian *Capo Noli*) was lost with all hands as well as survivors picked up from SS *Sourabaya* and SS *Gurney E. Newlin*.
48. SS *Rose Castle* was lying at anchor off Bell Island after loading iron ore at Wabana, waiting to sail with convoy WB-12 for Sydney. Sources vary as to the size of the crew and number of survivors. Three DEMS gunners and either forty or forty-three crew were on board. Most of the survivors were rescued by RCN Fairmile Motor Launches. Canadian records state that twenty-seven crew and one gunner were lost. British sources state that twenty-three crew and one gunner went down with the ship. American records maintain that sixteen crew and two gunners survived.
49. USS *Lea* rescued eight survivors from the twenty-seven crew and landed them at Curacao. SS *Chr. J. Kampmann* (ex-Danish) had been taken in prize by the RCN.
50. USS *Turner* rescued two survivors from the nine crew and landed them at Portland, ME on 27 May 1943. The French barquentine *Angelus* had been seized as a prize at Sydney on 11 May 1942 and turned over to the Canadian Government Merchant Marine. It was carrying molasses from Barbados to Halifax when sunk.
51. HMS *Quiberon* and *Quickmatch* rescued forty-five crew and six DEMS gunners. Four crew were killed.
52. SS *Watuka* was carrying coal from Louisbourg to Halifax. HMS *Anticosti* rescued the twenty-five survivors from the twenty-six crew.
53. There were twenty-nine survivors from the thirty-three crew, most rescued by HMS *Herschell*.
54. Thirty-six crew and seven DEMS gunners were lost. There were five survivors. It was carrying a cargo of molasses and sugar from Barbados to Saint John.
55. Nine men were killed. HMSAS *Africana* and the fishing vessel *Boy Russel* rescued the forty-nine survivors.
56. Manned by a British crew. Twenty-four crew and four DEMS gunners were killed of the thirty-two on board.
57. Manned by a British crew. Apparently there were two or three fatalities.
58. There were no fatalities.
59. Twenty-two men were killed and one was wounded.

60. SS *Kitty's Brook* was *en route* from New York to Argentina. Nine crew were lost of the thirty-two on board. The survivors rowed into Lockeport, NS.

61. SS *Waterton* was *en route* from Corner Brook to Sydney. There were no fatalities. HMCS *Vison* rescued the twenty-seven survivors.

62. SS *Caribou* was a passenger ferry *en route* from Sydney to Port-aux-Basques, Newfoundland. HMCS *Grandmere* rescued 101 survivors from the 237 persons on board. In total thirty-one crew and 105 passengers were lost.

63. There were fourteen survivors. Thirteen crew and one DEMS gunner were killed.

64. There were seventeen survivors from the twenty-nine crew.

65. SS *Mondoc* probably struck Darien rock off the east coast of Trinidad.

66. SS *Canatco* sank on 25 October. HMCS *Arrowhead* recovered the entire crew. The crew stated that an explosion caused the accident.

67. SS *Cyrus Field* recovered one crew member, who died on board without recovering consciousness. No others were found.

68. There were no fatalities.

69. There were no fatalities. MV *Maurienne* re-entered service in 1943.

70. Fourteen passengers and three crew were killed. Eleven others were hospitalized.

71. The fore-part sank, but the after-part was salvaged and towed into Halifax on 5 January. As a result, MV *Nipawan Park* was not considered "lost." Two members of the thirty-one crew were killed and three others hospitalized. HMCS *Kentville* rescued the twenty-nine survivors.

72. Two crew and six longshoremen were killed. The initial explosion occurred on 6 March but it burned for several days afterwards.

73. Thirty-six crew and three gunners were killed.

74. Twenty-one crew, seven DEMS gunners, and two of the convoy commodore's staff were killed out of seventy-five persons on board.

75. There were no casualties among the sixty-three persons on board.

76. Forty-nine survived out of the sixty-one crew.

77. Eight crew were killed and five wounded.

78. There were no fatalities.

79. There were no fatalities.

80. Twenty-one persons were killed.

81. US Navy records state that there were 1477 survivors from the 1892 persons on board. However, British sources state the total loss of life was 392. HMS *Corinthian* rescued the survivors.

82. There were 819 survivors out of 908 persons on board. HMCS *Iroquois* picked up 628 of the survivors.