



SS Boston

Type: Steam passenger ship
 Tonnage: 4,989 tons
 Completed: 1924 - Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corp, Sparrow's Point MD
 Owner: Coast Lines Ltd, Liverpool
 Homeport: London
 Date of attack: 25 Sep 1942
 Fate: Sunk by U-216 (Karl-Otto Schultz)
 Position: 54° 23'N, 27° 54'W - Grid AK 6656
 Complement: 66 (17 dead and 49 survivors).
 Convoy: RB-1
 Route: New York – Boston – Halifax - St. John's (21 Sep) – Londonderry
 Cargo: Ballast
 History: Completed in May 1924 as American Boston for Eastern Steamship Lines Inc, Portsmouth. 1942 given to Britain and transferred to the Ministry of War Transport.

Notes on event: At 16.37h on 25 Sep 1942, U-216 fired a spread of four torpedoes at convoy RB-1 about 610 miles east-southeast of Cape Farewell and claimed the sinking of a passenger ship of the Viceroy of India type (19,000 grt) with three hits.

In fact, the ship hit was the Boston (Master Robert Smith Cook Young) which had been used for coastal passenger services before the war and her high superstructure and twin funnels led Schultz to overestimate the size of his target. She was the ship of convoy commodore and sank turning over within seven minutes after being hit by two torpedoes on the port side through the forefoot and aft in the engine room.

The master, 52 crew members, three convoy signalmen and ten gunners (the ship was armed with one 12pdr and four machine guns) had abandoned ship quickly in four lifeboats and rafts in moderate weather with a heavy swell. The British steam merchant New Bedford acted as rescue vessel and tried to pick up the survivors, but had difficulties taking them aboard due to her peculiar shape. When lowering one of her own boats it was caught underneath the belting and capsized, tipping the chief officer H.F.W. Kaye into the sea. She then re-joined convoy after having rescued only two crew members.

The chief officer of New Bedford and 47 survivors, including the master of Boston, were picked up by HMS Veteran (D 72) (LtCdr T.H. Gardwood, RN) which was sunk the next day by U-404 (von Bülow) with all hands.

Aboard Boston when hit on 25 Sep 1942:

Name	Age	Rank	Served on		
Atkins, Joseph,			Merchant Navy	27	Fireman
Baker, Albert,			RN	19	Able Seaman (DEMS gunner)
Banville, Vincent Joseph,			Merchant Navy	46	Greaser
Barnes, James Edward,			Merchant Navy	27	Fireman
Barron, John Lawrence Innes,			RN	23	Convoy Signalman
Blair, Joseph Raymond,			British Army	23	Gunner (DEMS gunner)
Brown, James Worthy,			Merchant Navy	24	Sailor
Butcher, George Stephen,			Merchant Navy	32	Able Seaman
Byrne, Michael,			Merchant Navy	32	Greaser
Cole, Mansell Ernest,			Merchant Navy	29	Chief Steward
Connolly, Peter,			Merchant Navy	45	Fireman
Cooper, Reginald F.,			Merchant Navy	21	Assistant Steward
Davies, Edwin,			Merchant Navy	32	Fireman
Donaldson, William Andrew Millar,			MN	23	Second Officer
Dufoy, James,			British Army		Gunner (DEMS gunner)
Dunn, Ernest Roy,			RN	19	Able Seaman (DEMS gunner)
Dyson, John William,			Merchant Navy	23	Fireman
Emery, Thomas,			Merchant Navy	59	Chief Engineer Officer
Flanagan, Albert,			RN		Able Seaman (DEMS gunner)
Geary, James Albert Gordon,			MN	43	Second Engineer Officer
Gilchrist, Thomas,			RN24 Convoy		Leading Signalman
Griffin, Christopher George,			Merchant Navy	27	Assistant Steward
Hallam, Bert William,			Merchant Navy	52	Sailor Boston +
Hamwee, Joseph,			Merchant Navy	25	Second Radio Officer
Harrop-Lomas, Charles Gordon,			MN	17	Third Radio Officer
Hartley, Thomas William,			Merchant Navy	34	Sixth Engineer Officer
Higgins, Joseph A.,			Merchant Navy	26	Assistant Steward
Holliday, John,			Merchant Navy	32	Fifth Engineer Officer
Hope, Albert Joseph,			British Army	34	Gunner (DEMS gunner)
Howden, Walter,			British Army24		Gunner (DEMS gunner)
Jackson, Thomas,			Merchant Navy	30	Fourth Engineer Officer
Jeffery, Sidney Ronald,			RN	19	Able Seaman (DEMS gunner)
Johnston, John,			British Army	35	Lance Bombardier (DEMS gunner)
Jones, Edgar William,			Merchant Navy	42	First Radio Officer
Jones, Evan Thomas,			Merchant Navy	20	Able Seaman
Jones, Richard Alun Hugh,			Merchant Navy	36	Chief Officer
Kimpton, Thomas P.,			Merchant Navy	49	Sailor
Kinsella, Michael Patrick,			Merchant Navy	25	Fireman
Lewis, Glyn Francis,			Merchant Navy	28	Extra Third Engineer Officer
Lloyd, Herbert,			Merchant Navy	37	Fireman
Lockie, Arnold,			Merchant Navy	20	Third Officer
Lowry, Samuel Charles,			Merchant Navy	40	Able Seaman
Macnab, Ian Roderick,			Merchant Navy	16	Galley Boy
Matson, James,			Merchant Navy	57	Donkeyman
McAllan, James Nisbett,			Merchant Navy	16	Assistant Steward
McDermott, James,			Merchant Navy	30	Fireman
McGrattan, James Philip,			RCNVR	23	Convoy Signalman
Mitchell, Albert,			Merchant Navy	21	Sailor
Myerscough, Gerald Edward,			MN	23	Seventh Engineer Officer
O'Loughlin, Dennis,			Merchant Navy	17	Mess Room Boy
Ozard, D.,			Merchant Navy		Able Seaman

Parry, J.E., Merchant Navy		Carpenter
Philbin, Henry, Merchant Navy	28	Fireman
Reeves, John, Merchant Navy	23	Assistant Cook and Baker
Reid, W., Merchant Navy		Fireman
Roffey, George Leonard, RN	20	Able Seaman (DEMS gunner)
Smith, Frederick George, Merchant Navy	47	Third Engineer Officer
Souter, George Henry, Merchant Navy	24	Cook Boston +
Stubbs, Melvin, Merchant Navy	23	Third Engineer Officer
Waters, Sidney Charles, Merchant Navy	29	Donkeyman
Weir, Robert John, Merchant Navy	32	Able Seaman
Wells, William, Merchant Navy	33	Greaser
Wheeler, Evan Emlyn, Merchant Navy	39	Fifth Engineer Officer
White, Thomas, Merchant Navy	37	Fireman
Wilson, William Richard, Merchant Navy	32	Able Seaman
Young, Robert Smith Cook, Merchant Navy	42	Master Boston, HMS Veteran (D 72)

66 persons found.