



Mercantile Marine

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Rosalia

Rosalia of the CSM fleet 27 July 1943 with a full cargo of 4,000 tons of crude oil en-route from Lagunillas with a crew of Dutch officers West Indians and Chinese, only thirteen of the crew survived the attack, the rest perished and the ship became a total loss with her Captain J. van der Linden.

Rosalia was unescorted and on the last leg of her voyage to Willemstad. At ten o'clock the ship staggered from a violent explosion, followed by a second explosion, the ship was on fire, with driving sheets of flame on the starboard side accomodation, where all crew on this side of the ship must have been killed in a matter of seconds. Chief Engineer Parmentier, dropped overboard and started to swim, the sea was aflame and fire was spreading rapidly over the water, the stern of Rosalie rose as she sank. The dread of the surface fire he swam clear and with time to adjust his life jacket, and switch on the emergency flashing light over his oily-covered body. Not long after the ship had burned out and sunk, a Dutch Torpedo Boat from Willemstad cruised around picking up survivors over a wide area.