



Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

USS R-12 (SS 89)

June 12, 1943 - 42 Men Lost

R-12 (LCDR E. E. Shelby) was lost between 12:20 and 12:25 PM on June 12, 1943 in six hundred feet of water, with the loss of forty two lives. The personnel on the bridge, two officers, including the Commanding Officer, and three enlisted men, were the only survivors. Those missing include four U.S. Naval officers, and thirty-six U.S. Naval enlisted men.



At the time of the accident R-12 was engaged in normal operations off Key West, Florida, being underway to take up her position for a torpedo practice approach. She was rigged for diving (except main induction was open and batteries were ventilating into the engine room) and riding the vents. The Commanding Officer was on the bridge in the act of turning the Officer of the Deck watch over to another officer when the collision alarm was sounded from below and the report that the forward battery compartment was flooding was passed to the bridge. Although the Commanding Officer gave immediate orders to blow main ballast and close the hatches, the ship sank in an estimated fifteen seconds from the time the alarm was sounded until the bridge was completely under water.

It was the opinion of the Court of Inquiry that the cause of the loss of R-12 was unknown, but probably was caused by the rapid flooding of the forward part of the ship through a torpedo tube.

Sailors Lost On USS R-12 (SS 89) 6-12-1943

Almeida, A. G. D. LT
Bacon, G. W. EM3
Bronson, R. B. F2
Buckley, J. J. SM1
Cashell, F. E. ENS
Clayton, H. L. CSMA
DeMoura, J. L. LT
Flisher, R. F. F1
Garbulsky, L. E. S2
Graziani, F. P., Jr. GM1
Hall, J. C., Jr. EM3
Harman, E. L., Jr. CRMA
Horton, J. U. LTJG
Horvath, J. S. TM1
Knapp, H. H. S2
Krigbaum, E. CMOMMA
Kymer, L. V. MOMM2
LeVan, C. B. S1
Lobeck, H. P. TM3
Mathis, C. V. TM3
McKibben, P. R. EM1
Moncada, J. MM1
Mullis, A. J. F2
Ness, G. W. S2
Noonan, P. L. S2
Rabbit, J. H. RM3
Rafferty, E. J. MM2
Schnake, L. E. F1
Scott, C. "R" F2
Secor, H. R. RM2
Shellenberger, H. H. F3
Smith, C. S. S2
Starks, R. N. LT
Sullivan, D. C. RM3
Thompson, R. A., Jr. S2
Unger, J. D. LTJG
Vincent, E. W. MOMM2
Walker, N. W. MOMM1
Walsh, E. F. MOMM2
Wheeler, K. J. SC3
Young, W. D. STM2
Zimmerman, G. A. F3

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SURVIVORS:

Includes 16 crewmembers ashore on liberty at time of accident.

Shelby, E. E. LCDR-CO
Sullivan, J. J. LCS
Van Leuven, F. A. F2
Wood, J. H. MOMM2
Zions, F. J. MOMM3
Schwartz, E. E. GM2
Schnee, A. J. EM2
Pool, S. H. S2
Pinkley, J. E. EM3
Ovenson, Leif F1
Niles, G. S1
Mayer, W. W. F1
Kapral, J. TM3
England, R. N. Y2
Durnengerger, R. F1
Davis, D. E. MOMM2
Cross, J. L. MM1
Boucher, C. A. SM3
Barnett, P. E. RM2
Balfe, R. B. TM2
Bailey, E. T. MOMM1

= Brazilian Navy