

15 February, 1942

12. S.S. E. H. BLUM

U.S. Tanker; built 1941; 11,615.69 gross tons; in ballast.
Departed Philadelphia, Pa., 15 February, 1942, for Atreco, Texas.
Damaged, 16 February, 1942, 2032 EWT, near Junction Buoy, off Cape
Henry, Va.
Weather, calm; dense fog.
Number on board, 40; saved, 40.
Vessel broke in two; both halves salvaged and rejoined.

According to the Master's report, the ship was hove-to near the Cape Henry Junction gas and whistle buoy, in order to pick up a pilot and receive permission from the Coast Guard to proceed to Lynn-Haven Roads for the night. Her speed was 4 knots at the time an explosion opened a crack in the engine room. The engine room force had turned to to caulk it, when a second blast 15 minutes later caused the Master to give the order to abandon ship. All four lifeboats were used, and three rafts were released, but not needed and drifted away. A third explosion took place after another quarter-hour interval, and the tanker was nearly broken in two. The vessel's owners arranged for both halves to be separated and brought to port, where they were rejoined and the ship later put back in service.

It is thought that the damage to the BLUM was not caused by enemy action, but by the inadvertent entry of the vessel into U. S. minefields.

