

H PHILADELPHIA.--THE E. H. BLUM, ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST TANKERS, WILL BE BACK TO HAUNT THE AXIS, ROBERT H. COLLEY, PRESIDENT OF THE ATLANTIC REFINING COMPANY, SAID TODAY.

COLLEY ANNOUNCED THAT THE BIG TANKER, WHICH WAS BLASTED IN HALF BY ENEMY MINES OFF THE VIRGINIA CAPES FEB. 16, WILL BE WELDED TOGETHER.

ITS RECONSTRUCTION WILL BE POSSIBLE, HE SAID, BY AN EXTRAORDINARY SALVAGE JOB PERFORMED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF NAVY EXPERTS AND L. M. GOLDSMITH, THE COMPANY'S CHIEF ENGINEER. THE STERN CONTAINING THE PROPULSION MACHINERY WAS LIFTED OUT OF 32 FEET OF WATER UNDER THE MOST TRYING AND DISHEARTENING CONDITIONS.

"TIME AFTER TIME THE SALVAGE CREW RETURNED TO THE WRECK, AFTER A STORM, TO FIND THEIR WORK UNDONE, THEIR EQUIPMENT LOST OVERBOARD AND HAD TO START ANEW," COLLEY SAID.

THE BLUM WAS WRECKED BY FIVE EXPLOSIONS WHILE RETURNING TO A TEXAS GULF PORT FROM PHILADELPHIA. ALL OF THE CREW, INCLUDING CAPT. W. L. EVANS, ABANDONED THE SHIP WITHOUT LOSS OF LIFE OR SERIOUS INJURY.

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