

15 June, 1942

80. M.S. ESSO AUGUSTA

U.S. Tanker; built, 1940; 11,237 gross tons; load, gas oil.  
Departed Texas City, Texas, 4 June, 1942, for United Kingdom.  
Damaged by magnetic mine 15 June, 1942, 1733 EWT, one-half mile south  
Buoy CB-2, Virginia Capes.  
Weather, clear; sea, smooth.  
On board, 57; saved, 57.  
Vessel and cargo: salvaged.

This tanker was traveling in convoy, carrying the convoy Vice  
Commodore aboard, when, at 1703, the S.S. ROBERT C. TUTTLE ahead, was  
observed to be hit and to sink rapidly. The wheel of the ESSO AUGUSTA  
was put hard right, for a fast zigzag; then it was decided to enter  
Chesapeake Bay, and a wide circle was completed to the right, bringing  
the vessel back to the vicinity of the TUTTLE's sinking. At 1733,  
there was an explosion close astern, and the engines stopped after two  
revolutions. Steam and fuel lines were broken, and engines and steer-  
ing gear disabled by the concussion, and one of the gun crew was  
injured when thrown to the deck.

At 1755, the ESSO AUGUSTA radioed for a tug, and early the  
following morning, she was taken in tow by the KESHENA and two Navy  
tugs, and proceeded to Hampton Roads, arriving at 0645, 16 June, 1942.

