

6 May, 1942

57. S.S. HALSEY

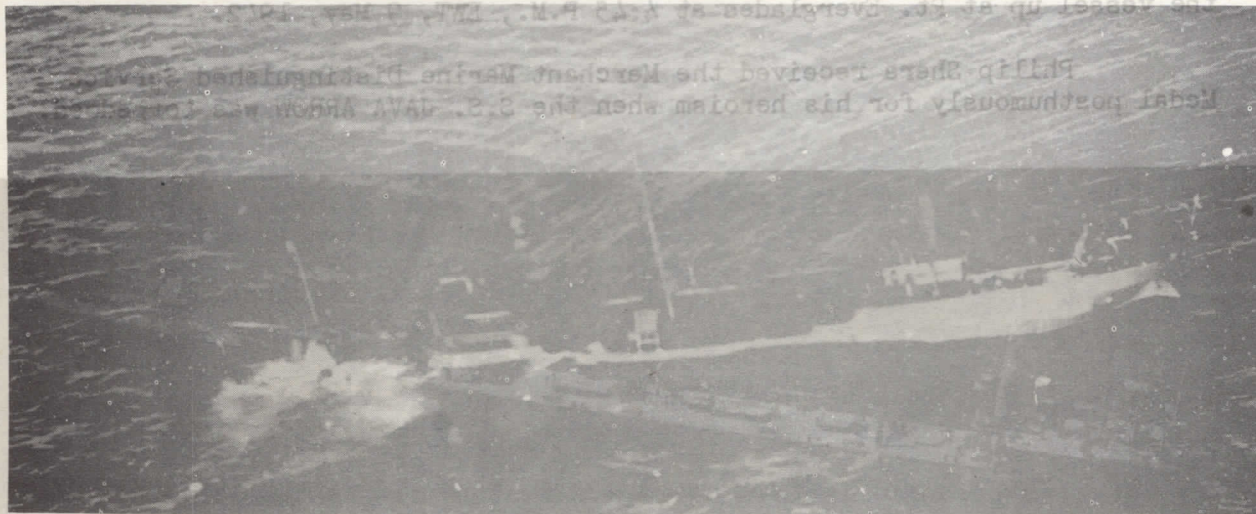
WORMA AVAL 2.2.2.25

U.S. Tanker; built, 1920; 7,088 gross tons; cargo, leaded Naphtha.  
Departed Corpus Christi, Texas, 30 April, 1942, for New York.  
Torpedoed 6 May, 1942, 0455 EWT; about 16 miles north of Jupiter  
Light, Florida.  
Weather, clear; sea, calm; light ENE wind.  
On board, 32; saved, 32.  
Vessel: total loss.

The torpedoes - probably two - ripped a 60' opening in the port side amidships. Naphtha fumes enveloped the vessel, but no explosion occurred, and the Master did not order an SOS because of the danger from sparks.

The vessel was abandoned at 0510 in the #3 and #4 lifeboats, as #1 and #2 were demolished by the explosion of the torpedo. An unidentified tanker came alongside the lifeboats at 0540 and offered assistance, which was declined. At 0630, the HALSEY, its bridge awash, suddenly exploded amidships, broke in half, and the fore and aft portions drifted apart, each burning. The rising water may have ignited the calcium flares on the life rings, causing the explosion so long after the ship was struck. Such equipment was prohibited for use on tank vessels 18 April, 1942.

About the same time as the explosion, the lifeboats were taken in tow by two fishermen, and brought in to the Gilbert Bar Coast Guard Station with all hands.





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