

2 April, 1942

37. S.S. LIEBRE

U.S. Tanker; built 1921; 7,075 gross tons; in ballast.
Departed New York, 30 March, 1942, for Beaumont, Texas.
Shelled, 2 April, 1942, 0123 EWT; 76°08 W.- 34°11 N.
Weather, clear; sea, small; wind, light N.E.
On board, 34; saved, 25.
Vessel: salvaged.

The LIEBRE had been following a Navy zigzag pattern for more than four hours, when the ship was attacked by shell fire from the port side, about 30 mi. SE of Cape Lookout, N. Car. The attacker was not distinguished, but the gun flashes could be seen at an estimated distance of 1/2 mile. Several shells struck the midship house and crew's quarters, and one demolished the generator. Two men on watch in the engine room were killed. The Master rang the general alarm and gave orders to abandon ship, which was accomplished within 15 minutes, in two boats; #1 in charge of the Master, with 15 persons, and #4, with the Chief Engineer and 9 others. Seven men became panicky and jumped into the water and were believed drowned.

The lifeboats pulled away as quickly as possible, and lay to until daylight, when a Coast Guard boat picked up the survivors from one boat and took the other in tow, and took them back to the ship at the Master's request, reboarding her at 0825.

A light seen flashed on the tanker shortly after she was abandoned was believed to have come from a Canadian Motor Torpedo Boat, which reported having seen the attack and having boarded the ship and found it abandoned.

The vessel was towed into Morehead City, N. Car., by the tug RESOLUTE and the British Trawler ST. ZENO.

