

19 January, 1942

5. S.S. MALAY

U.S. Tanker; built 1921; 8,206 gross tons; in ballast.
Departed Philadelphia, Pa., 18 January, 1942, for Port Arthur, Texas.
Shelled and torpedoed, 19 January, 1942, 0340 EWT, 10 miles SxW Wimble Shoal Gas Buoy.
Weather, hazy; wind, light; sea, choppy.
On board, 34; saved, 29.
Vessel: salvaged.

Attacked by shell-fire at 0340, shortly after passing Cape Hatteras, the MALAY was hit by five shells, which did considerable damage in the crew's quarters and some on the bridge, and set fire to #4 lifeboat, as well as riddling #3 boat. One man was killed by shell fragments. The general alarm was sounded, and the crew manned their boat stations. The engines were shut down, but, being at no time disabled, were started again, and the ship was proceeding at full speed when a torpedo struck almost amidships on the starboard side at 0530. Again the engines were stopped.

Some of the crew immediately attempted to launch the #1 boat, and in their haste, the after fall jammed, the bow swung round, and it was swamped. Four men were lost. The forward port boat was then launched with 14 men, who rowed around for about an hour, then were ordered back aboard by the Master. The Swedish vessel, SCANIA, stood by to see if assistance was needed.

At 0830, Coast Guard boats from Chicamacomico Station came alongside and took off the dead man, and 3 badly injured seamen, and, at 0945, the MALAY was again able to proceed under her own power and anchored off Newport News at 2145.

The Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to John M. Dodge, Master, for heroism above and beyond the call of duty in the saving of the S.S. MALAY.

