

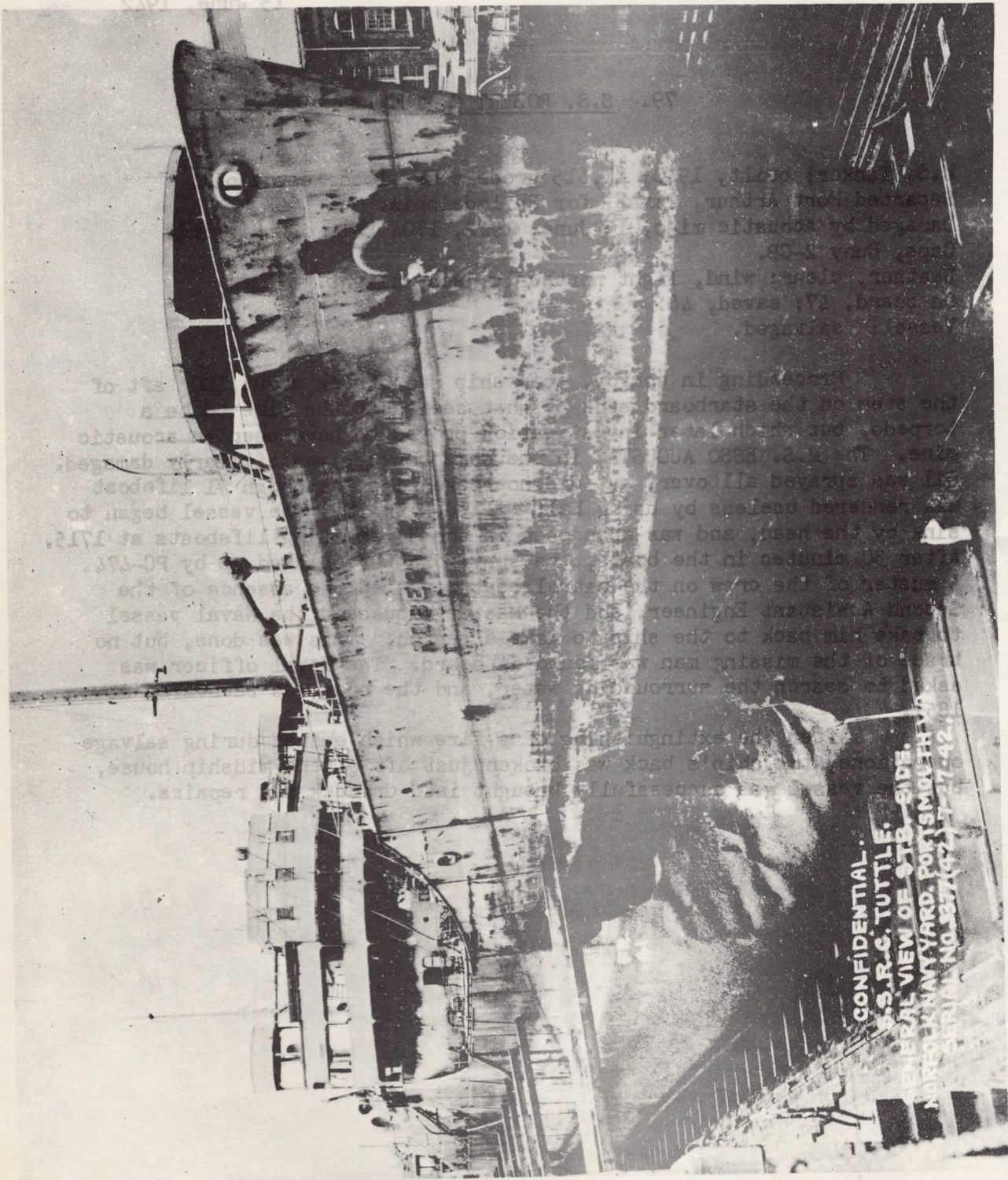
15 June, 1942

79. S.S. ROBERT C. TUTTLE

U.S. Tanker; built, 1940; 11,615 gross tons; load, crude oil.
Departed Port Arthur, Texas, for Philadelphia.
Damaged by acoustic mine, 15 June, 1942, 1704 EWT, off Virginia
Cape, Buoy 2-CB.
Weather, clear; wind, light northerly; sea, slight.
On board, 47; saved, 46.
Vessel: salvaged.

Proceeding in convoy, this ship was struck about 100' aft of the stem on the starboard side by what seemed at the time to be a torpedo, but which later investigation proved to have been an acoustic mine. The M.S. ESSO AUGUSTA, in the same convoy, was similarly damaged. Oil was sprayed all over, but did not take fire, although #1 lifeboat was rendered useless by being half-filled with it. The vessel began to sink by the head, and was abandoned in the 3 remaining lifeboats at 1715. After 30 minutes in the boats, the survivors were picked up by PC-474. A muster of the crew on the patrol boat revealed the absence of the Second Assistant Engineer, and the Master requested the Naval vessel to take him back to the ship to make a search. This was done, but no trace of the missing man was found on board. The Naval officer was asked to search the surrounding water, and the body was recovered at 1851.

After the extinguishing of a fire which ensued during salvage operations, the ship's back was broken just aft of the midship house, but the vessel was successfully brought into drydock for repairs.



CONFIDENTIAL
U.S. R.C. TUTTLE
GENERAL VIEW OF STB. ENDS.
NOBLOC, NAVY YARD, FORTSMOUTH VA
SERIAL NO. 237677-7-42

12 June, 1945

