



MV Gold Shell (+1945)

Details

general

nationality: [british](#)
 purpose: [transport](#)
 type: [tanker](#)
 propulsion: [motor vessel](#)
 date built: 1931



details

weight (tons): 8208
 dimensions: 137,5 x 18,9 x 10,4 m
 engine: oil engines
 power: 714 [n.h.p.](#)
 speed: 12.5 knots

about the loss

cause lost: [torpedo](#)
 other reasons: [1] [explosion](#)
 [2] [fire](#)
 date lost: [16/04/1945](#) [dd/mm/yyyy]
 casualties: [↑ 35 rank 376](#)

about people

builder:  [Vulkan Vegesack, Bremen](#)
 owner:  [Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co. Ltd., London](#)
 captain: Capt. W.F. Brierley

about the wreck

status: dispersed
 depth: 15 max. / -- min. (m)
 depth: 15 max. / -- min. (m)
 orientation:
 protected:
 war grave:

updates

entered by: [Letzens Jan](#)
 entered: 01/07/2002
 last update: [Letzens Jan](#)
 last update: 10/11/2009

Position

[more positions](#)[Letzens Jan](#) 06/08/2007

latitude: 51°20.9XX' N
 longitude: 002°54.0XX' E
 system: [WGS84](#)
 division: 1'=1000
 ref. used: [zeevissen.nl](#)

[add position to my marks](#)show neighbour. wrecks: [members only](#)[check AIS](#)[insert new position](#)

The Wreck today

[Letzens Jan](#) 06/08/2007

Only some unrecognizable pieces of the hull

Pictures

[Letzens Jan](#) 10/11/2009[Seehunde submarine](#)copyrights: [Unknown - onbekend - inconnu](#)ref. used: [www.musee-marine.fr](#)[insert new picture](#)

History

[Letzens Jan](#) 10/11/2009*British tanker, built 1931 in Germany; 150x21m; 12,5 knots; water displacement of 8.208 tons.*

She was part of the convoy A.T.M. 126, consisting of 30 ships, en voyage from England to Antwerp.

The Goldshell was loaded with 8.000 tons of kerosine, when on April 16th 1945, around 1210, she was hit by a torpedo, fired from a German Seehunde onemansubmarine.

After several explosions, the ship sunk in 20 minutes, but the superstructure remained above the sealevel, because of the shallow water.

The ship continued to burn for 3 days. All crew from the bridge and the engine room were killed in the fire.

This was the last WWII casualty in the North Sea.

[Letzens Jan](#) 15/04/2008*Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co. 1931; Brener Vulkan; 8.208 tons; 451.2x62.1x34.1ft; 714 nhp; 12.5 knots; oil engines.*

The tanker Gold Shell, Capt. W.F. Brierley was mined and sunk on April 19th, 1945, about ten miles off Oostend?.

Capt. Brierley, 31 of the crew and three gunners were killed.

ref. [Hocking C., Dictionary of Disasters at used: Sea during the Age of Steam](#)

[Letzens Jan](#) 06/08/2007

Only some unrecognizable pieces of the hull are left from this ship.

[insert wrecksite info](#)

gunners were killed.

ref. [Hocking C., Dictionary of Disasters at Sea during the Age of Steam](#)

[Letzens Jan](#) 15/04/2008

My Dad, John Edward Kirby (1916 to 2000), 5th Regiment Maritime Royal Artillery, was one of the few survivors on this ship.

He was a gunner and just going up on watch he was blown into the sea. He was rescued about 40 minutes later.

I have been recently looking into obtaining an Artic Emblem on his behalf.

Posted on behalf of Frances Kirby

ref. used: [Kirby Frances](#)

[insert new history](#)

Documents

[insert new document](#)

About Builder(s)



[Vulkan Vequesack, Bremen](#)
Founded in 1805 in Bremen.

Built U-boats in WWI under license in the Germaniawerft in Kiel.

Built 74 VII type u-boats in WWII.

Went bankrupt in 1996.



LAT: 52°20,2XXN LON: 5°26,3XXE

