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ADINDA

Adinda 4,000 tons of the Shell Dutch Fleet with a case cargo of aircraft fuel, motor spirit, and RAAF supplies, under command Captain Johannes. J. Duinker The ship left Alexandria for Tobruk early February as she entered harbour a navy pilot boarded, informing the Master that the Germans had dropped some magnetic mines, but so far there had been no accidents, suddenly a mine exploded under the starboard bow, the blast destroyed the bridge. Most of the Chinese crew were at mess forward, seventeen were killed. A second explosion followed, immediately there was an outbreak of fire the length of the ship. The Chief Officer staggered from the fore deck and died soon after from injuries, the carpenter and boatswain were also killed.

Adinda was afire but still underway, and now a fiery hazard to all shipping in Tobruk Harbour where many craft were berthed. The engines were stopped, it was impossible to let go an anchor as the heat was so intense on the fore-deck, also there was no trace of the Chinese casualty's, it was feared they had all fallen into the blazing benzine of the fore-hold. The ship now adrift still carrying way, the abandon ship signal was given, but could not be obeyed due to the burning petrol on the water, and also most life boats were useless due to the fire burning the rope falls.

Several of the crew of the ammunition carrier Rodi in the path of the burning Adinda jumped overboard and were crushed when both ships collided. the ammunition ship was set ablaze, this fire was put under control and the burning tanker drifted away. A naval launch was able to come alongside, the Captain Chief and Third Officers and some chinese crew were taken ashore. Some time after it was decided to reboard the burning ship on the port side and with clear sea, the fire was fought with sand and foamite. Naval ratings and Australian troops volunteered to assist and quell the fire, ballast water was run into the tanks to localise the main fire. HMS Magnet came alongside hoses were rigged, the fire fighting continued for hours and by dusk it was under control.