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San Calisto



The first loss to the Shell group occurred on 1 December 1939 in the Thames Estuary, the 12,000 ton motor vessel **San Calisto** of Eagle Oil Co. en-route London to Hull to join a convoy, when altering course to pass Tongue Light Vessel almost immediately there was a deafening explosion, a few moments later a second mine exploded, a gaping hole appeared amidships, the steel deck plating was rolled back, the bridge and wheel-house were blown away. Two Officers and four ratings were killed instantly, six other members of the crew and two radio Operators were seriously injured. realising the ship would founder Captain Hicks although injured himself ordered abandon ship survivors cleared the ship without mishap and were landed at Margate. Had settled by the head with a list to starboard, the bridge was awash, shortly afterwards only the masts were visible, salvage was impossible. There was no sign of panic, crew members made a thorough search for any survivors. Engineers descended into the engine room seeking shipmates.