**HMT Bedfordshire**
Royal Navy Patrol Service

**You Should Know**
This wreck is federally protected by the SUNKEN MILITARY CRAFT ACT. Visitation and enjoyment of this cultural resource is encouraged. Removal of artifacts or alteration of the site is strictly prohibited. This site is owned by the United Kingdom and is considered a war grave. Please respect it as such and refrain from alteration or penetration of the site.

You are encouraged to enjoy this resource responsibly and to leave the site unaltered for the enjoyment of future divers.

**Vessel History**

**Launched:** July 17, 1935, in Middlesbrough, England

**Commander:** Lt. Russell B. Davis, Royal Naval Reserve

**Actions:** A veteran of the Battle of the Atlantic, this converted trawler conducted antisub operations as part of the Royal Naval Patrol Service around the British Isles. While on loan to the U.S., Bedfordshire performed convoy escort service between Capes Lookout and Hatteras.

**Loss:** In the early morning hours of May 12, 1942, HMT Bedfordshire was returning alone from an escort detail to Hatteras. While preparing to round Cape Lookout, a torpedo from U-558 slammed into her port side. The vessel sank in seconds, sending no distress signal.

**Fate:** The entire 37-man crew was lost as a result of this action. Shortly after the sinking, several bodies began washing up on the shores of North Carolina. A total of six men were recovered and buried near Hatteras and Ocracoke. The gravesites are honored by the British Navy and the U.S. annually. This wreck is a war grave for the remaining crewmen.