

Ashkhabad

Soviet Flagged Merchant Tanker



Vessel History

Launched: 1917, Harland & Wolff Ltd., Glasgow, Scotland

Owner: Sovtorgflot - Soviet State Shipping Line, Moscow

History: *Ashkhabad*, built as an A-class standard cargo ship operated by The Shipping Controller of London, was originally named *War Hostage*. The vessel went through several subsequent owners and name changes. In 1927, the ship, then named *Misty Hall*, underwent a conversion from cargo ship to a tanker. In 1934, *Misty Hall* was sold to the Soviet State Shipping line where it again changed names several times before finally being named *Ashkhabad* in 1938. During wartime, *Ashkhabad* was fitted with a defensive bow gun.

Loss: *Ashkhabad* was transiting in ballast southbound of Cape Lookout the night of April 30, 1942. While under escort of HMT *Lady Elsa*, they proceeded on a defensive zig-zagging course, which did not prove effective. *Ashkhabad* was struck by a torpedo fired from U-402, and immediately sank by the stern in shallow water. Luckily, there were no casualties. The ship was only about 50 feet of water with much of the structure remaining above the surface of the sea. HMT *Lady Elsa* was able to recover the 47 survivors and delivered them to Morehead City, N.C. There were plans to try to salvage the wreck, however, USS *Semmes*, unaware of pending salvage efforts, acted on standing orders to sink derelict vessels, and was joined by armed trawler HMS *St. Zeno* in the shelling, and together destroyed *Ashkhabad*.

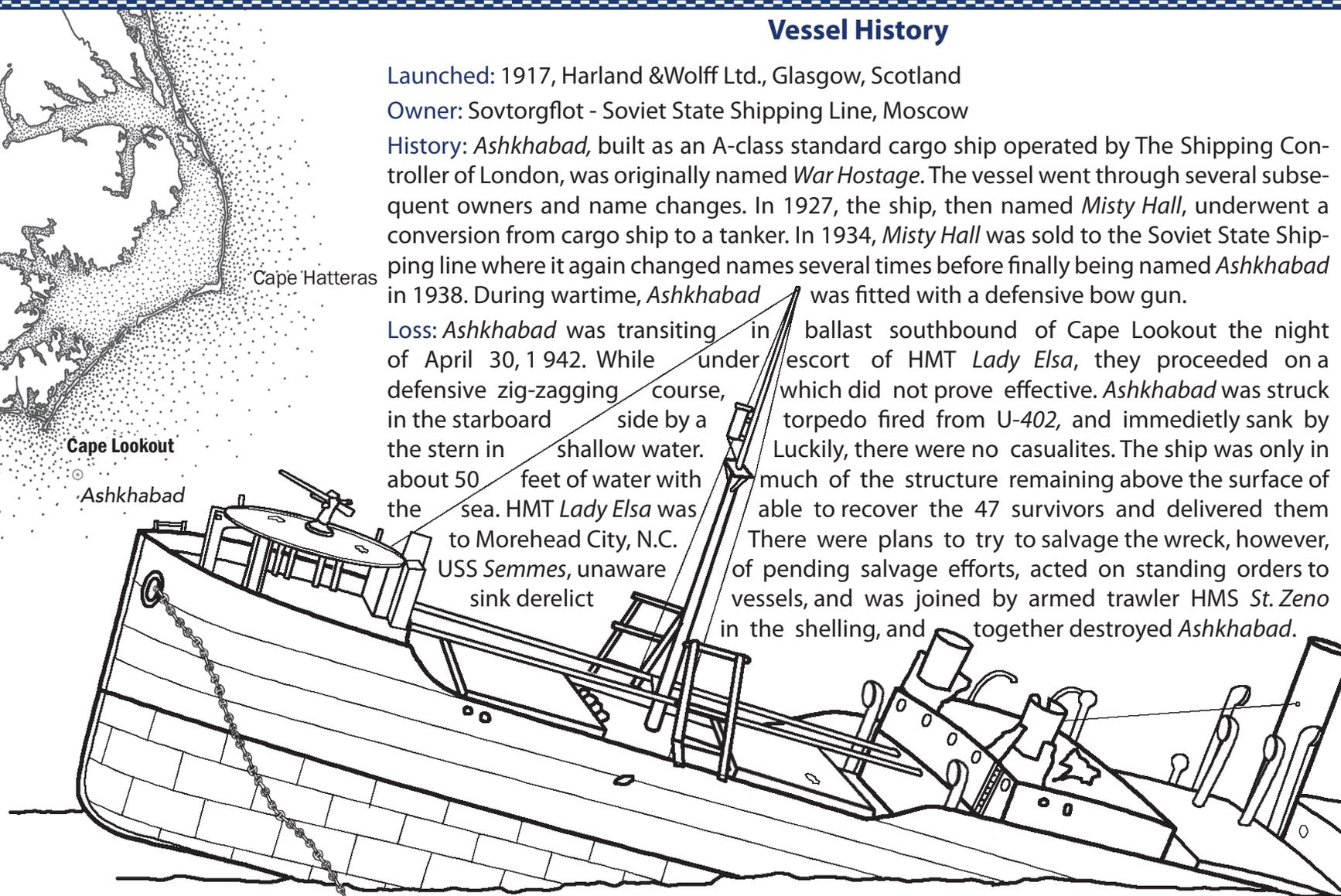
North Carolina

Cape Hatteras

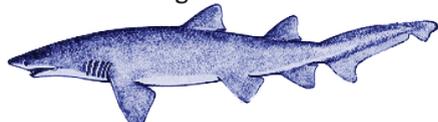
Cape Lookout

Ashkhabad

Atlantic Ocean



Sand Tiger Shark



Odontaspis taurus

Greater Amberjack



Seriola dumerili

Marine Life Commonly Found on the Ashkhabad Site

<https://monitor.noaa.gov/shipwrecks>

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Great Barracuda



Sphyraena barracuda

Northern Sea Robin



Prionotus carolinus

Loggerhead



Caretta caretta

GPS Coordinates: N34° 22.884'
Depth: 55fsw W76° 21.900'
Skill Level: Novice

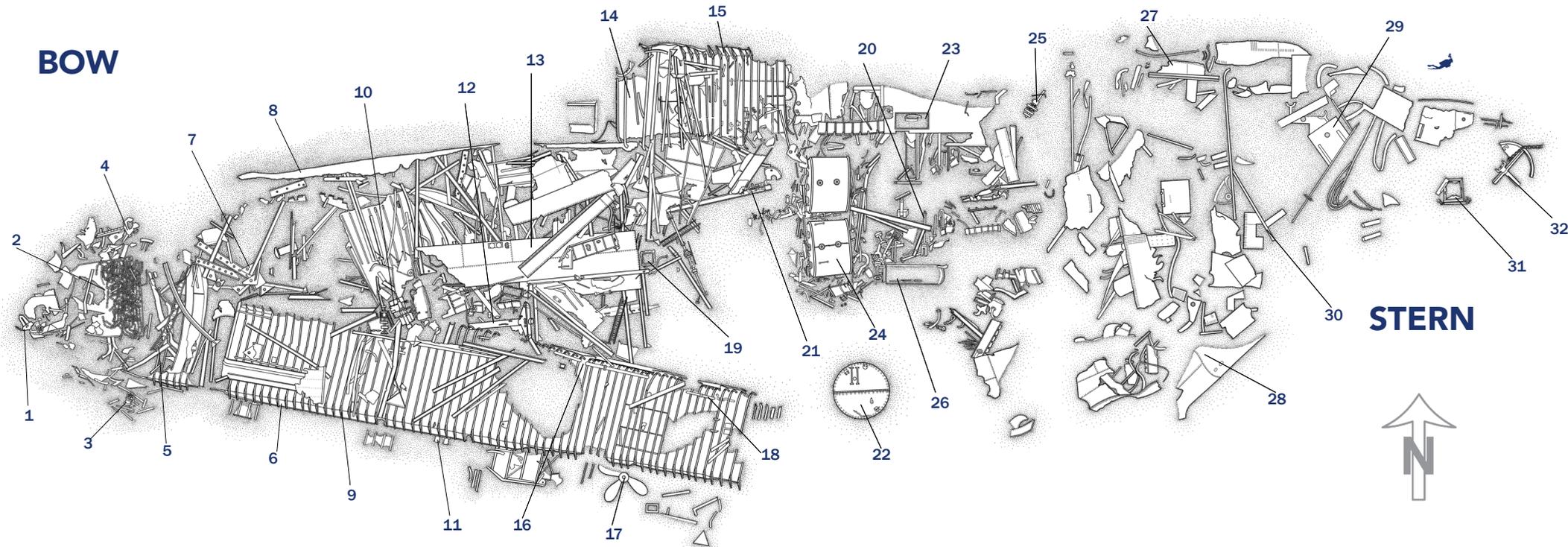
USSR (Soviet)
Tanker

Ashkhabad

Archaeological Site Plan



0feet 50' 100' 150' 200' 250' 300' 350' 400'



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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Hall (Stockless) Anchor Fluke | 09 Steel Hanging Knees | 17 Spare Propeller | 25 Cargo Loading Machinery |
| 2 Stowed Anchor Chain | 10 Cargo Loading Windlass | 18 Bilge Pipe/Conduit | 26 Steam Condenser Remains |
| 3 Cargo Loading Machinery | 11 Main Deck Mooring Bits | 19 Deck Level Access Hatch | 27 Collapsed Deck Plating |
| 4 Forward Bulkhead Remains | 12 Forward Mast/Derrick | 20 Damaged Engineering Area | 28 Disarticulated Hull Plating |
| 5 Access Ladder to Forepeak | 13 Collapsed Deck Plates | 21 Small Support Winch | 29 Outer Hull Remnants |
| 6 Main Deck Plating Remains | 14 Starboard Hull Structure | 22 Dislodged Port Boiler | 30 Pipe/Conduit |
| 7 Vertical Support Stanchions | 15 Main Deck Level | 23 Engineering Access Hatch | 31 Aft Cabin Skylight |
| 8 Starboard Hull Plating | 16 Turn of the Bilge | 24 Scotch Boilers | 32 Steering Quadrant |

Take Only Pictures ~ Leave Only Bubbles!

Produced in collaboration with the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group