



## The Wreck of *Lyman A. Stewart*

Named after the president and one of the founders of the Union Oil Company, the *Lyman A. Stewart* was built by Union Iron Works in San Francisco in 1914. Though identical to its sister ship, the steel-hulled oil tanker, *Frank H. Buck*, the *Lyman A. Stewart's* career along the West Coast was far less adventurous until 7 October 1922.

*Lyman A. Stewart* left San Francisco Bay on a routine trip to Seattle with a cargo of oil. As she left the harbor in thickening fog and a powerful current, the freighter *Walter A. Luckenbach* was headed in through the Golden Gate. Horns and whistles were muffled in the thick fog and neither vessel saw the other until it was too late.

The *Lyman A. Stewart's* port bow suffered a deep cut in the collision and began to sink. Captain Cloyd ordered his crew to abandon ship while he stayed on the tanker to steer her to shore. The vessel ripped her hull on the jagged rocks of Lands End where she stayed grounded despite strenuous salvage efforts. Powerful ocean waves eventually pushed *Lyman A. Stewart* further up on the rocks and she broke in two.

Fifteen years later, *Lyman A. Stewart's* sister ship *Frank H. Buck* would meet a similar fate in the same spot. In 1938 both wrecks were dynamited in an attempt to clean up wrecks in the harbor. The engine block of *Lyman A. Stewart* and the engine and sternpost of *Frank H. Buck* can still be seen today at low tide.