

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 23575 in R.B. Wreck Book, p.65/57 Date of writing this report 3rd October, 19 57.
 Ship's Name aux. m.s. "PAMIR" of Lubeck Tons { Gross 3103
 { Net 2509
 Built at Hamburg When 1905 10 Casualty notice sent to Owner --- Owner's reply ---
 Owners Stiftung "Pamir" u. "Passat"
 Managers Zerssen & Co.
 Address Hollesenstrasse 2, Rendsburg, Germany.

Classification details

*100A1	LMC6,56
5,57	
ss(Dr)12,51	ts 5,56 CL
Ham6,56	
Reclassified 12,51	

Casualty 21st September, 1957.

of Casualty

Overwhelmed by hurricane and sank in
 Lat. 35 57N., long 40 20W.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

PAMIR (aux.) - Radio, Sept. 21. - Following received at 3 35 p.m., G.M.T. from Canadian destroyer Crusader: Am proceeding to position lat. 35 57 N., long. 40 20 W., in reply to distress signal from auxiliary training ship Pamir, estimated time of arrival 3 30 a.m., G.M.T. (Sept. 22).

Valentia Radio, Sept. 21. - Following received from British steamer Manchester Trader, GMWG:

At 4 57 p.m., G.M.T.: At 4 30 p.m., G.M.T., on 500 kcs., following heard from unknown station: "SOS 2 1 p.m. position lat. 35 57 N., long. 40 20 W." Ship believed to be German auxiliary training ship Pamir, DKEF.

At 5 21 p.m., G.M.T.: Heard at 5 13 p.m., G.M.T., through interference: "Foremast broken by heavy seas."

Portishead Radio, Sept. 21. - Following received from British steamer Tacoma Star:

At 5 22 p.m., G.M.T.: Following received from Norwegian motor tanker Tank Duke at 4 14 p.m., G.M.T.: SOS, following received at 2 p.m., G.M.T., from German auxiliary training ship Pamir: "Four-masted barque Pamir in heavy hurricane in position lat. 35 57 N., long. 40 20 W., all sails lost, listing 45 deg., danger of sinking." At 3 1 p.m., G.M.T., steamer President Taylor proceeding to Pamir, expected time of arrival 7 p.m., G.M.T. Nil heard from Pamir since 3 p.m.

At 7 17 p.m., G.M.T.: Latest information: At 7 p.m., G.M.T., following intercepted on 500 kcs. from President Taylor

to steamer Penn Trader, 6LLA: "Now estimated time of arrival 10 p.m., G.M.T." At 7 1 p.m., G.M.T., Penn Trader to President Taylor: "Be there around the same time." Both vessels are proceeding to last position of Pamir.

Following received from British turbo-electric tanker San Silvestre at 9 52 p.m., G.M.T.: Following ships reported heading for distress position: President Taylor, estimated time of arrival at distress position 10 p.m., G.M.T. Penn Trader, estimated at distress position at 10 p.m., G.M.T. Motor tanker Jaguar, position 160 miles NNW. of distress position, speed 8 knots. Motor vessel Nordsee, noon position lat. 40 21 N., long. 36 43 W., speed 10 knots. Motor vessel Hauraki, position at 8 p.m., G.M.T., lat. 32 40 N., long. 48 30 W., speed 15 knots.

London, Sept. 21. - Auxiliary training ship Pamir is on voyage from Buenos Aires to Hamburg with a cargo of barley. - Exchange Telegraph Company.

New York, Sept. 21. - Auxiliary training ship Pamir has been caught in hurricane "Carrie." Tug Zwarte Zee set out from the Azores after the Pamir sent her first call for assistance. - British United Press.

London, Sept. 21. - The Air Ministry reports that hurricane "Carrie" was blowing full force in the area of auxiliary training ship Pamir, with centre winds of 80 m.p.h. and gale force winds extending 250 miles outward. The storm was expected to maintain its intensity for the next 12 hours.

Portishead Radio, Sept. 22. - Following received from British steamer Tacoma Star:

At 11 56 p.m., G.M.T. (Sept. 21): At 10 21 p.m., G.M.T., steamer Penn Trader signalled: Have sighted flare. At 10 32 p.m., G.M.T., Penn Trader to steamer President Taylor: We are proceeding down to them. At 10 38 p.m., G.M.T., to all stations from Penn Trader: Another flare sighted bearing 272 deg. from position lat. 35 52 N., long. 40 22 W. At 11 11 p.m., G.M.T., Penn Trader to President Taylor: Flares coming from two positions and we are now proceeding to last reported, 272 deg. from lat. 35 52 N., long. 40 22 W.

At 1 53 a.m., G.M.T.: Latest information on auxiliary training ship Pamir distress: President Taylor and Penn Trader still searching, and believed now joined in search by Canadian destroyer Crusader.

At 5 45 a.m., G.M.T.: At 5 19 a.m. President Taylor and Penn Trader advised me no news concerning further developments presume still searching.

Hamburg, Sept. 22. - The managers of training ship Pamir state that there are probably 88 men on board the vessel, but the exact figure is not known. Captain Diebitsch, who commands the vessel, has considerable experience with sailing vessels, but this is his first voyage with the Pamir. - Reuter.

Portishead Radio, Sept. 22. - Following received from turbo-electric tanker San Silvestre at 2 50 p.m., G.M.T.: Ships now searching distress area are destroyer Crusader, steamers President Taylor and Penn Trader, motor tanker Jaguar and San Silvestre, also aircraft. No survivors found yet.

New York, Sept. 22. - Turbo-electric tanker San Silvestre reported sighting an empty lifeboat near the area where training ship Pamir radioed she was in danger of sinking, according to a radio message received here. The San Silvestre said the lifeboat's forward end was broken off. The tanker gave its position as lat. 35 38 N., long. 49 21 W. The radio message said that lettering on the lifeboat indicated Lubeck as port of registry. The Pamir is registered at Lubeck. - Exchange Telegraph Company.

London, Sept. 22. - United States Coast Guard cutter... of lifeboat picked up by turbo-electric tanker San Silvestre... suggesting it had been... board "a considerable... said the damage... to have been caused by... - Reuter.

WRECK SECTION No. 723

LL 23/9/57

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LL 24/9/57

PAMIR (aux.).—Portishead Radio, Sept. 22.—Following received from British steamer Tacoma Star at 6 8 p.m., G.M.T.: Several vessels converging on position lat. 36 38 N., long. 40 17 W., vicinity of empty floating lifeboat, to search for possible survivors of training ship Pamir. (See issue of Sept. 23.)

—Bermuda, Sept. 23.—The pilot of a United States Air Force plane which yesterday scoured the area from which the barque Pamir was last heard of, said to-day he considered his search was "95 per cent. effective." The pilot, Captain Longo, described how he sighted a lifeboat and dropped flares to identify the boat, which was seen to be a varnished craft with the word "Lubeck" painted on the side. The bow had been broken and there was no sign of life on board. The lifeboat was later picked up by the turbo-electric tanker San Silvestre. As the specially equipped plane circled a wider and wider area another craft was sighted but this proved to be a lifeboat which had apparently been washed overboard from the Canadian destroyer Crusader which had joined in the search.—Reuter.

—Hamburg, Sept. 23.—The master of German motor vessel Parthenon reported by radio telephone at 1 45 p.m., G.M.T., to-day that the weather and visibility were good and the search for the auxiliary training ship Pamir or survivors from her was continuing. "We searched all through the night but with no success," the master said. "No fresh reports have come in from any of the other ships in the search either. About 18 to 20 ships are now in the area, searching for the Pamir. Asked about conditions, the master said: "The weather is now clearing up, it is quite good, there is a north-west wind about strength five (fresh breeze) and visibility is good."—Reuter.

—Hamburg, Sept. 23.—A statement issued by the Pamir-Passat Foundation says: The training barque Pamir, returning from Buenos Aires, came into the centre of a severe hurricane on the afternoon of Saturday, Sept. 21. The last message reporting her position originated at 3 1 p.m., G.M.T., on Saturday, and gave her position as lat. 35 57 N., long. 40 20 W. According to this, the Pamir was in an area of the ocean far east of the normal hurricane course. In the radio report of 3 1 p.m., the ship reported: "Heavy hurricane, all sails lost, 45 deg. list, in danger of sinking." According to a later radio report probably originating from the Pamir and relayed by the British steamer Manchester Trader, the ship lost her foremast in the heavy storm. It must be presumed that a sudden veering of the wind in the centre of the hurricane causing the sails to beat back sharply caused this serious damage to the rigging and further serious damage to the hull through falling pieces of rigging. Thus the ship must have got into an extremely serious situation. Numerous ships within a radius of 200 nautical miles of the Pamir's reported position are searching for the barque and her crew since the early evening hours of Saturday, furthermore, the Canadian destroyer Crusader, and since Sunday morning, American and Portuguese aircraft have been taking part in the search. The ships taking part in the search have sighted feeble light signals and, during Sunday, an empty, damaged lifeboat from the Pamir. An American aircraft sighted on Sunday in the same area two unmanned lifeboats and a similarly unmanned raft, the latter carrying the inscription "Lubeck." The Pamir herself had not been found by 9 a.m. to-day, nor had any survivors been rescued up to that hour. The loss of the ship and her crew must unfortunately be presumed, but for the time being there remains hope of finding the ship or survivors once visibility improves, because the search has so far been badly hampered by most unfavourable weather and rain squalls. The Pamir is commanded by Captain Johann Diebitsch. There are total of 86 persons on board, 35 normal crew and 51 officer cadets. The search is continuing with all available means.—Reuter.

LL 25/9/57

PAMIR (aux.).—Portishead Radio, Sept. 23.—Following received from British steamer Tacoma Star at 9 30 p.m., G.M.T.: At 8 47 p.m., G.M.T., following intercepted on 500 kcs. from WKZZ (steamer Saxon) to Commanding Officer NBNP (United States Coast Guard cutter Absecon): Picked up five survivors from auxiliary training ship Pamir in lat. 35 34 N., long. 40 21 W., at 8 30 p.m., G.M.T. (See issue of Sept. 24.)

—New York, Sept. 23.—Cutter Absecon reported that the survivors of barque Pamir state that another boat containing 25 of the crew of the Pamir was launched before the vessel went down.—Reuter.

—Portishead Radio, Sept. 24.—Following received from steamer Tacoma Star at 11 6 p.m., G.M.T. (Sept. 23): At 10 30 p.m., G.M.T., Sept. 23, from NBNP (cutter Absecon) to 5LLA (steamer Penn Trader), DEAU (motor vessel Nordsee), KIYQ (steamer Golden State), KVLK (steamer African Grove), GKFT (steamer Sugar Refiner), GJMQ (tank steamer Wave Master), SKOA (motor vessel Canada), IODV (steamer Aspromonte), LAGP (motor vessel Divina): Proceed to search for second lifeboat containing approximately 25 men from training ship Pamir in area lat. 35 24 N., long. 40 32 W., lat. 35 24 N., long. 40 9 W., lat. 35 44 N., long. 40 33 W., lat. 35 44 N., long. 40 9 W. Search area on lines of search running north and south to reduce chance of collision between searching vessels; lines of search will be specifically assigned at later time. At 10 42 p.m., G.M.T. (Sept. 23), from NBNP to WKZZ (steamer Saxon): Ask survivors if they know any of the crew who got off in lifeboat. At 10 45 p.m., G.M.T. (Sept. 23), from WKZZ to NBNP: Only two boats got away, the other boat with 15 (2 25) men they saw flares from it last night.

Following received from British motor tanker Charlton Venus at 12 49 a.m., G.M.T.: Following intercepted on 500 kcs. in heavy interference between 9 5 p.m. and 9 30 p.m., G.M.T. (Sept. 23): From Saxon to Absecon: Ten men on this boat but only five survived. Now circling area. Can you take survivors off? Here en route Trieste. From Absecon to Saxon: Do men need medical attention? From Saxon to Absecon: Don't know yet, seems only exposure, will know later. From Absecon to Saxon: We will take them on board, we are coming with you, what is your position? From Saxon to Absecon: My position is "lat. 44 59 N., long. 39 47 W." At 9 29 p.m., G.M.T. (Sept. 23) from Saxon to Absecon: Believe due darkness better take survivors to Azores or Gibraltar. Two men very weak from exposure. Request your advice. Is it permissible to proceed? From Absecon to Saxon: Will be in your area at 10 30 p.m., G.M.T. (Sept. 23). Hospital and doctors on board; will remove survivors from your ship.

Following received from Tacoma Star at 2 7 a.m., G.M.T.: At 1 8 a.m., G.M.T., from turbo-electric tanker Hycania to NBNP: Position at 12 45 a.m., G.M.T., lat. 34 58 N., long. 39 42 W., red flare seen bearing 330 deg. true. Survivors picked up by Saxon are being transferred to United States transport Geiger in Geiger's boat. Report from Saxon said: Only five men alive. The men say that they had 10 men when they left the ship but five died or jumped overboard. Boat was broken and awash when we picked it up. Still searching for second boat, not seen yet.

—New York, Sept. 24.—The five survivors from the German training ship Pamir have been transferred from the steamer Saxon to the United States naval transport Geiger, the Coast Guard reported here to-day. The Coast Guard said the Geiger is bound for Morocco. The Saxon will remain in the area and continue the search for more survivors.—Reuter.

—London, Sept. 24.—A United States Air Force spokesman in London stated that the transport Geiger is taking the survivors from the training ship Pamir to Casablanca, where she is due on Friday (Sept. 27).—Reuter.

—Santa Maria, Azores, Sept. 24.—The search for more survivors of the German auxiliary training ship Pamir continued to-day after an American plane reported sighting floating objects and light signals south-west of the Azores. A radio report from the plane said it had sighted three floating objects close to each other. The crew also believed they saw light signals near the objects and more signals at another spot. Two rescue ships raced to the area while the plane circled overhead to mark the spot. The spot where the objects were sighted was located at lat. 35 6 N., long. 39 57 W. The plane also reported sighting light signals in lat. 34 58 N., long. 39 42 W.—Reuter.

—New York, Sept. 24.—Captain Lars Djovedt, of the steamer Saxon, which rescued five survivors of the

barque Pamir yesterday, in a message to his New York office, said: The information received from the survivors was that the Pamir was in hurricane "Carrie" and that when the wind shifted all the canvas was carried away along with the mast. The ship started to sink and only two lifeboats got away. The others were either smashed or set adrift. The other lifeboat that was launched had from 20 to 25 men in it and the lifeboat was well equipped. The survivors saw the boat the next day and saw flares from it during the night. Of 10 men who got away in the survivors' boat, five were dead. The boat the survivors were in was swamped and split after the mer from the Pamir were rescued.—British United Press.

—Portishead Radio, Sept. 24.—Following received from Liberian motor vessel Aegean Dolphin at 3 50 p.m., G.M.T.: Following received from steamer Penn Trader, 5LLA, at 3 20 p.m., G.M.T.: Position at 3 p.m., G.M.T., lat. 35 24 N., long. 40 21 W.; one lookout sighted what was apparently a body in the water, another lookout sighted what may be a piece of wreckage from a lifeboat. Am investigating; so far no results.

LL 26/9/57

PAMIR (aux.).—New York, Sept. 24.—United States Coast Guard here announced that a sixth survivor from the German barque Pamir was picked up this afternoon in a lifeboat by the Coast Guard cutter Absecon. The other survivors, in a report from the United States transport Geiger, said there were 10 men in their boat at first. The other five died or were washed overboard. They saw another boat, with 25 men on board, dropped from the Pamir, but they saw it no more after it reached the water. The men said that the Pamir was still afloat when they last saw her in the midst of hurricane "Carrie," 550 miles south-west of the Azores. The report issued by the United States Coast Guard here said that the Pamir had three rafts. Two were washed overboard and the third was launched by three men.—Reuter (See issue of Sept. 25.)

—Portishead Radio, Sept. 25.—Training ship Pamir: Following received from Liberian motor vessel Aegean Dolphin at 12 38 a.m., G.M.T.: Following intercepted at 12 14 a.m., G.M.T., on 500 kcs.: From Coast Guard cutter Absecon, NBNP, to motor vessel Orinoco, LAHA: We picked up one survivor. From Orinoco to Absecon: Was he floating or in boat? From Absecon to Orinoco: In boat and in fairly good shape. From Orinoco to Absecon: Do you suppose that was the second boat with 25 men? From Absecon to Orinoco: Yes. The man stated that there were more but they saw ships go close by and tried to swim to them.

—New York, Sept. 25.—The Coast Guard announced here early to-day that the cutter Absecon picked up a survivor from the German barque Pamir who said that he survived 22 of his comrades in a lifeboat. The Coast Guard said a message from the Absecon identified the man as Gunther Hasselbach, of Alstenstrasse, Kiel, Germany. The message said that the lone survivor was in good physical condition. It said: Picked up lone survivor of original group of 22 who abandoned ship in lifeboat No. 2. Lifeboats and other debris found in same area. Motor vessel Nordsee picked up empty lifeboat of German make in position lat. 35 15 N., long. 40 7 W. Surface search by 15 vessels to-day covered area between lat. 35 N. and lat. 35 50 N., and long. 39 55 W., and long. 40 50 W. Eleven aircraft search general area. At present 12 vessels remain in area for search to-day.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

—Casablanca, Sept. 25.—Training ship Pamir: The cadet picked up by the Coast Guard cutter Absecon was quoted by United States Air Force headquarters in Europe as telling his rescuers that the Pamir sank soon after his lifeboat was launched.—Reuter.

—Casablanca, Sept. 25.—Auxiliary training ship Pamir: The Atlantic search goes on and 10 ships and 12 aircraft are taking part, according to the United States Navy. The search is being co-ordinated by the Commander United States Forces, Azores, and among ships taking part are steamers Penn Trader, Lucile Bloomfield, African Grove and Sugar Refiner, tank steamer Wave Master, motor tanker Richard Amlie, and motor vessels Nordsee, Divina and Orinoco. Survivors on board United States transport Geiger were not sure whether or not they saw a flare on Monday night (Sept. 23). They said the Pamir had three rafts. Two were washed overboard in the storm and a third launched with three men on it when the ship foundered. The United States Air Force said the search area was 9000 square miles. Air rescue planes reported that the chances of further survivors being found were poor. A Sky-master which sighted three lifeboats, one of them overturned, and one submerged lifeboat surrounded by spars and other wreckage yesterday, dropped dye-markers to aid in the search.—Reuter.

LL 27/9/57

PAMIR (aux.).—New York, Sept. 25.—Search ships to-day found considerable debris from the German barque Pamir, including part of the No. 1 lifeboat. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 lifeboats have now been accounted for and the motor vessel Nordsee has recovered a lifeboat believed to have come from the Pamir. This latest information was radioed to the New York Coast Guard Service to-day by cutter Absecon. The survivor picked up by the Absecon, Gunther Hasselbach, of Kiel, believes that only three hard boats and an air dinghy were launched from the Pamir. All the boats were swamped due to damage incurred in launching. Boat No. 2 which originally carried 22 men, of whom Hasselbach was the sole survivor, had no flares or smoke signals that would work. The Coast Guard advisory said: "Further interrogation reveals that the Pamir was unable to keep her bow into the sea, even with spanker set and all other sails off. Lying in a trough, she capsized and when last seen was bottom up and progressively sinking by the bow. The commanding officer of the Pamir ordered all crew into lifejackets five minutes prior to capsizing."—British United Press. (See issue of Sept. 26.)

—Lisbon, Sept. 26.—Hope of finding more survivors of the auxiliary training ship Pamir has been almost abandoned, the United States Embassy in the Azores cabled to Lisbon to-day. Major Winchester, the United States officer in charge of air search activities at Lajes Airbase in the Azores, decided that if no more survivors had been picked up by midnight yesterday the search would be reduced. The cable says that the decision to reduce the search was taken following a recommendation from the United States Coast Guard cutter Absecon.—British United Press.

LL 30/9/57

PAMIR (aux.).—Casablanca, Sept. 28.—American military transport Geiger, carrying five survivors from the German auxiliary sailing vessel Pamir, entered the port of Casablanca shortly after 7 a.m. to-day. A sixth survivor from the Pamir was picked up by the American Coast Guard cutter Absecon and transferred to the French steamer Antilles, bound for Puerto Rico. All the rest of the Pamir's crew of 86 seamen and cadets are feared lost. The five survivors are cadet Anders, cadet Kraaz, cadet Klaus Friedrich, seaman Hans Georg Wirth, and ship's baker Otto Dummer.—Reuter. (See issue of Sept. 27.)

—Frankfurt, Sept. 28.—Survivors of the auxiliary training ship Pamir said to-day that her mast did not break before she foundered. Ship's baker Dummer and cadet Kraaz, two of the five survivors flown home to-day from Casablanca, said in answer to reporters' questions on board the aircraft that the steel masts held against the hurricane.—Reuter.

—London, Sept. 29.—The air search for the survivors from the auxiliary training ship Pamir was called off last night after the last searching aircraft returned to Lajes Air Base, Azores, a United States Air Force official announced. It is not yet known whether the sea search will continue.—Reuter.

LL 1/10/57

PAMIR (aux.).—San Juan, P.R., Sept. 29.—Gunter Hasselbach, the sixth survivor from the German auxiliary sailing vessel Pamir, arrived here to-day on board the French steamer Antilles.—British United Press. (See issue of Sept. 30.)

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