

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 87403 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 9528 Date of writing this report 26th November 1928
 Vessel's Name Fleet Twin I.S. "Vestris" of Liverpool Tons Net 6623 Gross 10494
 Built at Belfast When 1912 9 Casualty notice sent to Owner 22. 11. 28 Owner's reply 25. 11. 28
 Owner's Name Liverpool Brazil & River Plate S.N. Co. (Lampert & Holt, Agents)
 Address Royal Liver Building, Liverpool

Case previously before Date Particulars of Classification.
 Classing Committee Last Minute +100A1 SS13-9.24
 Date of Casualty 12th November 1928 +L.M.C. 1159.24
 +BS9.27
 +Lloyds R.M.C. 8.28

Precis of particulars of Casualty

This steamer foundered in the North Atlantic on 12th November. The Owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

VESTRIIS.—New York, Nov. 12.—
 less reports British steamer Vestris, lat. 37 35 N., long. 71 08 W., wants immediate assistance; reported listing badly.
 New York, Nov. 12.—The steamer Vestris, with 200 passengers on board, bound for Barbados, from New York, sent out an SOS message shortly after 10 o'clock this morning that she was in distress.—Reuter. (Note.—The Vestris left New York on Nov. 10 for River Plate.)
 Norfolk, Nov. 12.—British steamer Vestris, in distress 300 miles off shore. Two Government steamers have gone to assist.
 New York, Nov. 12.—A last message from the steamer Vestris states that she is three hundred miles from Hampton Roads and her starboard decks are under water. She is lying on her beam ends and is incapable of proceeding. The sea is reported to be rough. A wireless message from the Vestris says "leaking badly." Motor vessel Santa Barbara wirelesses that she is close by and is hurrying to the assistance of the distressed vessel. The New York offices of Messrs. Lampert & Holt announce that the Vestris is sinking slowly and that the passengers will have to take to the lifeboats "at any minute now."
 The Navy Department has instructed Admiral Wiley, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Navy, to send immediate assistance to the steamer Vestris. The American coastguard cutters Manning and Mascoutin have been ordered to proceed with all speed from Norfolk. The Standard Oil tanker Yankee Arrow, which is about 70 miles away from the position of the Vestris, reports that she is steaming to her rescue.—Reuter.
 New York, Nov. 12.—The steamer Voltaire reports that she is hastening to the rescue of the Vestris. She is not far distant from the position given.—Reuter.
 New York, Nov. 12.—Steamer Vestris was abandoned by passengers and crew at 1 25 p.m.—Reuter.
 VESTRIIS.—New York, Nov. 12.—By noon ten vessels were speeding on their way to the relief of the Vestris. Besides the Voltaire, the Santa Barbara and the Yankee Arrow, the ships included five coastguard vessels, the steamer San Juan, an unidentified Japanese steamer, and the Morgan liner Croole. So far as is known at present, the Yankee Arrow, which was 70 miles distant, was the nearest vessel to the Vestris. In addition to general cargo, the Vestris carried a thousand bags of mail matter. Her ports of call included Barbados, Rio Janeiro, Montevideo and Buenos Ayres.—Reuter.
 Liverpool, Nov. 13.—The owners of the steamer Vestris have received following cable from their New York agents, dated Nov. 12: Master of steamer Vestris radios: Hove to with 32 degrees list, arranged coastguards send U.S. destroyer Davis immediately to render assistance passengers. Steamer Voltaire and motor vessel Santa Barbara proceeding to steamer, understand steamer Ohio Maru alongside at 12 15 p.m. Merritt's steamers Relief and Resolute leaving New York about 1 30 this afternoon on "per diem" basis 1200 dollars and 900 dollars respectively. Steamer I. J. Merritt leaves New York this evening same basis 1200 dollars. Have option changing terms employment to "no cure no pay" terms leaving amount compensation to be determined later. Option to be exercised Tuesday (Nov. 13) after hearing from you when day's pay would cease. The owners have cabled as follows: Agree "per diem" basis.
 (Tn) 8

Suggested Record

Foundered 11.28.

Minutes of Committee

TUE. 27 NOV 1928
 TUE. 27 NOV 1928

Committee's Minute

Foundered 11.28

[Signature]



© 2018
 Lloyd's Register
 Foundation

New York, Nov. 12.—British steamer Vestris sinking. Passengers and crew took to lifeboats. Navy Department sending relief ship from Norfolk. Merritt sent two boats to her assistance.

Norfolk, Nov. 12.—British steamer Vestris abandoned. Passengers and crew in lifeboats. Several steamers near.

New York, Nov. 12.—Steamer Vestris: It was at first reported that a Japanese steamer, the Ohio Maru, had reached the spot, but according to a message received from the wireless operator on board the Vestris before he, too, left the ill-fated vessel, none of the rescue ships was yet in sight.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 12.—4 30 p.m.: According to a message picked up by the Radio Corporation of America, no steamer has after all yet reached the Vestris, although it was previously reported that the Japanese steamer Ohio Maru was standing by. The weather is reported to have been moderately rough when the 129 passengers and 216 members of the crew went over the side of the ill-fated vessel and took to the lifeboats.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 13.—The United States battleship Wyoming, the coastguard destroyer Davis, the steamers San Juan and Ohio Maru, and the motorship Santa Barbara reported by wireless that they were ploughing the position last given by the Vestris, but, although their searchlights swept the water constantly, they could find nothing.—Reuter.

Norfolk, Nov. 12.—Japanese steamer Ohio Maru expected alongside British steamer Vestris 4 30 p.m.

New York, Nov. 12.—The motor vessel Santa Barbara arrived at 8 p.m. on the spot indicated by the Vestris and used her searchlights, but found no sign of the wreck or of the lifeboats.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 12.—A wireless message purporting to come from the steamer San Juan says: "Have reached position given and are cruising round, but there is no trace of the lifeboats." A similar message has been received from the steamer Porto Rico.—Reuter.

Norfolk, Nov. 13.—Steamer Vestris: Five boats are reported to have arrived at the scene of the disaster; no sign of wreckage or passengers.

New York, Nov. 13.—The steamer American Shipper has found the lifeboats of the steamer Vestris.

The Radio Marine Corporation reports the receipt of following wireless message, at 4 a.m. from the American Shipper: Now on scene. One lifeboat alongside us now.

At 3 30 a.m. the American Shipper had reported seeing red flares in lat. 37 19 N., long. 70 38 W. This message immediately preceded the welcome news of the finding of the lifeboats.—Reuter.

London, Nov. 13.—Cables received in Liverpool to-day state that two lifeboats have been picked up by the motor vessel Santa Barbara and the steamer American Shipper. These ships report that the numbers of saved, or whether they are passengers or crew, are unknown. There is no information of the Vestris, and the American Shipper radios that it is still without information as to whether the vessel actually sank.

New York, Nov. 13.—At 5 a.m. the Radio Marine Corporation learned that the French tanker Myriam had picked up another lifeboat from the Vestris.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 13.—The steamer Berlin, another of the eight vessels now in the vicinity of the spot where the Vestris was last reported to be sinking, has wireless that she is proceeding to the position given by the American Shipper and the tanker Myriam.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 13.—Another message from the steamer American Shipper says: "About five miles north of position where found first

lifeboat approaching four other lifeboats are now all belonging Vestris."—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 13.—Steamer American Shipper has picked up three lifeboats and steamer Myriam has picked up two lifeboats with passengers from the Vestris.

New York, Nov. 13, 5 50 a.m.—The following message from the steamer Myriam to another vessel of the rescuing fleet has been intercepted by the Naval Radio Station ashore:—"Come on, more boats to pick up. Am bound New York myself, have rescued boat No. 5."—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 13, 6 16 a.m.—The Radio Marine Corporation learned at 5 40 a.m. that the steamer American Shipper had reported by wireless that the occupants from three of the lifeboats from the steamer Vestris had been taken on board and that the steamer Myriam had taken on board the occupants of two other lifeboats. At 6 15 a.m. the American Shipper reported that all the lifeboats of the Vestris with the possible exception of one or two and with the exception of one life raft had been picked up.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 13.—Storm reports from Washington indicating rain and sleet as well as wind in the Atlantic have increased the anxiety of the public on the score of the boat and raft which have not yet been picked up.—Reuter.

Washington (D.C.), Nov. 13, 7 16 a.m.—Steamer Vestris: Naval communications report the receipt of the following message from the steamer American Shipper:—One boat and one raft still missing.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 13.—The names of 40 of the shipwrecked occupants of the Vestris which have been picked up by the steamer Myriam have been given in a message intercepted by a United States coastguard vessel. The list includes that of the master of the Vestris, Captain Carey. The coastguard vessel in the course of an indistinct message picked up here states that lifeboat No. 13 and some wreckage has been found by an unnamed foreign steamer, but that there is no sign of the life raft which the steamer American Shipper reported missing. If this message should be correct all the lifeboats which put out from the Vestris should by now be saved, the only exception being the life raft.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 13.—One of the lifeboats of the Vestris was found empty by the German steamer Berlin. There was no means of telling whether it had been occupied and its occupants washed away, or whether it had been washed away from the Vestris before it could be manned.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 13.—Shipping Board received radio from steamer Berlin stating she has twenty-one on board from Vestris. Captain Carey, of Vestris, is on board Myriam.

New York, Nov. 13.—The hope that the Japanese steamer Ohio Maru may have picked up some of the boats of the Vestris is lessened by the announcement from a New York Police Department Radio Station that it has intercepted a message, apparently from the Ohio Maru, stating that she has reached the scene of the wreck, but only to confirm the previous reports that no trace was to be found of the liner. Baltimore station states that the United States battleship Wyoming is now also in the vicinity of the wreck.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 13.—Although according to the reports from the rescue ships, 136 persons of the crew and passengers of the ill-fated Vestris are still unaccounted for, the coastguard headquarters in Washington received word at 10 o'clock from its Norfolk office that all the passengers and crew had been rescued with the exception of one group on board the missing raft.—Reuter.

Norfolk, Nov. 13.—Steamer Vestris: Reported all lifeboats picked up except one raft.

New York, Nov. 13.—Two hundred and four persons out of the total of 339 passengers and crew of the steamer Vestris have been saved according to the latest wireless reports from the rescuing vessels. The London office of the American Merchant Line has just received a wireless message to the effect that the American Shipper has rescued 123 of the passengers and crew of the Vestris. The American Shipper is still standing by. The North German Lloyd steamer Berlin picked up 21 survivors. The Berlin docks in New York to-morrow. The American Shipper rescued 90 members of the crew and 33 passengers. The steamer Myriam has 53 survivors on board and the United States battleship Wyoming picked up six who were clinging to the wreckage.—Reuter.

VESTRIS.—Norfolk, Nov. 13.—British steamer Vestris: Reported 4 p.m. 220 persons accounted for including master.

New York, Nov. 13.—The steamer Myriam reports having rescued eleven more of the survivors of the steamer Vestris. This is in addition to the 53 reported rescued this morning.—Reuter.

Washington, Nov. 13, 6 p.m.—The Navy Department has ordered the battleship Wyoming to remain and continue the search for survivors and bodies. Nine coastguard vessels have likewise been instructed to continue the search throughout the night. The American Shipper, with the rescued passengers and crew, will remain until darkness comes on and then proceed to New York, where it expects to dock on Wednesday night (Nov. 16) or early Thursday morning.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 13.—A wireless message from the North German Lloyd liner Berlin states that the Vestris sank as the lifeboats were being launched. She turned on her side and sank within a minute. A number of persons jumped into the water, and some were picked up by lifeboats which had been safely launched. Three lifeboats, which were passed over on the port side, capsized as the Vestris sank. It is believed that the largest number of casualties were thus caused.—"Daily Express" Correspondent.

New York, Nov. 13.—Vice-Admiral Taylor's report to the Navy Department contained the first detailed information about the rescue operations and the launching of the lifeboats from the stricken British steamer. He relayed a statement by the chief officer of the American Shipper, one of the rescue craft, to the effect that eight boats and one makeshift raft left the Vestris. One boat capsized and some of those in it were picked up by the Wyoming and

other ships. The message added: The raft had evidently broken up owing to the heavy seas. The boat capsized at 6 o'clock yesterday evening and the people had been afloat since then. A number of dead have been sighted. It is not thought possible that any others are still living and we will discontinue the search this evening and return to Norfolk.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 14.—Messrs. Lamport & Holt, the owners of the steamer Vestris, stated yesterday evening that the number of persons known to have been saved was 296, and the number of persons missing was 122, out of 328 persons on board. The statement added that there was no confirmation of the published reports to the effect that Captain William Carey, the master of the Vestris, had been saved, and no word of the fate of wireless operator Michael O'Loughlin.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 14.—Captain Cumings, of the steamer American Shipper, reports by wireless:—"We arrived at the radio position of the Vestris at 10 30 p.m. (on Monday) and started to search. We cruised about until 3 40 a.m. when the first flare was sighted. At 4 5 the first boat was alongside. We rescued five boats, all being on board at 7 30. We steamed through the wreckage and found a man and woman in the water; launched a boat and picked them up. They had been 48 hours in the water. We steamed through and through the wreckage seeking further survivors until noon. We then proceeded to New York, leaving several naval vessels at the scene of the disaster.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 14.—Steamer Vestris: Owners have no confirmation Captain Carey aboard Myriam.

New York, Nov. 14, 10 10 a.m.—It has been definitely established that Captain Carey, the master of the steamer Vestris, is dead.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 14.—It appears from the wireless reports received during the day, which have so far been the only means of getting information about the survivors of the steamer Vestris, that the improvised raft which put off from the ship at the last moment is still unaccounted for. There are also reports that dead bodies, kept afloat by life preservers, have been sighted. More cheerful is a message from the United States battleship Wyoming which says:—"We picked up five women passengers floating in life preservers and three men of the crew in the same manner; but one man was holding on to a hatch cover. The steamers American Shipper, Myriam and Berlin have picked up five, two and one boatloads respectively, so all the lifeboats which put away have been safely accounted for, with the rafts still in doubt."—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 14.—Steamer Berlin arrived here this morning with 23 people rescued from the Vestris and one dead body. The steamer American Shipper, with 125 survivors, docked at 10 o'clock this morning.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 14.—Late in the day the Navy Department received news that coastguards had picked up ten bodies. Hope is still entertained that other living survivors may have been picked up, as four of the vessels which hurried to the scene of the wreck were stated not to be equipped with wireless. One of these was of American registration, while the other three come from South American ports. The number of survivors is now given as 218 at the offices of Messrs. Lamport & Holt. The last official estimate of the number of persons on the Vestris is 328.—Reuter.

VESTRIS.—New York, Nov. 14.—According to the latest figures available here, 220 passengers and crew of the steamer Vestris have been saved, while 108 lost their lives.—Reuter.

Washington, Nov. 14, 2 p.m.—The battleship Wyoming has been ordered by the Navy Department to continue searching the scene of the wreck of the steamer Vestris until dark and then proceed to her base at Hampton Roads.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 14.—Survivors of the steamer Vestris, who arrived here to-day in the steamer Berlin, state that the first two lifeboats were filled with women and children, of whom there were respectively 32 and 13 on board, but as the crew lowered away the sinking vessel gave a sudden lurch, and those in the boats were hurled into the water. Only two boats were successfully launched, and most of the passengers and crew had to jump into the water as the liner settled down. Captain Carey went down with his ship, and the chief wireless operator, Michael O'Loughlin, is also among the missing.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 14.—Mr. Chas. H. Tuttle, the United States Attorney for the New York State South District, announced this afternoon that he would commence an investigation to-morrow afternoon into the circumstances attending the sinking of the steamer Vestris. The inquiry will be held before the United States Commissioner of the District.

It should be stated that the Steamboat Inspection Service of the Department of Commerce informed Reuter's correspondent this afternoon that five days before she was lost, the Vestris underwent a "complete inspection" and received a certificate testifying to her seaworthiness and lawful equipment. Last Wednesday (Nov. 7) inspectors examined her hull, boilers, machinery and equipment in dry dock in Brooklyn and everything on board was found in order.—Reuter.

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. _____ in R. B. Wreck Book, p. _____

Date of writing this report _____ 192

Vessel's Name _____ of _____ Tons { Net _____ Gross _____

Built at _____ When _____ Casualty notice sent to Owner _____ Owner's reply _____

Owner's Name _____

Address _____

Case previously before Classing Committee.	Date	Particulars of Classification.
	Last Minute	

Date of Casualty _____

Précis of particulars of Casualty _____

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

New York, Nov. 15.—The first official explanation of the cause of the sinking of the steamer Vestris, given out by the agents of Messrs. Lamport & Holt last night, is that a number of motor cars in crates, shifted by the heavy seas, crashed through a steel bulkhead and fetched up on the starboard side, causing the vessel to list. The statement adds that the water in the hold made no substantial gain until 1 p.m. on Monday (Nov. 12).—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 15.—The French tank steamer Myriam has arrived at the pier with sixty-four more survivors of the steamer Vestris.—Reuter.

New York, Nov. 15.—Steamer Vestris: Steamer Myriam called last night. Captain Carey reported not saved.

1120
VESTRIS. — London, Nov. 19.—The Postmaster-General announces that letter mails for the Leeward Islands are reported to have been lost in the Vestris. These mails would contain any letters, &c., posted after the dispatch from London on the morning of Oct. 27 by Dutch packet and up to the dispatch on the morning of Nov. 3 by the Aquitaine. New York.

Suggested Record

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute