

WRECK SECTION  
No. 587

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Wreck Report No. 14399

# REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 05742 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 66/55 Date of writing this report 9th January, 19 56.

Ship's Name s.s. "CHAMPLAIN" of London Tons (Gross 7125 Net 4346)

Built at Lauzon When 1942 7 Casualty notice sent to Owner 13.1.56. Owner's reply 16.1.56

Owners Champlain Freighters Ltd.

Managers J.P. Hadoulis, Ltd.

Address 6, Lloyd's Avenue, London, E.C.3.

**RETAIN COMPLETE**

M.M.C.C.

2.011

### Classification details

✠ 100A1	✠ LMCL, 51
with freeboard	BS2, 54
2, 54	spl, 51
ssCffl, 51	
	ts 2, 54 CL

Date of Casualty 26th June, 1955.

### Details of Casualty

Went ashore on a coral reef at Yulinkong, China, in a position which held good prospects of refloating.

Repeated salvage attempts failed, however, and the ship suffered considerable damage from a typhoon early in October.

A further attempt to refloat her in November was unsuccessful, and the Owners now state that the Underwriters have agreed a Constructive Total Loss.

**RETAIN COMPLETE**

### SOURCE OF INFORMATION

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, June 30.—The agents at Hongkong of steamer Champlain received the following message from the master a.m., June 30: Champlain on flat ledge of dead coral interspersed with small rocks, 60 ft. from shore and 60 ft. from deep water and parallel both, Lotao Chiao Point, depth alongside 4 ft. aft., 2 ft. forward low water June 27, after draught arrival 14 ft., transferring to reduce on (? no) serious damage showing. Auxiliaries on atmosphere require one portable submersible pump to circulate. Suggest send two independent ships, power with fuel also one drum diesel fuel. Vessel's ropes, wires and shackles unsuitable for salvage work. Fresh water essential with long hose, also 500 lb. white flour and some available vegetables. (Note.—Efforts are being made through official channels to approach the authorities in Peking for permission for a salvage tug to be sent from Hongkong.)—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of June 29.)

11/7/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—London, July 1.—The London managers of steamer Champlain have received the following message from the master, timed 7.10 p.m. June 30: Position unchanged, ledge to deep water extends 50 ft. parallel to ship, breaking swell. Vessel is not pounding, little damage; difficulty is to lighten sufficiently to float. Can proceed under her own power. Chinese salvage tug here, awaiting confirmation Hongkong, have Lloyd's Open Agreement with Canton authorities. (See issue of July 1.)

2/7/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, July 4.—Steamer Champlain: Following from master on July 3: "Authority on my written request granted for civilian salvage tug from Hongkong to enter Yulinkong and assist Champlain. Essential to advise ahead Penavico tug's particulars and expected time of arrival. Suggest three anchors with wire cables and suitable shallow pontoon." If required and subject to confirmation of foregoing, can arrange to dispatch tug Allegiance II, daily expense basis merging open form if services rendered.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of July 2.)

5/7/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, July 6.—Steamer Champlain: Tug Tai Koo is sailing p.m. to-day as agreed. Wallem & Co., Ltd., report master has confirmed no contract with Chinese tug, also Penavico confirmed permission for entry.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of July 5.)

7/7/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, July 10.—Steamer Champlain: Master of salvage vessel Tai Koo reports vessel apparently undamaged and optimistic of refloating at high tide on July 18; work proceeding. Understand owners of Tai Koo authorising master to sign Lloyd's Open Form.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of July 7.)

12/7/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—London, July 11.—The following message has been received from Hongkong, dated July 9, 8.14 p.m.: Steamer Champlain: Master of salvage vessel Tai Koo reports all concerned consider prospects exceedingly favourable for a.m. tide July 18, proceeding with work meantime. Vessel undamaged so far as can be ascertained, has steam on two boilers although using salt water, fresh water available in small quantities. Weather good.

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, July 11.—Steamer Champlain: Following received by Tai Koo Dockyard & Engineering Company of Hongkong, Ltd., from tug master: No weather reports available. Please forward daily positions of any depressions, tropical storms or typhoons. Have laid out starboard anchor and now laying ground tackle. Both ends four-fold purchase on deck, fore and aft. Vessel has one degree starboard list. Slight leak in No. 7 tank. Very soft coral bottom. Have steam on two boilers. Transferring oil to forepeak later. Draught estimated 9 ft. 7 in. aft, 7 ft. 3 in. fore; water on July 18 and 19 slightly less. Local tidal information very scanty. Swell will assist; only one tide daily. Weather good. Rudder and engine O.K.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of July 12.)

13/7/55

Suggested Record

"WRECKED 6.55"

Date of Committee

TUESDAY 24 JAN 1956

Committee's Minute

Notes for Minutes

Wrecked 6.55



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**CHAMPLAIN.**—London, July 15. — The following message has been received from Hongkong, dated July 15: Steamer Champlain: Master of salvage vessel Tai Koo reported on July 14: Ground tackles laid at 750 ft. and 1100 ft.; weather boisterous. First attempt at refloating will be made on July 18. (See issue of July 13.)

16/7/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—London, July 18. — The following message has been received from Hongkong, dated July 18: Steamer Champlain: Master of salvage vessel Tai Koo reported on July 16: Weather boisterous, awaiting water. Lloyd's Form signed. (See issue of July 16.)

19/7/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—London, July 20. — The following report has been received from Hongkong, dated July 19: Steamer Champlain: Master of salvage vessel Tai Koo reports: Attempt on July 18 not successful, after lead of Champlain broke before high water. Maximum effort with dragging on ground tackle, transferring endeavour to bow on July 19. Attempt at high water on July 19 parted 90-ton wire. Unfortunately now no swell to assist. Will attempt again a.m. on July 20. If not successful must return to Hongkong as heavier ground tackle essential. Vessel not damaged and still consider good proposition. Will leave ground tackle to hold vessel and fill all ballast to prevent moving inshore. (See issue of July 19.)

21/7/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, July 22. — Reports reaching Hongkong state that the third attempt to refloat steamer Champlain has failed and tug is returning to Hongkong for heavier equipment. —British United Press. (See issue of July 21.)

22/7/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—London, July 25.—The following message has been received from Hongkong, dated July 23: Salvage vessel Tai Koo is estimated to arrive at Hongkong on July 24. Diver remained on board steamer Champlain. Master of Tai Koo reports next suitable tides Aug. 14, although moderate about Aug. 3. (See issue of July 23.)

26/7/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, July 26.— Steamer Champlain: Not refloated. Salvage vessel Tai Koo arrived at Hongkong on July 24 and is expected to leave with additional equipment on July 30. Next attempts to refloat will be made in period Aug. 13 to 16.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of July 26.)

27/7/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—London, Aug. 2. — The following message has been received from Hongkong, dated to-day: Steamer Champlain: Salvage vessel Tai Koo left Hongkong at 9.35 a.m. on July 31; estimated time of arrival at Champlain 9.30 a.m. on Aug. 2. (See issue of July 27.)

3/8/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—London, Aug. 4.—The following message has been received from Hongkong, dated Aug. 3: Steamer Champlain: Salvage vessel Tai Koo has arrived at Yulin. Weather good. (See issue of Aug. 3.)

5/8/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, Aug. 16.— Steamer Champlain: Attempt to refloat on Aug. 15 unsuccessful. Tugmaster reports prospects on Aug. 16-17 less hopeful.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Aug. 5.)

17/8/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, Aug. 18. — Steamer Champlain: Attempts to refloat on Aug. 16 and 17 unsuccessful. Tugmaster reports that he is endeavouring to employ a recently arrived large Chinese tug on hourly basis for further attempt.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Aug. 17.)

19/8/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, Aug. 19.— Steamer Champlain: Further attempt with assistance of Chinese tug failed but tugmaster advises that he is conferring with local civil and naval authorities on Aug. 19 with view to ascertaining further operational and tidal information. Tug owners have instructed tug to return unless talks reveal prospects of assured salvage.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Aug. 19.)

20/8/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, Aug. 23. — Steamer Champlain: Tug Tai Koo departed with crew of Champlain at 1 p.m. local time, Aug. 23; master remained.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Aug. 20.)

24/8/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, Aug. 25. — Members of the crew of the steamer Champlain said to-day that Captain Summerfield was now the only man on board the vessel but was negotiating for a Chinese crew to assist him. The 31 British crew members returned here to-day on board the British tug Tai Koo. A spokesman said the ship was high and dry but had sustained little damage. She had not been abandoned. The vessel's owners in London would receive a full report from the master so that they could assess the chances of salvaging her.—Reuter. (See issue of Aug. 24.)

26/8/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—London, Aug. 30.—The following message has been received from Hongkong to-day: Steamer Champlain: Salvage master of tug Tai Koo is of the opinion that flotation may still be possible before the end of the typhoon season. Tai Koo is leaving Hongkong soonest to place on board Champlain a salvage crew and 120 tons of bunkers, so that advantage can be taken of any unscheduled rise in water sufficient to resume efforts to refloat. All other methods of salvage considered impracticable. (See issue of Aug. 26.)

31/8/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—London, Sept. 3. — A message received from Hongkong, dated to-day, states: Steamer Champlain: Entry permit granted to salvage tug Tai Koo; estimated time of departure from Hongkong Sept. 4. (See issue of Aug. 31.)

5/9/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—London, Sept. 27.—The following message has been received from the master of steamer Champlain, dated Sept. 26: Experienced severe typhoon, force 10 to 11 (whole gale to storm) for 20 hours. Unfortunately direction of winds and sea on to shore. Ship now at least 10 ft. nearer dry land, heavily straining and pounding in tidal rise of about 10 ft. (See issue of Sept. 5.)

28/9/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—London, Sept. 28.—The following message has been received from Hongkong, dated Sept. 27: Steamer Champlain: Master cabled on Sept. 26: Severe typhoon, force 10 to 11 (whole gale to storm), duration 20 hours. Champlain strained, pounded, shifted approximately 20 ft. at bow and 10 ft. amidships and aft further shoreward, ship's head 142 deg., starboard anchor dragged; tidal rise about 10 ft. Salvage tug Tai Koo is estimated to arrive off Yulin in the morning of Sept. 28. (See issue of Sept. 28.)

29/9/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—London, Sept. 30.—The following message has been received from the master of steamer Champlain, dated Sept. 30, 5.10 p.m.: Tug Tai Koo arrived on Sept. 28. Vessel 80 ft. from deep water, 60 ft. from tidal high water; no water round vessel tidal datum. No increase in damage visible but sounding indicates slight leak in No. 2 tank. Bow swung in 10 deg. to shore. Consider possibility of refloating greatly reduced. Will proceed to Hongkong in Tai Koo. (See issue of Sept. 29.)

1/10/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, Oct. 1. — Steamer Champlain: Following reports of typhoon "Kate," which passed close to vessel, Taikoo Company dispatched a tug which obtained entry on Sept. 30. Following from master on Sept. 30: "Vessel 30 ft. inshore forward, 10 ft. inshore aft and 8 ft. ahead, list 3 deg. to starboard, heading 142 deg. Vessel was aloft after passage of "Kate" north of Yulin; water experienced 10 ft. approximately. Additional damage not apparent to hull or deck. Estimated maximum water at ship on November tide now approximately 5.7 ft. mean. This not sufficient to attempt further effort to refloat by ground tackles under normal weather and tidal conditions. Ground tackles still intact." Understand Taikoo Company instructed master to press for permission to leave salvage party also to cable additional details to enable them to assess prospects.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Oct. 1.)

3/10/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, Oct. 5. — Steamer Champlain: Salvors report that permission has been granted to leave salvage party of four persons, including two Europeans.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Oct. 3.)

7/10/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, Oct. 10.— Steamer Champlain: Taikoo Dockyard report attempts to refloat on Oct. 9 unsuccessful. Authorities still insist that only four of salvage party remain. Tug instructed to stand by pending further instructions.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Oct. 7.)

11/10/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, Oct. 11. — Steamer Champlain: Taikoo Dockyard Company have instructed tug to return to Hongkong. Master of Champlain is remaining with salvage party.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Oct. 11.)

12/10/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, Oct. 25. — Steamer Champlain: Tug Tai Koo is sailing p.m., Oct. 25, to take advantage of early November tides.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Oct. 12.)

27/10/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, Nov. 11.— Steamer Champlain: Salvors reported attempts to refloat on Nov. 3 and 4 failed. Understand tug returning to Hongkong bringing master of Champlain but leaving salvage party on board; meanwhile tug owners considering further ways and means.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Oct. 27.)

14/11/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, Nov. 20.— Captain Alfred Summerfield, master of British steamer Champlain, arrived here on board a British tug yesterday after leaving the Champlain in the hands of a Hongkong Chinese watch crew.—Reuter. (See issue of Nov. 14.)

21/11/55

**CHAMPLAIN.**—Hongkong, Nov. 28. — Captain Alfred Summerfield stated to-day that steamer Champlain was still in very good condition and was now lying comfortably on a flat ledge, with her engines in good condition. The second typhoon did not damage the vessel but drove her further aground. The Hongkong salvage tug Tai Koo made six fruitless attempts to refloat the Champlain, Captain Summerfield said.—Reuter. (See issue of Nov. 21.)

29/11/55



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