

WRECK SECTION

WRECK SECTION 618

Wreck Report No.

14558

WRECK SECTION

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. ~~418~~ 72833

in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 2/57

Date of writing this report 14th March, 19 1957.

Ship's Name s.s. "OUSEL" of Liverpool Tons { Gross 1533

Net 651

Built at P. Glasgow When 1922 1 Casualty notice sent to Owner 7.3.57. Owner's reply 8.3.57.

Owners British & Continental S.S. Co., Ltd.

Managers

18, Chapel Street, Liverpool 3.

M.M. C/C
2,209.

WRECK SECTION

No. 618

Classification details

*100A1	* LMC10,53
shelter dk with fbd	BS10,53 N
11,55	
ss(Dr)6,48	ts 9,53 CL
Bkn10/53	

Date of Casualty 8th January, 1957.

Details of Casualty

Sunk by collision in the River Mersey.

The Owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

OUSEL.—Seaforth Radio, Jan. 8.—Following received from British steamer Ousel (Antwerp for Manchester):

At 1 59 a.m., G.M.T.: Anchored south of Tacoma City wreck buoy, River Mersey. Have been struck by outward bound vessel, am sinking. Require immediate assistance.

At 2 12 a.m., G.M.T.: Was struck by tank steamer LIVERPOOL. Tug standing by me. Engine-room flooded; unable to raise anchor.

At 3 40 a.m., G.M.T.: Ousel beached and all crew safe, assistance no longer required.

Formby, Jan. 8.—New Brighton lifeboat was launched at 2 30 a.m. to assistance of tank steamer LIVERPOOL and steamer Ousel, in collision in River Mersey. Ousel subsequently beached, crew taken on board lifeboat and later transferred to salvage vessel Salvor.

Liverpool, Jan. 8.—Tank steamer LIVERPOOL, which left Eastham to-day for Venezuela, and steamer Ousel, inward bound, were in collision early to-day south of Tacoma City wreck buoy, River Mersey. Latter now beached south of Rock Ferry Pier, former anchored in The Sloyne with two tugs in attendance.

London, Jan. 8.—Steamer Ousel was reported to be sinking this morning after a collision in the Mersey off Herclaneum Dock with the outward bound tank steamer LIVERPOOL. The Ousel, badly damaged, and with her engine-room flooded, was beached between Tranmere and New Ferry by four tugs.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

Liverpool, Jan. 8.—Steamer Ousel is lying sunk in River Mersey, stern in position 117 deg. 630 ft. from centre of Rock Ferry Stage, at approximately 45 deg. to run of tide. Nos. 1, 3 and 4 hatch covers blown, No. 2 hatch opened prior to sinking. Vessel flooded overall. Stern at low water 35 ft. below Liverpool Bay datum, shell plating reported to be badly fractured in stokehold and bunker space on port side. Long costly salvage operations involved to remove cargo by diver and eventually lift. Danger of vessel breaking back.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

Liverpool, Jan. 8.—The agents of tank steamer LIVERPOOL report that the vessel is practically undamaged, but is remaining in the Mersey to carry out repairs which are unconnected with the collision.

OUSEL.—Liverpool, Jan. 8.—Tank steamer LIVERPOOL was examined afloat, while anchored in the River Mersey on Jan. 8, in respect of collision with steamer Ousel. Small set in in stem plating, starboard side; no leakage into vessel. Anticipate full survey on Jan. 9, when vessel possibly in dock. Ousel grounded on Tranmere Beach and is completely submerged at high tide.—Salvage Association's Surveyor. (See issue of Jan. 9.)

Liverpool, Jan. 9.—Steamer Ousel, at anchor in the River Mersey on Jan. 8, was in collision with and beached by tank steamer LIVERPOOL, outward bound from Eastham. Ousel beached and submerged; cargo 2100 tons of steel and general. Probably total loss.

Liverpool, Jan. 9.—Following received from Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, dated Jan. 8: Steamer Ousel, owned by British and Continental Steamship Co., Ltd., lies sunk near Rock Ferry and has been taken possession of by the Board under their statutory powers. The Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association are acting as agents for and on behalf of the Board in and about the receiving and disposing of any cargo recovered from the vessel.

London, Jan. 9.—Divers and salvage experts began discharging cargo from the steamer Ousel to-day. Cargo consists mainly of steel bars and plates.

OUSEL.—Liverpool, Jan. 10.—Steamer Ousel: The Mersey Docks and Harbour Board have now got two derrick barges engaged on discharging cargo in order to lighten the vessel for lifting. This operation will probably be a lengthy one but we will keep in touch with the position.—Salvage Association's Surveyors. (See issue of Jan. 10.)

OUSEL.—Liverpool, Feb. 22.—Steamer Ousel: Work continues on removing cargo, general and steel ingots. Little change in position. Agreed vessel a constructive total loss. (See issue of Jan. 14.)



Suggested Record SUNK BY COLLISION 1,57

Date of Committee FRIDAY 15 MAR 1957

Committee's Minutes Sunk by collision 1.57

