

WRECK SECTION No. 677

Wreck Report No. 15267

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 58232 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 75/61 Date of writing this report 26th April, 19 61.

Ship's Name m.s. "DARA" R.M.C. of London Tons { Gross 5030 Net 2780

Built at Whiteinch When 1948 6 Casualty notice sent to Owner 21.4.61. Owner's reply 25.4.61.

Owners British India Steam Nav. Co., Ltd.

Managers ---

Address One Aldgate, London, E.C.3.

WRECK SECTION No. 677

Classification details

+ 100A1	+ LMC CS5,60
with freeboard	BS A 1,60
5,600	sp 4,60
ss 5,56	
	ts N5,60 CL
+ Lloyd's RMC	

of Casualty 8th April, 1961.

ails of Casualty

Gutted by fire in violent electric storm off Dubai; taken in tow but sank in lat. 25 34N., long. 55 29E.

The Owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

DARA.—Bahrain, Apr. 8.—British motor vessel Dara (Basrah for Bombay): Following SOS received from steamer Empire Guillemot, via Cable and Wireless, Bahrain, at 2 30 a.m., G.M.T., Apr. 8: "QTH (my position is) 163 deg. from Jazirat Tunb at 19 miles, closed on burning ship. Request all vessels stand by to pick up survivors. Name of distressed ship Dara, call sign GDTT." Further messages: At 7 a.m. (local time): "Am closing to distress ship and sending lifeboat to pick up survivors." At 7 10 a.m. (local time): "We have already taken on board some survivors." At 7 40 a.m. (local time): "We have on board eighty-five survivors, motor tanker Thorsholm has a further five including the master of Dara. Dara informs originally five hundred and fifty persons on board, none got away in lifeboat." Master of Empire Guillemot reported at 3 50 a.m., G.M.T.: "In lat. 25 56 N., long. 55 11 E., alongside still burning Dara." Master of Dara reported from Thorsholm at 4 a.m., G.M.T.: "Dara abandoned on fire in position lat. 25 55 N., long. 55 13 E."

Bahrain, Apr. 8. — Early to-day the master of motor vessel Dara reported fire on board after a violent electric storm. Steamer Empire Guillemot radioed a few minutes ago that the blaze was now subsiding and the master was trying to reboard his ship. The passengers included British and Americans. A spokesman in London of the owners of the Dara said the vessel would be carrying mostly Moslem deck passengers.—Reuter.

London, Apr. 8. — The owners of motor vessel Dara confirm that the vessel was abandoned at 6 a.m., local time, to-day.

Bahrain, Apr. 8.—Following from tank steamer British Energy, addressed steamer Empire Guillemot, at 5 48 a.m., G.M.T.: "We have now got one hundred or more survivors. We have the doctor of motor vessel Dara on board. Second mate of Dara has returned on board. Now we have accounted for about four hundred and fifty persons, with one dead." Following received earlier from motor tanker Thorsholm: "Dara fire lessening, will try reboarding ship."—Signed Commander. Presumed commander of Dara, on board Thorsholm.

Bahrain, Apr. 8.—British frigates Loch Ruthven, Loch Fyne and Loch Alvie are all heading at full speed for motor vessel Dara. They should reach the burning ship by 4 p.m., G.M.T.,

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P.T.O.

Suggested Record BURNT & SANK 4,61
 Date of Committee FRIDAY 28 APR 1961
 Committee's Minute Burnt & Sank 4,61



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according to the Admiralty. The disaster scene is about 100 miles west of the Strait of Hormuz, the outlet of the Persian Gulf to the Indian Ocean, and about 10 miles from Jazirat Bu Musa.—Reuter.

Bahrain, Apr. 8. — Motor vessel Dara: Following report received from Dubai via imperfect wireless communication: Dara was struck by Panamanian steamer ZEUS while at anchor at Dubai about 6 p.m., local time, Apr. 7, and afterwards proceeded seawards on account of deteriorating weather, with between 60 and 150 labour and embarking passengers from Dubai, with intention to return at daylight. Understood majority of Dubai-bound passengers previously disembarked. Steamer Empire Guillemot advises estimated time of arrival Dubai 4 p.m., local time, with 300 survivors; if unable to anchor will proceed to Bahrain. Tank steamer British Energy advises estimated time of arrival Bahrain 11 59 p.m., local time, Apr. 8, with 150 survivors, including several badly injured. Motor vessel Barpeta proceeded casualty from Dubai with shore doctor 10 30 a.m., local time. Tank steamer Jingu Maru estimated time of arrival casualty 11 a.m., local time, with doctor. Also three Royal Navy frigates, salvage vessel Ocean Salvor, port salvage tug Hidd proceeded to casualty from Bahrain. (See also "Bad Weather at Dubai" under "Weather and Navigation.")

Bahrain, Apr. 8. — Motor vessel Dara: Report received from motor tanker Yuyo Maru No. 5, JBDA, indicates further 70 survivors on board. Also further ten survivors on board motor tanker Thorsholm, making estimated total of about 530 survivors.

Bahrain, Apr. 8. — Motor vessel Dara: British Broadcasting Corporation representative who flew over casualty at 2 p.m., local time, Apr. 8, reports vessel smouldering amidships in way of bridge and engine-room. Port amidships lifeboats lowered and away, port companion ladder down, after lifeboats away. Fire apparently subsided, boarding party observed in stern.

London, Apr. 8. — According to a spokesman for the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co., there have been three explosions in the fuel tanks of the motor vessel Dara since the master returned on board in the hope of getting his ship towed ashore. The situation was by then getting dangerous. It is believed the original fire started in the engine-room. Six or seven lifeboats were launched from the ship after the first explosion this morning.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

London, Apr. 8. — Some of the officers of the motor vessel Dara have now rejoined. The motor vessel Barpeta has arrived and may attempt to tow the Dara. — Exchange Telegraph Company.

Aden, Apr. 8. — An Aden-based R.A.F. Shackleton searching for survivors from motor vessel Dara in the Persian Gulf reported to-day that it had sighted six bodies. — Reuter.

Bahrain, Apr. 8. — Motor vessel Dara: Understood from motor vessel Barpeta, master of Dara on board and Dara again abandoned 5 p.m., local time. Three Royal Navy frigates due casualty at 8 30 p.m., local time, Apr. 8.

London, Apr. 8.—A signal from the frigate Loch Ruthven received at the Admiralty to-night stated that the frigate was now secured to the stern of the motor vessel Dara and hoses were being played on the blazing vessel. A small fire party had been put on board, preparatory to getting the Loch Ruthven alongside. The frigates Loch Fyne and Loch Alvie were in attendance.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

Bahrain, Apr. 9. — Motor vessel Dara: Tank steamer British Energy and motor tanker Yuyo Maru No. 5 arrived here on Apr. 9.

Bahrain, Apr. 9.—British motor vessel Dara: So far, 216 survivors have been landed at Bahrain and 300 at Dubai, according to the latest official figures. The superstructure of the Dara is blackened and twisted, most of her paint is gone and smoke and flames are pouring through splits in the deck and sides, the frigate Loch Ruthven reported. A fierce fire is raging in her boiler- and engine-rooms, and the fire has taken hold again forward. A brisk wind and current have drifted her to within about 10 miles of the shore. — Reuter.

Bahrain, Apr. 9. — Motor vessel Dara: According to a report received by Royal Navy at Bahrain from frigate Loch Ruthven at 5 10 a.m., G.M.T., Apr. 8 (? 9), firefighting operations continuing with water spray. Fire again taken hold forward and aft; main fire in engine-room. Fire parties from Royal Navy frigates and United States destroyer Laffey on board. Decks and sides split and rent. Casualty drifted 17 miles south-west and is now only 10 miles from shore and has developed slight list. Motor vessel Barpeta reports at 6 a.m., G.M.T., fire still smouldering and hull fairly gutted. Master and chief engineer of Dara proceeding Bahrain on board frigate. Salvage steamer Ocean Salvor due casualty at 5 p.m., G.M.T., Apr. 8 (? 9).

London, Apr. 9. — Well over 150 passengers and crew from motor vessel Dara are still unaccounted for, the owners of the vessel reported this afternoon. So far, there are 565 known survivors among the 752 men, women and children now known to have been on board. The bodies of some victims have been recovered. The British India Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., reported that 70 seamen are among the missing. The vessel, still smouldering, is now being towed stern first towards Bahrain by a Royal Navy frigate. — Exchange Telegraph Company.

London, Apr. 9.—The Admiralty reported to-night that officers and men from the three Royal Navy frigates have now brought the fire in motor vessel Dara under control. The frigates have been fighting the fire since yesterday evening. The Admiralty spokesman added: "The Dara is now anchored and cooling continues. It is hoped to tow her to a place of safety." — Exchange Telegraph Company.

DARA. — Bahrain, Apr. 8. — Motor vessel Dara: Bahrain Government tug Hidd due casualty at noon, Apr. 9, and salvage steamer Ocean Salvor p.m., Apr. 9. Casualty understood smoking and smouldering and, according to report from tank steamer British Energy to H.M.S. Loch Alvie at 4 p.m., almost gutted. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Apr. 10.)

Bahrain, Apr. 9. — Motor vessel Dara: Indications are that vessel has sustained very severe damage. Intention if fire extinguished to tow casualty to Bahrain. Salvage steamer Ocean Salvor has contacted Royal Navy at Bahrain and expressed willingness to act under their Lloyd's Open Form, which understand master of Dara has signed with Royal Navy. Casualty now only 10 miles from shore and, if list worsens, may be necessary to beach in order to extinguish fire. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

Bahrain, Apr. 9. — Motor vessel Dara: Royal Navy advise 8 p.m., local time, Apr. 9, all major fires extinguished but hull still very hot; cooling operations in progress by large naval party on board. Casualty anchored in lat. 25 36 N., long. 55 26 E. Intention commence tow to Bahrain, utilising salvage steamer Ocean Salvor and/or tug Hidd, at daylight, Apr. 10. Casualty has severe list, which hoped correct during night.

Bahrain, Apr. 9. — A total of 214 survivors from the motor vessel Dara were landed here to-day, 28 of them seriously injured and many more slightly injured. Three hundred and forty-two survivors, including many who were picked up previously, have been taken to Dubai.—British United Press.

Bahrain, Apr. 10. — Some of the ship's engineers were among the survivors from motor vessel Dara landed here yesterday. One, Mr. Ramsey Birrell, of Gateshead, who was in the water several hours before being picked up, said: "We were on watch when there was a big explosion between decks. The lights went out and then the emergency lighting came on. There were many casualties in the second-class accommodation. Within 20 minutes the ship was gutted. Some deck passengers jumped over the side. Many boats were overcrowded. One sank immediately and another capsized."—Reuter.

Bahrain, Apr. 10. — Motor vessel Dara: Master, on board H.M.S. Loch Ruthven, advises 8 45 p.m., G.M.T., Apr. 9, signed Lloyd's Open Form with Royal Navy and salvage steamer Ocean Salvor. Royal Navy advises 5 a.m., G.M.T., Apr. 10, now intention to beach casualty to enable complete fire-extinguishing operations and improve stability prior to towing Bahrain. (Later) Royal Navy advise 6 15 a.m., G.M.T., Apr. 10, Dara sunk in position lat. 25 34 N., long. 55 27 E., in eleven fathoms.

London, Apr. 10. — Motor vessel Dara sank early to-day while being towed by salvage steamer Ocean Salvor. The owners of the vessel stated in London that she sank about five miles offshore while salvage vessels were trying to beach her. The Royal Navy had intended, with the aid of the salvage vessels, to commence towing the Dara

to Bahrain at daylight to-day but a deterioration in the condition of the ship overnight caused a change in plan. — Exchange Telegraph Company.

London, Apr. 10.—Norwegian motor tanker Thorsholm reported to-day that she had saved 108 survivors from motor vessel Dara and had transferred them all to British steamer Empire Guillemot.

Bahrain, Apr. 10.—No one was on board motor vessel Dara when she sank. Reports indicate that the final casualty list is likely to be in the region of 200. A spokesman said that there was little hope of finding further survivors. All known survivors have been landed at Dubai or Bahrain. Indications are that an explosion took place in a boiler space and that the minor collision at Dubai (with steamer ZEUS) was not related to the cause of the fire. The Ministry of Transport will fly out a senior engineer and surveyor to-morrow to make a preliminary investigation into the loss of the Dara.—Reuter.

Bahrain, Apr. 10. — It is learned that 102 of the crew of the motor vessel Dara are known to be safe but the other 30 are missing.—Reuter.

DARA. — Bahrain, Apr. 11.—Captain Desmond Law, commander of H.M. frigate Loch Ruthven, said that motor vessel Dara sank yesterday as she was being towed for beaching. "About three miles offshore, the list in the Dara increased and she rolled over to starboard and sank. She is now lying on her starboard side with her davits just sticking out of the water," he said.—Reuter. (See issue of Apr. 11.)

DARA.—Bahrain, Apr. 9.—Motor vessel Dara: According to a report received by the Royal Navy at Bahrain from frigate Loch Ruthven at 5 10 a.m., G.M.T., Apr. 9, firefighting operations continuing with water spray. Fire again taken hold forward and aft; main fire in engine-room. Fire parties from Royal Navy frigates and United States destroyer Laffey on board. Decks and sides split and rent. Casualty drifted 17 miles south-west and is now only 10 miles from shore and has developed slight list. Motor vessel Barpeta reports at 6 a.m., G.M.T., fire still smouldering and hull fairly gutted. Master and chief engineer of Dara proceeding Bahrain on board frigate. Salvage steamer Ocean Salvor due casualty at 5 p.m., G.M.T., Apr. 9. (See later report in issue of Apr. 12.)

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