

RECK SECTION No. 657

Wreck Report No. 15803

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 56699 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 85/61 Date of writing this report 1st June, 1961. 19

Ship's Name s.s. "CHINA FIR" of Hong Kong Tons Gross 5450 Net 3207

Built at Sunderland When 1937 9 Casualty notice sent to Owner 3.5.61. Owner's reply 8.5.61. 1.6.61.

Owners Fir S.S. Co., Ltd.
 Fir Line Ltd.
 325, Alexandra House, P.O. Box 148, Hong Kong.

WRECK SECTION No. 657

Classification details

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| +100A1 | + LMC 2,56 |
| with freeboard 12,60 | BS M3,60 |
| ss 2,56 | sp 2,56 |
| | ts 1,60 CL |

18th April, 1961.

Aground on rocks Tathong Point, at extreme entrance Hong Kong harbour and settled as a constructive total loss.

The owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

CHINA FIR.—Hongkong, Apr. 18.—Steamer China Fir (Morugaog for Kobe) ran aground to-night on a rocky island six miles from Kowloon. There were no casualties and the master and crew of 44 were taken off by two trawlers and landed here.—Reuter.

—Hongkong, Apr. 19.—Steamer China Fir reported aground at midnight on rocks Tathong Point, at extreme entrance Hongkong harbour. Crew now off vessel. In conjunction with owners, have approved dispatch tug to assess position. (Later) Report from Taikoo tug at 5.30 a.m. indicates vessel flooded, with water completely covering fore-castle and Nos. 1 and 2 hatches, and broken amidships at No. 3 hatch. Cargo on board approximately 9400 tons of iron ore. In view of condition of vessel, successful refloating apparently impossible. Vessel struck rocks between 10.30 p.m. and 11 p.m., Apr. 18.—Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr. 19.—Steamer China Fir: The following message has been received from Hongkong, dated Apr. 19: China Fir, Morugaog for Japan with 9400 tons of iron ore, ashore south Hongkong on Lam-tong Island, just north of Tathong Point, at 10.5 p.m., Apr. 18, abandoned by crew with foredeck awash. Tug Tai Koo proceeded to the scene and reports vessel's back broken and abandoning attempts to salvage.

CHINA FIR.—Hongkong, Apr. 22.—Steamer China Fir: The following message has been received from the Salvage Association's representative, T. C. Nicol: Open shelter deck throughout, aground west side of Tung Lung Island about four miles south-east of Lyemun entrance to Hongkong, with 9600 tons of iron ore. Grounded at full speed on solid rock and large boulders; now flooded throughout and listed 12 deg. to starboard. Badly buckled down sides mid length in way of deep tank containing 200 tons of oil fuel, and upper deck and bulwark splitting as bow settled down about 11 ft. below normal line. At half tide raised fore-castle awash to centreline and fore deck submerged aft to bridge also after deck awash along starboard side only and tidal range three feet. Diver finds indication along port side that bottom is severely damaged from approximately foremast to mainmast. Rest of bottom inaccessible but would anticipate extensive damage. Position exposed, condition likely to deteriorate. Consider prospects refloating extremely doubtful and not economical.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Apr. 20.)

CHINA FIR.—Hongkong, Apr. 24.—Steamer China Fir: Owners advise apparent damage sustained by two trawlers participating in rescue of crew; request for compensation now received. With our approval, surveyors appointed to inspect trawlers without prejudice.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issues of Apr. 20 and 24.)

LH 20/4/61

LH 24/4/61

LH 25/4/61



Suggested Record "WRECKED 4,61"
 Date of Committee THURSDAY - 8 JUN 1961
 Committee's Minute Wrecked 4.61
 write Lloyd's

