

Wreck Report No. 15684

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 65180 in WRECK SECTION Wreck Book, p. 177/60

Date of writing this report 19th January, 1961.

Ship's Name s. "INDIAN NAVIGATOR" of Calcutta Tons { Gross 7660

Built at Los Angeles When 1944 -- Casualty notice sent to Owner 11.1.61. Owner's reply 24.1.61.

Owners India S.S. Co., Ltd.

Managers ---

Address India Steamship House, 21 Old Court House Street, Calcutta 1, India.

WRECK
SECTION
No. 696

Classification details

100A1	LMC CS5,59
6,60	BS M 4,60
ss 5,59	sp 6,58
Classed 5,47	ts 5,59 CL

f Casualty 31st December, 1960.

of Casualty

Abandoned on fire in lat. 48 45N., long. 7 40W. and subsequently sank about 60 miles off Scilly Isles.

The Owners concur.

INDIAN NAVIGATOR. — Land's End Radio, Dec. 31. — Following received from Brest-Le Conquet Radio at 12 21 p.m., G.M.T.: SOS, following received from steamer Indian Navigator, VWVX, (Hamburg for Calcutta) at 12 15 p.m., G.M.T.: Position lat. 48 45 N., long. 7 40 W., engine-room on fire. British motor vessel Menestheus due at 12 40 p.m., G.M.T. Dutch motor vessel Dalerdyk about nine miles distant and proceeding.

Following received from British motor vessel Florian at 12 33 p.m., G.M.T., addressed Indian Navigator: We are about eight miles from you and proceeding to your position.

Following received from Menestheus at 12 39 p.m., G.M.T.: Here now about three miles off. We have doctor on board.

Following received from Indian Navigator at 12 42 p.m., G.M.T.: SOS, abandoning ship; please send boats for remaining crew.

Following received from Menestheus: At 1 3 p.m., G.M.T.: Dalerdyk and Menestheus now standing by to pick up lifeboats from Indian Navigator, which on fire in position lat. 48 45 N., long. 7 40 W. Four lifeboats in water, very heavy swell making difficulties.

At 1 37 p.m., G.M.T.: Menestheus and Dalerdyk now standing by Indian Navigator, in distress, and in control of situation. Other vessels may proceed on their voyages.

At 1 42 p.m., G.M.T.: Indian Navigator now abandoned in position lat. 48 45 N., long. 7 40 W., burning fiercely with possibility of further explosions. Drifting 140 deg., dangerous to navigation. Forty-seven of crew, including master, now on board Menestheus, 19 on board Dalerdyk, total 66 survivors from crew of 67. One man seen drifting away in lifejacket, all ships please keep look-out. Menestheus now standing by a while.

Following received from master of Dalerdyk at 1 44 p.m., G.M.T., addressed Menestheus: We have 19 men from Indian Navigator, total lives 68. Do you have captain?

Following received from Menestheus, addressed Dalerdyk: We now picking up another boat. Master of Indian Navigator not on board yet. Man in water been picked up by lifeboat still in water.

Following received from Menestheus at 2 27 p.m., G.M.T., addressed Dalerdyk: Here have picked up 47 survivors of total crew 67, not 68. One man wearing lifejacket thought still in water, please search. Confirm with purser 67 crew.

Following received from Dalerdyk at 2 28 p.m., G.M.T.: Total crew 67, purser made mistake.

Following received from Brest-Le Conquet Radio:

At 3 21 p.m., G.M.T.: Reference SOS of Indian Navigator, Menestheus and Dalerdyk still searching.

At 4 26 p.m., G.M.T.: Re missing man from Indian Navigator, following received from Dalerdyk at 4 22 p.m., G.M.T.: On board Dalerdyk now 20 men, now total crew of Indian Navigator.

Following received from tug Masterman at 4 49 p.m., G.M.T.: Left Dartmouth at 4 p.m., bound Indian Navigator position.

London, Dec. 31. — The master of steamer Indian Navigator reported via motor vessel Menestheus this afternoon that a violent explosion in No. 4 hatch, affecting the engine-room and No. 3 hatch, resulted in an extensive fire, including all accommodation, and forced the abandonment of the vessel. He reported that French tug Jean Bart had offered her services on Lloyd's Open Form "no cure no pay."

Land's End Radio, Jan. 1. — Following received from Indian steamer Indian Success at 9 9 a.m., G.M.T.: Indian Success steaming around abandoned steamer Indian Navigator, which is still burning in approximate position lat. 48 7 N., long. 7 29 W. Tug Pontallac also standing by.

London, Jan. 1. — Steamer Indian Success reported this morning that steamer Indian Navigator was blazing aft and smoking amidships. A tug was on the spot and the Indian Success was standing by.

London, Jan. 1. — Forty-seven survivors from steamer Indian Navigator were taken to a welfare centre at Liverpool to-night. They arrived in the motor vessel Menestheus, which docked at Gladstone Dock, Liverpool, this afternoon. — Exchange Telegraph Company.

Suggested Record "BURNT & SANK 12,60"

Date of Committee IFRIDAY 27 JAN 1961

Committee's Minute Burnt & Sank 12,60

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INDIAN NAVIGATOR.—London, Jan. 1.

—Members of the crew of steamer Indian Navigator said that the vessel was carrying sulphur to Calcutta and the fumes of the sulphur had filled the engine-room, driving the men out.—Exchange Telegraph Company. (See issue of Jan. 2.)

—London,

Jan. 2.—The London agents of steamer Indian Navigator state that the steamer Indian Success has a party on board the Indian Navigator and is still standing by.

INDIAN NAVIGATOR.—London, Jan. 2.

—Steamer Indian Success reported late to-night that 13 men had boarded the steamer Indian Navigator, crew of four of motor boat, owing to breakdown of engine, having joined salvage party. Nos. 3 and 5 holds were still burning. (See issue of Jan. 3.)

—Land's End Radio,

Jan. 3. — Following received from steamer Indian Success:

At 1 11 a.m., G.M.T.: Mayday (distress signal), presume steamer Indian

Navigator sunk, am searching for 13 crew members in lifeboat which has no light, approximate position lat. 48 25 N., long. 5 57 W.

At 1 18 a.m., G.M.T.: Request aircraft to illuminate scene.

Following received from Brest-Le

Conquet Radio at 1 38 a.m., G.M.T.:

At 1 25 a.m., G.M.T., tug Du Guesclin confirmed Indian Navigator sank in

30 seconds at 11 p.m., G.M.T. (Jan. 2).

Following received from Indian

Success:

At 1 53 a.m., G.M.T.: Do not require any further assistance from any other vessels. Four tugs and Indian Success on scene of distress.

At 2 3 a.m., G.M.T.: Indian Success in position of wreckage and does not consider aircraft will be of any assistance now.

At 8 32 a.m., G.M.T.: Indian Success, along with the four tugs, searching the area for survivors. Indian Success is in touch with the tugs.

Following received from Brest-Le

Conquet Radio at 8 53 a.m., G.M.T.:

Following received from French

National Marine, Brest: Neptun aircraft left Lorient at 8 42 a.m., Jan. 3, to

search the vicinity of Indian Navigator.

—The Hague, Jan. 3.

—Steamer Indian Success and four tugs were searching to-day for 13 seamen from the Indian Success who had formed a salvage party on board the abandoned and burning steamer Indian Navigator when she sank suddenly late last night. The four tugs taking part in the operation were Masterman, Atlantic, Pontailac and Du Guesclin. — Exchange Telegraph Company.

—London, Jan.

3.—The Royal Air Force to-day abandoned their search for the 13 men who were on board the steamer Indian Navigator when she sank about 60 miles off the Scilly Isles late last night. The master of the tug Masterman radioed this morning that he was still searching the area for survivors. When the tug reached the spot at 1 a.m. to-day, they could see a lot of flotsam but no survivors.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

—Land's

End Radio, Jan. 3.—Steamer Indian Navigator: Following received from steamer Indian Success:

At 11 24 a.m., G.M.T.: Intend continue search downwind until noon, G.M.T., to-day, at which time intend abandoning search.

At 12 11 p.m., G.M.T., addressed rescue tugs: Proceeding on my way to Gdynia, thanks for your co-operation.

—Brest, Jan. 3.—

It was reported in Brest that the steamer Indian Navigator sank after an explosion, leaving a large oil slick, two lifejackets and some flotsam. A French Navy aircraft is searching the area for survivors.—Reuter.

INDIAN NAVIGATOR.—Horta, Jan. 4.—

Motor vessel Dalerdyk called at Fayal on Jan. 4 to disembark 20 survivors from steamer Indian Navigator. (See issue of Jan. 4.)



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