

Wreck Report No.

16030

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 32608 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 9/62

WRECK
SECTION

Date of writing this report 28th February, 19 62.

Ship's Name s.s. "SUERTE"

YEAR.

MONTH.

No. 457

of

--- (Lebanon)

Tons (Gross 7238
Net 4420)

Built at Baltimore When 1944

Casualty notice sent to Owner 21.2.62. Owner's reply 22.2.62.

Owners Vita Shipping Corp.

Managers ---

Address

c/o Transmarine Shipping Agencies, Ltd., 15, St. Helens Place, London, E.C.3.

Classification details

BS	MBS 6,58
5,61	BS M6,61
ss 6,58	sp 6,58
	ts 2,60 CL

e of Casualty

8th January, 1962.

ails of Casualty

This ship stranded at Three Fathom Harbour, 15 miles E. of Halifax, N.S., and has been declared a total loss.

The owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

SUERTE. — St. Pierre, Mig., Radio, Jan. 8. — Following S O S received from steamer Suerte, ODGZ: Position Six (Three) Fathom Harbour, off Shut-in Island, lat. 44 36 34 N., long. 63 16 5 W., run aground and very heavy sea running. Position marked by flares being fired. All assistance required immediately.

Camperdown Radio, Jan. 9. — Following distress message sent all stations at 3 7 a.m., G.M.T., Jan. 9: Steamer Suerte, position lat. 44 36 34 N., long. 63 16 5 W., Three Fathom Harbour, run aground and very heavy leaking. All assistance required immediately.

Halifax, Jan. 8. — Steamer Suerte, with 28 men on board, sent out an SOS to-night saying she was leaking badly. She had struck rocks half a mile off Shut-in Island, about 15 miles east of here. A spokesman for the Air Force Search and Rescue Centre said a Navy crash boat was being sent to the scene as well as an ocean tug. A spokesman for the ship's agents said she was in ballast and was bound for Halifax (from Brest) to load grain.—Reuter.

Halifax, Jan. 9. — Steamer Suerte remained upright in diminishing seas to-day on the rocks where she went aground yesterday. She continued to take water into her engine-room, but the crew of 28 remained on board. A lifeboat had been lowered over the side but no attempt was made to reach shore at Three Fathom Harbour, half a mile away. The naval patrol vessel Loon and tug Foundation Vigilant stood by near the ship.—Reuter.

Halifax, Jan. 9. — Steamer Suerte, in ballast, ashore on Jan. 8 at Three Fathom Harbour, 15 miles east of Halifax. Vessel lying in shallow water, access for salvors difficult. Reported shaft tunnel flooded and engine-room leaking but controllable all ship's pumps. Tug Foundation Vigilant, on Lloyd's Open Form, standing by. Weather moderate, reported worsening. — Salvage Association's Surveyors.

Halifax, Jan. 9. — Helicopters to-day took most of the crew of 28 off steamer Suerte, which is in danger of breaking up on a reef 15 miles east of Halifax. A Canadian Navy patrol boat and a civil tug have been standing by, but the tug cannot get within a mile of the Suerte.—British United Press.

Halifax, Jan. 9. — Canadian Navy and Air Force helicopters to-day removed most of the crew from steamer Suerte. First to be taken off was Captain Dimitrios Charissis, who was flown to Halifax to discuss the plight of the Suerte with shipping agents and salvage men. A "watchdog" crew of three men was left on board the Suerte.—Reuter.

SUERTE. — Halifax, Jan. 9. — The entire crew was airlifted from steamer Suerte by three helicopters after rough seas and shallow water had prevented tugs from reaching her. Captain Dimitrios Charissis said that the Suerte grounded because of thick fog. Seas were breaking all over the vessel to-night.—Reuter. (See issue of Jan. 10.)

Halifax, Jan. 9. — Steamer Suerte: Draught prior to stranding approximately 7 ft. 6 in. forward, 18 ft. aft; approximate soundings at high water 2-3 fathoms all round, low water approximately 2 ft. less. Crew removed from vessel by helicopter due to deteriorating weather. Have recommended forward holds be flooded to stabilise vessel. Prospective salvors, Foundation Maritime, Ltd., not prepared to offer terms at present until weather moderates and able to board vessel.—Salvage Association's Surveyors.

SUERTE.—Halifax, Jan. 10. — Steamer Suerte: Not yet possible to board vessel. However, from shore, position and condition apparently not worsening except strong possibility of frost damage as vessel now dead ship. Understand all crew, with exception of master and chief engineer, being repatriated. So far as known above tank tops only engine-room and tunnel flooded, with No. 4 double bottom tank tidal. — Salvage Association's Surveyors. (See issue of Jan. 11.)



Suggested Record

"WRECKED 1,62"

Date of Committee

FRIDAY -9 MAR 1962

Committee's Minute

Wrecked 1.62

1m,1,61

NOTED FOR
POSTING

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Lloyd's Register
Foundation

003223-003232-0164

SUERTE. — Halifax, Jan. 12. — Steamer Suerte: Following examination, prospects refloating appear reasonable with vessel in present condition. Prospective salvors, Foundation Maritime, Ltd., to attempt refloating on Lloyd's Open Form terms. In so far as can be ascertained, holds not leaking, rudder and stern frame intact, no leakage of oil from double bottom tanks. Engine-room flooded from open sounding pipe to No. 4 double bottom; this now closed and engine-room pumpable. — Salvage Association's Surveyors. (See issues of Jan. 11 and 12.)

LL15/1/62

SUERTE. — Halifax, Jan. 18. — Suerte: So far salvors unable to approach vessel due to heavy air temperature Jan. 17-18 zero; heavy winds of 30-40 miles per hour; heavy frost damage almost inevitable in these conditions. (Later) Following survey on board to-day and in view of present condition of vessel, Foundation Maritime, Ltd., have abandoned efforts to refloat and Lloyd's Open Form contract now void. Apparently, storm Jan. 17-18 has caused considerable damage. Vessel working on bottom and down by head, with indication hull and superstructure distorting between No. 3 hold and engine-room. Vessel surrounded by fuel oil from double bottom tanks, engine-room now tidal and No. 4 hold leaking. Will attempt to board vessel again on Jan. 19 for further examination. — Salvage Association's Surveyor. (See issue of Jan. 15.)

LL20/1/62

SUERTE. — Halifax, Jan. 19. — Steamer Suerte: Unable to board vessel to-day. Three Fathom Harbour frozen over and our workboat frozen in. Will attempt again soonest. — Salvage Association's Surveyors. (See issue of Jan. 20.)

LL22/1/62

SUERTE. — Halifax, Jan. 22. — Steamer Suerte: Further survey carried out to-day's date. Position and condition have not worsened since Jan. 18. In view of cancellation by Foundation Maritime, Ltd., of Lloyd's Open Form contract, we now recommend placing one pump on board and attempt pump engine-room. If successful, then recommend under our supervision hire local contractor to pump part ballast sufficient to float vessel farther inshore. Three Fathom Harbour. In that location vessel will have additional shelter and apparent flat clay bottom to take on low tide. If this successful, possibility of refloating and removing vessel from Three Fathom Harbour still reasonable. — Salvage Association's Surveyors. (See issue of Jan. 22.)

LL24/1/62



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