

WRECK SECTION No 792 A

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, BREAKING UP, ETC.

00776

Ship's Name: SS/MS "ALACRITY" Gross tons 554 Date of Build 2-1940
Casualty notice sent to Owners 26.9.63. Owners' Reply 1.10.63. Owners F.T. Everard & Sons Ltd.

Details of classification

Table with classification details: +100A1, 4,63, ss 7,59, +LMC CS10,58, ts N4,63 OG

Details of casualty

This ship stranded at Portheras Cove, Pendeen, and has been declared a total loss. The owners concur.

WRECK SECTION No. 792

Date of casualty 13th September, 1963.

22/14/9/63

ALACRITY. - St. Just, Sept. 13.-Sennen lifeboat launched to stand by British motor vessel Alacrity (Swansea for Brussels), ashore Portheras Cove, north side Pendeen Lighthouse. St. Just Life-Saving Apparatus standing by.

London, Sept. 13.-Motor vessel Alacrity, with seven men on board, went aground in thick fog to-day in a cove on the north Cornish coast. The master radioed that he did not need immediate assistance but the Sennen lifeboat and St. Just life-saving team were standing by. The Alacrity, carrying a cargo of coal, was believed to be holed and taking water.-Exchange Telegraph Company.

Penzance, Sept. 13.-British motor vessel Alacrity, from Swansea, cargo coal, went ashore this morning at Portheras Cove, near Pendeen, during dense fog. Three crew members have come ashore by boat. Actual condition of casualty being investigated at low water. At the moment rest of crew on board. Sennen lifeboat was standing by.

London, Sept. 13.-Motor vessel Alacrity was reported aground in fog between Land's End and St. Ives to-day. A lifeboat was launched, and a helicopter sent from the Royal Naval Air Station at Culdrose, Helston. The St. Just Life-Saving Apparatus Company was standing by this afternoon but no attempt was being made to take the crew ashore. It was hoped to float the vessel at high tide. Thick fog was still persisting.

22/16/9/63

ALACRITY. - London, Sept. 14.-Motor vessel Alacrity was badly holed when she ran aground in dense fog on the Cornish coast yesterday. The master and two members of the crew were staying on board last night. (See issue of Sept. 14.)

St. Just, Sept. 14.-British motor vessel Alacrity: A representative of F. T. Everard & Sons, Ltd., is on board. Arrangements made by Everard's representative with N. Holman & Sons, Ltd., shiprepairers, of Penzance, to undertake salvage operations. St. Just Life-Saving Apparatus Company returned to station.

Penzance, Sept. 14.-British motor vessel Alacrity: This morning, salvage operations were in hand following the arrival of a representative of F. T. Everard & Sons, Ltd. At high water to-day during heavy swell vessel showed signs of breaking up and master, chief engineer and cook, who were on board, had to abandon ship. Workmen of N. Holman & Sons, Ltd., on board at the time, also got ashore safely. Bow of vessel now held by rope and wire to beach. Chances of salvage appear to be diminishing.

St. Just, Sept. 14.-British motor vessel Alacrity: Crew abandoned ship and have been taken to the Seamen's Mission at Penzance. Vessel appears to be breaking up.

Minute

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

22/17/9/63

ALACRITY. - London, Sept. 16.-Efforts to move motor vessel Alacrity were made this week-end (Sept. 14-15) without success. A representative of the owners said to-day: "The position does not look too good at the moment. She is in rather an awkward spot and there is no chance of her going right away from her present water." (See issue of Sept. 16.)

London, Sept. 16.-The North Atlantic swell was still moving motor vessel Alacrity on the beach near which she was stranded. The owners' marine superintendent and salvage officer, Captain J. J. ... "We are trying to get her off the beach each tide if the weather will permit us. There are ... Alacrity to the shore and ... we are trying to draw her ... beach. There are a lot ... and she is sitting ... hoping that by Thursday ... we may be able to catch the ... the weather at present ... breaks, then it is anybody's ... At present the Alacrity is ... even at low tide.

London, Sept. 16.-The Salvage Association have received the following telephonic ... from Lloyd's Agents at Penzance ... dated Sept. 16: Motor vessel Alacrity: No cargo has been recovered from the vessel and in view of her position and condition the prospects of any salvage are remote. This aspect is being kept in mind and will be fully explained.

22/18/9/63

ALACRITY. - Penzance, Sept. 17.-Motor vessel Alacrity, ashore Portheras Cove, Pendeen: The Salvage Association representative, together with a representative of F. T. Everard & Sons, Ltd., Holmans, of Penzance, will have workmen down on the beach and it is hoped that if vessel can be brought further up the beach by the seas ... The cargo of anthracite remains in the holds, which are now open and being washed by the seas during the incoming and ebbing tide. The possibility of salvaging this cargo is extremely slight as the nature of beach, &c., is such that to discharge over-side would probably mean that the sea would wash it away, and ... and vessel is difficult to get away. Vessel is only really accessible for about two hours over the low water. (See issue of Sept. 17.)

Penzance, Sept. 17.-Motor vessel Alacrity was wedged between a high cliff at Portheras Cove, loaded with 600 tons of anthracite, and was only dry at low water throughout and had to be heavily set back. Bottom heavily set back, buckled, hatch covers heavy swell washing over. Salvage Association's Surveyor ...

22/24/9/63

ALACRITY. - Plymouth, Sept. 23.-Hope has now been abandoned of salvaging motor vessel Alacrity, ashore at Portheras Cove, Pendeen, and she was regarded as a "constructive total wreck," a Lloyd's spokesman at Penzance said on Saturday (Sept. 21). The Alacrity is now being offered for sale to scrap merchants jointly by her owners and underwriters of The Western Morning News. (See issue of Sept. 18.)

22/29/9/63

ALACRITY. - Penzance, Sept. 24.-British motor vessel Alacrity, ashore Portheras Cove, Pendeen, was declared a constructive total loss last week and we now understand that the vessel, as lying, is in process of being sold to a local firm. - Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Sept. 24.)

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