

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

Wreck Report No. 15476
 No. 77725 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 102/60
 Date of writing this report 27th July, 19 60.
 Ship's Name s.s. "RITA" of Piraeus Tons Gross 7133 Net 4334
 Built at Montreal When 1943 7 Casualty notice sent to Owner 20.7.60. Owner's reply 25.7.60.
 Owners Maristrella Navegacion S.A.
 Managers ---
 Address c/o Chandris (England) Ltd., 5, St. Helen's Place, E.C.3.

Classification details

BS *	MBS 12,56
with freeboard	BS M 11,59
12,59	sp 7,57
ss 7,57	
	ts 12,59 CL

Casualty 1st July, 1960.

Casualty

Stranded on rocks and broke in two off
 Mormugao.

The owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

RITA. — Bombay, July 1. — Steamer Rita, SVJY (Colombo for Mormugao): Messages received from Karwar Radio and master advising cut in two and sinking off Mormugao rocks, requiring urgent assistance. Endeavouring to communicate with Mormugao by radio, meanwhile have sent flash priority cable as no telephonic communication requesting Sub-agents render all assistance with greatest urgency. (Later)

Rita, SVJY: Requested Indian Navy send plane to ascertain position but declined as unnecessary as rocks only half mile off Mormugao and can only hope action being taken from there. Understand motor tanker British Defender, approximately 150 miles south of Bombay, going to assist.—Lloyd's Agents.

Bombay, July 1. — Steamer Rita: Understand motor tanker Jag Jyoti has gone to assistance, estimated time of arrival 1 30 p.m., I.S.T., July 1. Also advised that Mormugao port authorities declined to render assistance as port closed. As at 12 30 p.m., understand vessel still afloat as messages being received by Bombay Radio.—Lloyd's Agents.

Bombay, July 1.—Steamer Rita: Karwar Radio advise us motor tanker Jag Jyoti sighted Rita at 8 10 a.m., G.M.T., and proceeding to assist. The following message has been received from Sub-Agents at Mormugao: "Port authorities already advi-

doing whatever practicable. Position of vessel still being ascertained, presumably several miles away from Mormugao. Presently experiencing very heavy weather and sailings suspended."—Lloyd's Agents.

London, July 1.—The London agents of steamer Rita have received the following message from their Mormugao agents, dated July 1: Following message received from master of assisting motor tanker Jag Jyoti: "Life on board in utmost danger. Have attempted rescue with lifeboat but failed owing to very heavy swells. Suggest send helicopter, position lat. '0.20' N., long. 73 47 E., Rita sinking with no lifeboats." Only possibility obtain helicopter from Bombay.

Bombay, July 1. — The Greek steamer Rita ran aground and broke in two in shallow water to-day off the coast of Portuguese Goa. Thirty-nine members of the crew were reported to be on board one section of the sinking vessel. The Indian motor tanker Jag Jyoti was standing by but her owners said she could not lower her lifeboat because of bad weather.

Piraeus, July 1. — Steamer Rita: Instructed motor vessel Loni's Luck, due at Mormugao on July 3, to proceed to her assistance.—Nicolas E. Vernicos Shipping Company, Ltd.

WRECK
SECTION
No. 733

4-2/7/60

P.T.O.



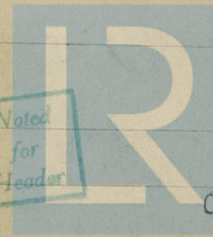
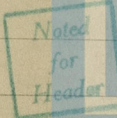
Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

1m.11.58

"WRECKED 7,60"
 IFRIDAY 29 JUL 1960

Wrecked 7.60



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RITA.—Bombay, July 1.—Steamer Rita: At 8 30 p.m., Indian Time, message received from master stating rescue attempt so far unsuccessful due to heavy seas, and Rita without lifeboats and sinking in position lat. 15 21 N., long. 73 47 E. Suggests helicopters, which unavailable locally; endeavouring fly one from one freighter from north-east frontier by a.m., July 2. Meanwhile, collecting life-saving equipment from Navy which will be flown out at dawn on July 2. Have requested Sub-agents at Mormugao to enlist aid of civil and military aircraft for same purpose, also to entreat port authorities for assistance, which not forthcoming so far due to poor conditions.—Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of July 2.)

Bombay, July 1.—One part of steamer Rita sank soon after the mishap, but the entire crew managed to get on to the other part, taking with them wireless apparatus, with the help of which they were able to remain in touch with the motor tanker Jag Jyoti. The reports here said that the unsunk part of the Rita was not completely out of danger and the funnel was already partly immersed. They added that the solitary available lifeboat of the Rita was lost when an attempt was made to launch it. The Jag Jyoti made several rescue attempts, at grave risk to herself, anchoring as close by as possible and spraying oil with the aim of calming the swell and putting lifeboats into service, but failed every time. The Jag Jyoti radioed that she was cruising as close as possible to the Rita to pick up any crew members who might jump overboard. She suggested to Bombay authorities that flying out helicopters seemed the only possible way of rescuing the sailors, but it was explained here that this might not be possible, because the scene of the mishap was in the Portuguese colony's territorial waters.—Reuter.

Bombay, July 2. — Steamer Rita: Master of motor tanker Jag Jyoti advises made many rescue attempts by motor boat with oil, unsuccessful due to adverse conditions; suggests helicopter but unable to obtain. Flying rescue equipment from Bombay a.m., July 2; pressing Sub-agents utmost.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

Bombay, July 2. — Steamer Rita: Message received from motor tanker Jag Jyoti stating still afloat at 5 30 a.m., Indian Time, July 2, and sea rescue recommencing with daylight, but conditions most unfavourable. Meanwhile, pressing Indian Air Force to send Liberator with life-saving equipment utmost urgency; should leave 10 a.m., Indian Time, July 2. Attempts to obtain helicopter failed. (Later) Jag Jyoti advised two survivors picked up and boat going alongside to take off further 23. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

Bombay, July 2.—Motor tanker Jag Jyoti to-day rescued 24 of the crew of 30 of the Greek steamer Rita, which ran aground and broke in two yesterday off the coast of Portuguese Goa. Five other members of the crew swam ashore to a nearby island from the wreckage of the ship, which lay in shallow water about half a mile off-shore. The other crew member had died before the ship went aground.—Reuter.

London, July 2.—The London agents of steamer Rita report: Believed all crew of Rita now on board motor tanker Jag Jyoti, which will proceed Bombay after completion of operation. Motor vessel Sophoclyve standing by but not taking part in operations.

London, July 3. — The Salvage Association have received the following message from Lloyd's Agents at Bombay, via Karwar Radio, dated July 2: Steamer Rita: Master of motor tanker Jag Jyoti reports picked up 25, including one dead, plus five from island; now proceeding for Bombay. Vessel presumably complete write off.

Goa, July 3. — Greek steamer Rita was reported to have been wrecked in bad weather eight miles from Mormugao harbour on Friday (July 1). — British United Press.

Bombay, July 3.—Motor tanker Jag Jyoti arrived at Bombay to-day with 29 of the crew of the Greek steamer Rita.—British United Press.

RITA. — Mormugao, July 2. — Steamer Rita: Understand Rita was in ballast and broke up near Sail Rock, off St. George's Islands. Just learned most crew members picked up by motor tanker Jag Jyoti, proceeding Bombay. Have telegraphed Lloyd's Agents, Bombay, contact them for further details, including circumstances of casualty and recent position of Rita. Salvage arrangements, if possible, can be considered only after monsoon.—Lloyd's Sub-agents per Salvage Association. (See later report in issue of July 4.)

LL4/7/60

LL5/7/60



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