

WRECK SECTION No. 74343

WRECK SECTION No. 728

Wreck Report No. 14317

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 24199 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 48/55 Date of writing this report 18th July, 1955.

Ship's Name s.s. "PYIDAWTHA" of Rangoon Tons Gross 1785 Net 1003

Built at Newcastle When 1928 4 Casualty notice sent to Owner 20.6.55. Owner's reply 6.7.55.

Owners Government of Burma.

Managers ---

Address Rangoon, Burma.

WRECK SECTION No. 728

Classification details

Table with classification details: \* 100A1 with freeboard ssSng(Dr.) 11,53; \* LMC 11,53 BS 10,54; ts 9,53 CL

Date of Casualty 6th May, 1955.

Details of Casualty

This ship has been abandoned as a wreck at Kyaukpyu, western Burma, where she stranded 6th May, 1955.

The Owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

PYIDAWTHA. - Rangoon, May 6. - Steamer Pyidawtha reported aground on rocks at Kyaukpyu; believed holed in No. 2 hold but information scarce owing to Government holiday. Will appoint surveyor. No tug available at Rangoon. Have requested owners to contact Calcutta. - Lloyd's Agents.

Akyab, May 6. - It is reported that steamer Pyidawtha is aground North Shoal, Kyaukpyu. Union of Burma Shipping Board, Arakan section, and Burma Navy sending aid.

Rangoon, May 7. - All 200 passengers were taken off safely when the steamer Pyidawtha went aground yesterday near Kyaukpyu Island, western Burma, according to reports reaching here to-day. Rangoon Port

Authority officials said the vessel was almost submerged. One official said he feared she would be a total loss. - Reuter.

Rangoon, May 7. - Steamer Pyidawtha: All holds and engine-room flooded, engine-room bulkhead gone, list now 40 deg. All passengers and crew safe, master, chief officer and naval gunboat standing by. Two hundred and forty-five tons of cargo on board. Arranging for surveyor to fly to Kyaukpyu. - Lloyd's Agents.

Akyab, May 7. - Steamer Pyidawtha: Position lat. 19 27 30 N., long. 93 30 45 E., grounded a.m. Friday, May 6. Passengers landed 10 a.m., May 7. Flooded fore and aft, listing 33 deg. to starboard 6 a.m. to-day, cargo transhipment impossible. Master considers beyond aid.

PYIDAWTHA. - Rangoon, May 9. - Steamer Pyidawtha: Reports vessel lying on North Shoal, list 33 deg., starboard side, high water. Meantime not attempting and surveyor considers slight chance of salvage provided weather holds, but, owing to approach of monsoon, weather deteriorating. Attempted salvage would entail fully equipped salvage vessel with large capacity pumps and diver capable of underwater patching. Vessel has no visible damage but surveyor unable to sight underwater damage. Calcutta has telegraphed that no salvage tug is available. Four lifeboats, one jollyboat and items of navigational equipment landed and have arranged guard for vessel against looting by insurgents. - Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (Note. - The Salvage Association have not received instructions to act in connection with this case. See issue of May 9.)

PYIDAWTHA. - London, May 12. - The following information has been received from Bombay, dated May 11: Steamer Pyidawtha has general cargo, 3974 packages, 255 tons, value four lakhs kyats. (See issue of May 10.)

PYIDAWTHA. - Rangoon, May 12. - Steamer Pyidawtha: Singapore has telegraphed that local salvors are not interested. No salvors available here. - Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (Note. - The Salvage Association are arranging for a special officer to proceed from Bombay.) See issue of May 13.)

PYIDAWTHA. - Akyab, May 7. - According to the local Press, steamer Pyidawtha went aground at 6 20 a.m. on May 6. The vessel had left Rangoon on May 3 and was entering Kyaukpyu at the time of grounding. (See later report in issue of May 14.)

WRECK SECTION No. 728

LL 9/5/55

LL 10/5/55

LL 13/5/55

LL 14/5/55

LL 17/5/55

Suggested Record WRECKED 5,55

Date of Committee FRIDAY 29 JUL 1955

Committee's Minute Wrecked 5,55

**PYIDAWTHA.** — Rangoon, May 17.— Steamer Pyidawtha: Surveyor advises: Flying to Kyaukpyu Wednesday morning (May 18). Weather breaking, monsoon imminent. Information and photographs received locally indicate possibility refloat, but, in view of weather, urgent measures required. Have explored local sources and find various pumps available, together with one tug. Owners unwilling to attempt salvage operations as no other salvors available but are prepared to assist in every way. Salvage operations if attempted will have to be controlled by self. After inspection will be able to make actual recommendations.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of May 17.)

LL19/5/55

**PYIDAWTHA.**—Rangoon, May 22.—An attempt is to be made within the next fortnight to save the Burmese steamer Pyidawtha, which ran aground off the Arakan coast recently.—Exchange Telegraph Company. (See issue of May 19.)

LL23/5/55

**PYIDAWTHA.** — Rangoon, May 20. — Surveyor reports: Steamer Pyidawtha is now lying quietly on North Shoal Rock, trim 2 ft. by head, list 33 deg. to starboard, port side amidship on shell rock, starboard side resting on sandy bottom. In view of depth of water over rock and vessel's draught prior to casualty, consider bottom damage not excessive. Skin diver reports port bilge keel torn away at forward end, bilge strake indented in way and adjacent bottom set up but not fractured. All holds and engine-room flooded but not tidal. Vessel in good condition. No damage on deck or internally, so far as seen, apart from immersion damage to machinery and starboard side 'tween deck cabins. Ship's side plating in order. One hundred and eighty tons of cargo completely immersed, mainly cement, now of little value. Consider excellent worthwhile chance of salvage if attempted within two weeks, otherwise vessel in position absolutely unsheltered and will break up rapidly in heavy monsoon weather. An added complication is that insurgent territory is within two miles. Vessel grounded at low water and I consider it possible to refloat her by pumping and towing at high water, and put her on sandy sheltered beach five miles away for emergency repairs. Since arrival at Rangoon weather worsening and chances of success receding.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See later report in issue of May 23.)

LL24/5/55

**PYIDAWTHA.**—Rangoon, May 25.— Steamer Pyidawtha: Owners not yet decided whether to make salvage attempt as recommended. In spite of representations owners still consider salvage should be undertaken by underwriters, but they are willing to give full assistance. Tug, though previously promised, has not yet been released by Port Commissioners. Expecting decisions from owners and Port Commissioners shortly; meantime weather deteriorating. If action not taken within a few days surveyor will again fly to Kyaukpyu to re-examine position and possibility of salvage attempt.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of May 24.)

LL27/5/55

**PYIDAWTHA.**—Rangoon, May 26.— Steamer Pyidawtha: Owners advise not prepared to attempt salvage operation under surveyor's control but willing to assist. Port Commissioners now prepared to release tug subject to weather permitting. Believe local salvor, now engaged, might be interested.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

**PYIDAWTHA.** — Rangoon, May 27.— Steamer Pyidawtha: Owners now to undertake venture. Surveyor, re-inspection of vessel, reports heavy weather carried away hatches and beams and superficial deck damage sustained. Vessel now subject to continuous monsoon swell, which breaking over decks. Still, however, considers chance of success but in view of existing weather conditions unwilling to proceed without experienced reliable assistance. Owners doing their best to provide.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of May 27.)

LL30/5/55

**PYIDAWTHA.** — Rangoon, May 31. — Steamer Pyidawtha: Tug loaded necessary salvage gear, sailing to-morrow a.m. Surveyor with two officers flying to Kyaukpyu to-morrow and balance of salvage crew flying by first available plane. The following telegram has been

LL2/6/55

**PYIDAWTHA.** — Rangoon, June 3. — Surveyor has telegraphed: Steamer Pyidawtha examined. Found all cabins and furnishings looted or destroyed by insurgents, ropes, tarpaulins and some cargo also taken. Vessel's position unchanged but moving slightly in medium swell.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of June 2.)

LL7/6/55

**PYIDAWTHA.**—Rangoon, June 7.—Surveyor has telegraphed: Some equipment put on board steamer Pyidawtha on Sunday (June 5) with very great difficulty, owing to swell. Resuming to-day; weather fair, medium swell.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of June 7.)

LL9/6/55

**PYIDAWTHA.** — Rangoon, June 9. — Steamer Pyidawtha: Surveyor reports June 7: Equipment on board, hope to commence pumping on June 9, subject to improvement in weather conditions.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of June 9.)

LL10/6/55

**PYIDAWTHA.** — Rangoon, June 11. — Steamer Pyidawtha: Surveyor telegraphed on June 10: Weather increasingly unfavourable. Will attempt to refloat June 10-11, weather permitting. Consider bottom damage has increased during the last few days owing to pounding. Should attempt to refloat be unsuccessful, suggest abandonment of venture, in which case will find it most difficult to take off all gear.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of June 10.)

LL14/6/55

**PYIDAWTHA.** — Rangoon, June 13. — Steamer Pyidawtha: Surveyor telegraphed on June 11: Attempt to refloat June 10 was interrupted by heavy swell and was unsuccessful. Intend trying again on June 11 and if necessary again on June 12, when will release tug, which needs coal and water, which not available here. Work heavy owing to inexperienced labour and bad weather conditions. Dunlop now instructed to return to Rangoon immediately, and others of salvage party requesting release. Non-arrival of air hose on Friday (June 10) by plane seriously reduced chance of success remaining. Diver unable to reach all suspected damage with present hose.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of June 14.)

LL16/6/55

**PYIDAWTHA.** — Rangoon, June 14.— Steamer Pyidawtha: Surveyor has telegraphed: Final attempt to refloat on June 12 unsuccessful. Unable to control water into holds and diver unable to work on account of swell and rough sea. Tug Nathamee has proceeded for Akyab for coal and water. Will attempt to recover gear during two days, not too hopeful. Barge unable to come alongside but will do all possible.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

**PYIDAWTHA.** — Rangoon, June 15. — Steamer Pyidawtha: Surveyor returned to Rangoon to-day and reports all salvage gear and ship's radar, wireless, &c., recovered.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of June 16.)

LL17/6/55



© 2020

Lloyd's Register Foundation