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# REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 85484 in R. B.

Wreck Book, p. 6/39

Date of writing this report 16th March, 1939

Vessel's Name *Steel & L. "Ulmus"*

of *Cardiff*

Tons { Gross 2733  
Net 1666

Built at *Port Glasgow* When *1926*

MONTH 5

Casualty notice sent to Owner *13/3/39* Owner's reply *14/3/39*

*Wilson & Harrison Steamships, Ltd.*

*Empire House, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff*

### SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

ULMUS. — Oran, Dec. 14.—Sub-agent Nemours reports that fire broke out in fore end deck cargo of esparto grass on British steamer Ulmus at Nemours yesterday evening; fire brigade at work.

LL 15/12

London, Dec. 14.—The following telegram has been received from the owners of the steamer Ulmus: Have received following message from master at Nemours, Algeria: Fire last night forward deck cargo, fire still burning, doing utmost confine fire to foredeck, feat holds burning.

Have instructed master confer with Lloyd's Agent and act in conjunction.

ULMUS.—Oran, Dec. 14.—British steamer Ulmus, with a cargo of 2500 tons of esparto grass for the United Kingdom, took fire at Nemours last night. The fire started just after she had finished coaling and was about to weigh anchor. It began in the fore part of the vessel and quickly reached No. 2 hold. Two fire brigades were to-day fighting the outbreak. Serious loss is anticipated. —Reuter. (See issue of Dec. 15.)

LL 16/12

London, Dec. 15.—The following telegram has been received from the owners of the steamer Ulmus: Received following message last night from master: Foredeck cargo destroyed cleared off deck, Nos. 1 and 2 holds afire, flooding same.

London, Dec. 15.—The Salvage Association have received the following radio message from their special officer and Lloyd's Agents at Oran on board steamer Ulmus, dated Dec. 15: Fire started from deck cargo extending to Nos. 1 and 2 holds. Fore holds flooded from bilge line, but fire appliances on board and ashore insufficient to subdue conflagration. Tug Jolasy from Oran arrived 8 p.m., Dec. 14 and checked fire. In view of attendance of tug authorities refrained from removing vessel outside port. Now removing smouldering cargo in Nos. 1 and 2 and under bridge space, after which will pump out and discharge water damaged cargo. In view of labour troubles consider cost of reconditioning same prohibitive. After cargo holds and deck intact. Condition of vessel: Foredeck buckled, bridge accommodation badly scorched, but consider vessel could reload for destination without repairs here.

ULMUS.—London, Dec. 16.—The Salvage Association have received the following radio message from their special officer on board steamer Ulmus, dated Dec. 16: Fire in No. 1 hold completely extinguished and discharge of cargo in progress. Contractors now concentrating on No. 2 and bridge space which is still smouldering.

LL 17/12

Date	Particulars of Classification.	
	F 100A1	F LMC
Last Minute	238	MS 238 BS 12, 37
	ss No 3-238	TS 4, 37 CL

*18th January 1939.*

Casualty This vessel is reported to have had breaks of fire in her deck cargo of esparto the 13th and 19th December last when at Algeria. After having returned from Oran, she had proceeded for temporary repairs, a consignment was loaded, and two more outbreaks on the foredeck on the 14th January. These extinguished and on the 16th January, the steamer for the United Kingdom with the after deck loaded and the foredeck 300 tons short.

Two days later she wirelessed that fore deck cargo was on fire. Owing to the seriousness the crew had to leave. The fire spread to the fore deck, and under these conditions she was towed to a pier where the fire was put out. The decks, masts and masts had collapsed and the sides were damaged.

She was subsequently towed into Cardiff and after pumping down the water, extensive damage of tank tops was visible.

In reply to the special casualty report the Owners state this vessel has been declared constructive Total Loss and is now in the hands of the Salvage Association.

*Burnt 1, 39*  
FRI. 17 MAR 1939

*Burnt 1, 39*

Minute

*per 30/3/39*



**ULMUS.**—London, Dec. 17.—The Salvage Association have received the following radio message from their special officer on board steamer Ulmus, dated Dec. 16: After repeated outbreaks in bridge space fire subdued on board completely and discharge of damaged cargo continues.

LL19/12

—Nemours, Dec. 16.—Steamer Ulmus: Bridge space cargo discharged, vessel being reberthed at daylight for discharge of remainder of cargo in Nos. 1 and 2 holds; estimate five days. Condition of vessel: Hull undamaged, fore-deck buckled, bulkheads tight. — Salvage Association's Special Officer.

**ULMUS.**—Oran, Dec. 17.— Steamer Ulmus: Forward deck cargo 374 tons burnt and jettisoned, No. 1 hold 331 tons damaged by fire, water and smoke, No. 2 hold 589 tons damaged by fire, water and smoke, bridge space 62 tons by fire, water and smoke. After deck 115 tons undamaged, No. 3 hold 329 tons undamaged, No. 4 hold 253 tons undamaged.—Lloyd's Agent and Salvage Association's Special Officer.

LL20/12

Oran, Dec. 18.—Steamer Ulmus: Discharge of damaged cargo proceeding normally, expect complete on Dec. 20. Burnt and badly smoke-damaged cargo being taken to sea and jettisoned.—Lloyd's Agent and Salvage Association's Special Officer.

**ULMUS.**—Oran, Dec. 19.— Steamer Ulmus: Master reports after deck cargo caught fire near mast to-day, but quickly extinguished. Advise discharge of whole after deck cargo for restowage in view of this incident.—Lloyd's Agent and Salvage Association's Special Officer.

LL21/12

Oran, Dec. 20.— Steamer Ulmus: Master reports all going on satisfactorily. After deck cargo being discharged, expect complete to-morrow. Advisable vessel proceeds Oran for reworking fore end of vessel for navigation. &c., as use of oil lamp with this type of deck cargo unsafe, also refitting hatches, rigging, impracticable at Nemours.—Lloyd's Agent and Salvage Association's Special Officer.

**ULMUS.**—Oran, Dec. 23.—Steamer Ulmus arrived in port last night. Temporary repairs commenced as follows: Wooden hatches three holds, electrical wiring to foremast head, stays, guys, derrick spans, welding plate landings foredeck. Expect to complete in 8-10 days.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

LL27/12

**ULMUS.**—Oran, Jan. 10.—Steamer Ulmus sailed for Nemours last night (to reload cargo).—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association. (See issue of Jan. 10.)

LL11/1

**ULMUS.**—Oran, Jan. 15.— British steamer Ulmus, which caught fire at Nemours, Algeria, on Dec 14 last, again caught fire at Nemours last night. The fire has been extinguished. Repairs following the previous fire had just been completed and the vessel had been reloaded.—Reuter.

LL16/1

**ULMUS.**—Oran, Jan. 15.— Steamer Ulmus: Fire again broke out on fore-deck of reshipment in fresh consignment of deck cargo. Fire extinguished and sub-agent ordered to maintain vigilance until my arrival. Am proceeding immediately to Nemours with Lloyd's Agent to investigate.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

LL17/1

Oran, Jan. 15.—Steamer Ulmus: Fire commenced half-way down fresh deck cargo near starboard No. 1 winch at 7 p.m. on Jan. 14; extinguished by ship's apparatus. Labour employed to jettison and recover about 40 bales involved under supervision of Surete and officials. At midnight a further outbreak commenced in extreme starboard foredeck, again extinguished by ship and 10 bales involved jettisoned and recovered. Master completed loading aft leaving fore end less 300 tons. Vessel taken to anchorage.—Lloyd's Agent and Salvage Association's Special Officer.

Oran, Jan. 16.— British steamer Ulmus sailed from Nemours this afternoon.

**ULMUS.**—Land's End Wireless Station, Jan. 18.—Following received from British steamer Ulmus at 1 33 a.m., G.M.T.: Need immediate assistance, on fire; position lat. 36 14 N., long. 6 58 W.

LL19/1

Gibraltar, Jan. 18.—British steamer Ulmus on fire aft in lat. 36 14 N., long. 6 58 W.; requires assistance.

Gibraltar, Jan. 18.—British steamer Ulmus: Master reports cargo on afterdeck on fire, impossible to stop flames; need large salvage tug. Fore-deck cargo still intact, steering gear gone. British steamer Waziristan standing by. Salvage steamer Rescue proceeding to assist.

Gibraltar, Jan. 18.—Master of British steamer Ulmus reports vessel still blazing aft no longer possible to remain on board.

Land's End Wireless Station, Jan. 18.—Following received from Gibraltar Radio at 2 26 a.m., G.M.T.: Following from steamer Waziristan: Steamer Ulmus now abandoning ship, boats burned, radio out of action. Any tanker in vicinity please proceed to Ulmus position with view to releasing oil for my boats.

Gibraltar, Jan. 18.—British steamer Ulmus: British steamer Waziristan reports boats burnt, radio out of action, boat(s) with 14 men now alongside rolling but will be on board soon.

**ULMUS.**—Gibraltar, Jan. 18.— Salvage steamer Rescue reports by wireless: Steamer Ulmus still ablaze fore and aft, due heavy swell cannot approach her; standing by.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

LL20/1

Gibraltar, Jan. 18.— Crew of steamer Ulmus arrived at Gibraltar safely on board steamer Waziristan, crew's personal effects lost. None of injuries to crew serious.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

London, Jan. 19.—The following cable has been received from Gibraltar, timed 3 6 p.m., Jan. 19: Salvage steamer Rescue off Trafalgar 1 p.m. towing steamer Ulmus, still burning, both masts gone, moderate swell.

**ULMUS.**—Tangier, Jan. 19.— British steamer Ulmus, very badly on fire, off Tangier, is being towed by tug Rescue to Tangier beach.

LL21/1

Tangier, Jan. 19.— British steamer Ulmus was towed, still burning, into Tangier Bay to-night by the salvage steamer Rescue. It is hoped to beach her near Cape Malabata.—Reuter.

Gibraltar, Jan. 19.—Salvage steamer Rescue reports by wireless: Arriving Tangier towing steamer Ulmus at 9 p.m. to-day. Still burning. —Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

Gibraltar, Jan. 20.— Salvage steamer Rescue reports steamer Ulmus still ablaze, drifting slowly to sea from Tangier Bay.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

Tangier, Jan. 20.—British steamer Ulmus, owing to tow line parting about 11 p.m. yesterday in Tangier Bay, drifted out to sea; taken in tow again this morning by salvage steamer Rescue for Tangier beach. Vessel still on fire.

**ULMUS.**—Tangier, Jan. 20.— Steamer Ulmus towed in by salvage steamer Rescue and anchored in the bay at 2 30 p.m. to-day, anchorage good, weather fine. Salvors, M. H. Bland & Co., Ltd., Gibraltar, intend towing vessel to Gibraltar after extinguishing fire. Still impossible to board steamer owing to her still burning furiously.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

LL23/1

London, Jan. 21.—The following cable has been received from Gibraltar, dated Jan. 20, 5 13 p.m.: Steamer Ulmus anchored at Tangier at 2 30 p.m.; flames out, salvage steamer alongside pumping.

**ULMUS.**—Tangier, Jan. 21.—Steamer Ulmus: Fire not yet extinguished, pumping suspended on account of swell. Vessel will probably remain at Tangier for several days before towing to Gibraltar.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

LL24/1

**ULMUS.**—Tangier, Jan. 23.— Steamer Ulmus: Heavy swell continues preventing resumption of pumping but although fire lessening still impossible to board.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

LL25/1

Tangier, Jan. 24.—Steamer Ulmus: Weather fine. Salvage steamer Rescue alongside endeavouring to extinguish fire.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

**ULMUS.**—London, Jan. 25.—The following cable has been received from Gibraltar: Steamer Ulmus: Fire extinguished after holds, now concentrated forward holds and bunkers.

LL26/1

**ULMUS.**—Tangier, Jan. 26.—Steamer Ulmus: Fire extinguished but smouldering No. 2. Holds partly flooded by salvage steamer Rescue. Vessel's decks, bridge and masts collapsed, sides distorted.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

LL28/1

**ULMUS.**—Gibraltar, Jan. 30.—Salvage steamer Rescue, towing British steamer Ulmus, arrived here to-day.

LL31/1

Gibraltar, Jan. 30.— Steamer Ulmus: Salvors placing vessel in shallow water berth to flood cargo, which is still smouldering.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

**ULMUS.**—Gibraltar, Jan. 31.—Steamer Ulmus: All cargo destroyed but some 350 tons of burnt cargo remains on board. Fire totally extinguished by flooding to-day, salvors now pumping vessel dry.—Lloyd's Agents and Salvage Association's Special Officer.

LL2/2

**ULMUS.**—Gibraltar, Feb. 13.— Steamer Ulmus: Bunkers found smouldering, salvors' tug attended this afternoon and left after cooling coal with fire pump.—Lloyd's Agent and Salvage Association's Surveyor.

LL15/2

**ULMUS.**—Gibraltar, Feb. 21.—Steamer Ulmus: Salvors alongside Monday and Tuesday (Feb. 20 and 21), water pumped down revealing extensive buckling tank tops where visible, anticipate whole tank tops affected.—Lloyd's Agent and Salvage Association's Surveyor.

LL22/2



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Lloyd's Register  
Foundation

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2/2