

WRECK SECTION No. 863

57 Upper

WRECK SECTION No 863 C

Wreck Report No. 14598

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

RETAIN

No. 53764 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 63/56 Date of writing this report 10th September, 19 56.

Ship's Name s.s. "BIRCHGROVE PARK" of Sydney, N.S.W. Tons Gross 640 Net 247

Built at Aberdeen When 1930 11 Casualty notice sent to Owner 20.8.56. Owner's reply 27.8.56.

R.W. Miller & Co., Pty., Ltd.

Scottish House, 19, Bridge Street, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

BIRCHGROVE PARK - Sydney, Aug. 2. - Steamer Birchgrove Park, owned by R. W. Miller & Co., Pty., Ltd., on voyage from Newcastle, N.S.W., to Sydney with a full cargo of coal, sank off Sydney 40-day in heavy weather. Four survivors, one body recovered, nine missing, believed drowned. Sydney, Aug. 2. - Royal Navy submarine Thorough today picked up one survivor in the biggest sea and air search ever staged off Australia. The search started when the steamer Birchgrove Park disappeared six miles north of Sydney Heads this morning. The duty officer at South Head Signal Station, Mr. W. Gosling, sighted the vessel at 2 45 a.m. and commenced to flash berthing instructions. He was interrupted by unusually fast signals from the ship's morse lamp. He said they were mostly unintelligible, but he managed to pick up two words which he thought read "stowage" and "sinking." He said: "In 10 seconds the lights of the vessel had gone and there was just the black sea and black sky. The signals were so fast they were obviously sent in a panic." The Birchgrove Park had earlier reported battling through a gale and heavy seas. - Exchange Telegraph Company. Sydney, Aug. 2. - Later reports state that eight bodies have been recovered from the steamer Birchgrove Park, which was on her way from Newcastle, N.S.W., to Sydney with 500 tons of coal. So far there are four known survivors from the crew of 14. One man died in a lifeboat. One of the survivors stated that the vessel took on a pronounced list during the stormy night and became impossible to control. The master, Captain Lynch, is reported to be among the dead. - Reuter. Sydney, Aug. 2. - Steamer Birchgrove Park foundered in darkness to-day when her cargo of coal shifted in heavy seas. - Exchange Telegraph Company.

WRECK SECTION No 863 A

Classification details

Table with classification codes: 100A1, 1,55, ssSyd2,53, LMC1,52, BS1,56, ts 1,53 OL

2nd August, 1956.

This ship sank off Sydney during heavy weather. The Owners concur.

"FOUNDERED 8,56" THUESDAY - 9 OCT 1956

Foundered 8.56



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