

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

Ship's Name ~~SS~~MS "BONIFAZ"

Gross tons 12942

Date of Build 2-1959

Casualty notice sent to Owners

22.7.64.

Owners' Reply

4.8.64.

Owners

Naviera de Castilla S.A.

## Details of classification

+100A1	+LMC CS5,63
oil tanker	BS A 5,63
5,63	ts N4,62 CL
ss 5,63	

## Details of casualty

This ship, in collision 9 miles W. of Finisterre, subsequently caught fire and sank. Declared a total loss

The owners concur.

Date of casualty 3rd July, 1964.

## SOURCE OF INFORMATION

22 6/7/64

**BONIFAZ.** — Land's End Radio, July 3. — Following received from Vigo Radio at 9 47 p.m., G.M.T.: S O S, ships in vicinity of position lat. 42 53 N., long. 9 30 W., please urgently to assistance Spanish motor tanker Bonifaz, EBXS (Corunna for Carthagena); requires immediate assistance.

Land's End Radio, July 4. — Following received from Vigo Radio at 12 42 a.m., G.M.T.: S O S, ships in position lat. 42 53 N., long. 9 30 W., please search area for possible survivors from Spanish motor tanker Bonifaz. Ships with rescued survivors please inform.

The Hague, July 4. — Spanish motor tanker Bonifaz was on fire off north-west Spain and requested immediate assistance, according to radio reports heard here. French motor tanker FABIOLA also sent out distress signals from the same area. Dutch motor vessel Wonosari was making for the scene. — Reuter.

Corunna, July 4. — Tug Atlantic left here on July 3 to assist motor tanker Bonifaz.

Ymuiden, July 4. — Tug Groningen is proceeding to motor tanker Bonifaz. — N.V. Bureau Wijsmuller.

Corunna, July 4. — Corunna Radio reports: Spanish motor tanker Bonifaz collided due to fog with French motor tanker FABIOLA in position lat. 42 53 N., long. 9 30 W. Bonifaz abandoned by crew, believed sunk. Some members of her crew still missing. Several vessels trying to find them where collision occurred.

Gibraltar, July 4. — Gibraltar Radio reports: Following heard on 2182 kcs. at 11 58 p.m., G.M.T., July 3, from Spanish crewman on board unknown vessel, addressed Vigo Radio: "Motor tanker Bonifaz sank at 10 15 p.m. with loss of several crew members." Also giving names of survivors. Reception very poor due heavy static.

Vigo, July 4. — Spanish motor tanker Bonifaz reported sunk after collision with motor tanker FABIOLA nine miles west of Finisterre.

Vigo, July 4. — Fishing vessels and tugs searched in dense fog to-day for survivors after motor tanker Bonifaz caught fire and sank off Cape Finisterre after colliding with motor tanker FABIOLA. The Spanish Navy Commandant here said there was apparently an explosion on board the Bonifaz immediately after the collision. — Reuter.

Land's End Radio, July 4. — Following received from Vigo Radio at 5 18 a.m., G.M.T.: S O S, ships in area of position lat. 42 53 N., long. 9 30 W., sunk Spanish motor tanker Bonifaz, please look out for possible survivors, total members missing 22, and inform Vigo Radio.

Vigo, July 4. — Spanish naval authorities at Vigo said that the Spanish motor tanker Bonifaz sank last night after a collision about nine miles off Cape Finisterre. "The Bonifaz sank at 10 30 p.m., B.S.T.," said a spokesman for the naval headquarters at Vigo. He added: "German motor vessel Sloman Malaga is bringing eight survivors to this port, two of them women, one of them in a serious condition. The Dutch motor vessel Setas is also rushing to this port with survivors; four of them are in a serious condition from burns. German tug Atlantic, Spanish tug Vulcano and, I think, several warships also rushed to the scene of the collision, which took place in thick fog," the spokesman said. (Later) The Spanish naval headquarters at Vigo said that the crew of the Bonifaz succeeded in launching two lifeboats before the vessel sank. Several other vessels were heading for the scene of the collision, but rescue work was hampered by thick fog. — British United Press.

Vigo, July 4. — Motor tanker Bonifaz: Dutch motor vessel Setas landed 23 survivors and three corpses.

Vigo, July 4. — Thirty-one survivors of motor tanker Bonifaz, one of whom died after being brought ashore, were landed at Vigo this morning. The bodies of three seamen were also landed. The survivors and the bodies were brought to Vigo by motor vessels Sloman Malaga and Setas. The Sloman Malaga picked up eight people at the scene of the collision, two of them women, and the Setas picked up the rest. The Spanish Navy said that motor tanker FABIOLA was apparently not badly damaged. — British United Press.

Vigo, July 4. — A Spanish Navy spokesman here to-night listed 31 survivors from 56 people on board motor tanker Bonifaz. Latest reports have 18 crew and three women, wives of crewmen, missing. Three people died from burns while being brought to shore while a fourth died in a Vigo hospital, also from burns. The Navy Office here said that motor tanker FABIOLA last radioed at 3 a.m. that she had no casualties and was heading for Vigo.

There has been no radio contact since with the French ship, the Navy said. The master of the Bonifaz was among the survivors. — Reuter.

Vigo, July 4. — The search for survivors of motor tanker Bonifaz was called off late to-night, a spokesman at the naval headquarters here said. Four survivors were still detained with burns, one being in a grave condition, in the Red Cross Hospital here. — Reuter.

Vigo, July 5. — Motor tanker Bonifaz sank after collision in thick fog. Final figures are four dead and 21 disappeared. Dutch motor vessel Setas and German motor vessel Sloman Malaga arrived at Vigo yesterday morning with 23 and eight survivors respectively; Spanish destroyer Jose Luis Diez landed three survivors at Marin.

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**BONIFAZ.** — Corunna, July 6. — Motor tanker Bonifaz, which was in collision with motor tanker FABIOLA on July 3, had left Corunna, in ballast, at 4 30 p.m., July 3, for Carthagena. Five members of the crew of the Bonifaz were killed; three women passengers and 17 crew are still missing; two women passengers and 26 crew survived. The survivors and dead were landed at Vigo by motor vessels Sloman Malaga and Setas, except for one body which was found floating in the vicinity of Cape Finisterre. According to the local Press, the master of the Bonifaz stated that his vessel had been struck aft on her port side, in very dense fog, on July 3 by the FABIOLA. The vessel was immediately set ablaze and she sank in less than half an hour. (See issue of July 6, also FABIOLA in issue of July 11.)

Suggested record

"SUNK BY COLLISION 7.64"

Date of Committee

FRIDAY 14 AUG 1964

Minute

Noted By Publications