

WRECK SECTION
No. 13540

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 52914 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 106/50 Date of writing this report 7th February 1950

Vessel's Name M.S. "Bechuana" of Cape Town Tons Gross 401 Net 211

Built at Harveston Hill/Tow When 1944 3 Casualty notice sent to Owner 2.1.51 Owner's reply 9.1.51

Owner's Name Union Steamship Co. of South Africa, Ltd
(Coast Lines Africa (Pty) Ltd - 106/50)
Address Cape House, Exchange Place, Cape Town

Case previously before Classing Committee.	Date Last Minute	Particulars of Classification.	
		<u>B3*</u>	<u>MBS 2,49*</u>
	<u>Coasting Service</u>	<u>7.50</u>	<u>TS 2,49 O.G.</u>
	<u>ss C. In - 2,49</u>	<u>Oils in aft tanks - F.P. above 150°</u>	<u>OIL ENGINES</u>

Date of Casualty 10th December 1950

Précis of particulars of Casualty

This ship stranded 30 miles S. of Port Nolloth, Cape of Good Hope, on the 10th December, 1950.

She lies broadside to shore on rocky ledge, has several large holes under machinery, six wing tanks and hold are flooded.

Equipment and auxiliary machinery have been salvaged.

The Owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

12 13 14 15 18 13/1

BECHUANA. — Cape Town, Dec. 11. Thesen's Steamship Co., Ltd., reports that motor tanker Bechuana has gone ashore 30 miles south of Port Nolloth. London, Dec. 11. — The following message has been received from the owners of the motor tanker Bechuana, dated to-day: Bechuana ashore 30 miles south of Port Nolloth; all hands safe. LL 12.12.50

BECHUANA. — Cape Town, Dec. 12. — Motor tanker Bechuana: Owners report position of ship hopeless and offering abandonment to underwriters. Sub-agents confirm prospects of salvaging ship poor but can be boarded at low tide and good prospects of salvaging cargo, equipment, &c. Owners' representative reports Eastern Trading Company prepared to undertake salvage, but awaiting details of terms. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Dec. 12.) " 13/12

BECHUANA. — London, Dec. 13. — The following message has been received from the owners of the motor vessel Bechuana, dated Dec. 12: Fisher considers vessel a total loss. Present position as follows: Rudder and propeller broken, shaft bent, C strake seam in way of engine-room, port side, opened up and 12 in. hole in port side of engine-room. Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 starboard wing tanks flooded, damage to these tanks probably substantial but not yet ascertained. Hold flooded to 7 ft. and cargo damaged, forepeak leaking, damage not ascertained. Ship lying on rocks heeled to starboard and pounding in swell. Arranged with Hicksons Canning Company, of Port Nolloth, commence immediately to salvage as much movable equipment and cargo as possible on terms Lloyd's Agreement. Cargo 3000 cartons canned crayfish. (See issue of Dec. 13.) " 14/12

BECHUANA. — Cape Town, Dec. 13. — Motor vessel Bechuana: Owing to exposed position and necessity of immediate operations, owners, with our approval, arranged for Hicksons Canning Company to commence salvaging equipment and cargo yesterday morning; terms to be arranged later on basis of Lloyd's Salvage Agreement. Sub-agents reported last night that about 1000 cartons of canned fish in good condition and wireless equipment salvaged, and propose continuing work to-day. Owners report hole in bottom under engine-room, bottom edge of C strake opened up in way of engine-room, forepeak leaking, Nos. 1 and 2 port wing tanks holed, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 starboard wing tanks flooded and hold flooded about 7 ft. Vessel lying on starboard side and bumping in swell. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Dec. 14.) " 15/12

BECHUANA. — Cape Town, Dec. 13. — Motor vessel Bechuana: Sub-agents report about half cargo salvaged undamaged, balance under water. Also salvaged echo-sounder and wireless sets; operations continuing. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

BECHUANA. — Cape Town, Dec. 15. — Motor vessel Bechuana: Position 31 miles south of Port Nolloth, lying broadside high on ledge rocks, heading south, listing to port. Bottom severely damaged with large holes under engines, bilge strake opened up 6 in. full length port side, stern post, rudder and propeller gone. Most of cargo, ship's fittings and engine auxiliaries removed ashore; opinion main engine unworthy (of salvage) due to age and condition. Salvage prospects of hull nil. — Lloyd's Agent and Salvage Association's Special Officer. (See issue of Dec. 15.) " 18/12

BECHUANA. — London, Jan. 12. — In reply to inquiry, Lloyd's Agents at Cape Town write under date of Jan. 5: The owners of the motor vessel Bechuana offered abandonment after inspection of the wreck. Approximately half of the cargo of about 3000 cartons of canned fish was salvaged in sound condition, the remainder being damaged by sea water. Most of the equipment, consisting of wireless set, echo sounder and auxiliary machinery, &c., was also salvaged. Owing to the age and condition of the main engine, it was not considered worth salvaging. The weather has been calm and no change has so far taken place in the position of the wreck, disposal of which will shortly be considered. (See issue of Dec. 18.) " 13.1.51

Suggested Record Wrecked 12.50
Date of Committee FRI. 9 FEB 1951

Committee's Minute wrecked 12.50

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