

13/84

Lars.

## REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &amp;c.

No. 2 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 46/47

Date of writing this report 27th August, 1947

Vessel's Name Twin Sc. M. Y. "Aarla" of Southampton

Tons (Gross 438  
Net 265)

Built at Glasgow When 1903 8

Casualty notice sent to C. er

Owner's reply

Owner's Name

Park Lane Court, Ltd.

Address

ly before  
Committee.

Date

Last Minute

## Particulars of Classification.

+100A1 LMC 437  
1039 LMC(M) 139  
AS 639 NE 31  
SS 2nd No 3-133 TS 437 CL  
SS No 1-37  
NO LATER SURVEY REPORTED

Probably 17th June, 1947

Lars of Casualty

This ex-Admiralty yacht left Ardrossan on the 16th June, 1947, and has not been heard of since. She was due at Lowestoft on the 20th June.

The steamer "LAIRDSDALE" wirelessly at 2.57 a.m. on the 17th June that she was searching for survivors of an unknown vessel after hearing shouting near Ailsa Craig, Argyllshire. She picked up one body, afterwards identified as that of the chief engineer of the "AARLA."

A lifeboat, without identification marks was washed up north of Campbeltown on the 20th June. The "AARLA" carried two such lifeboats. Also a nameplate, bearing the name "AARLA," lifejackets and 20 naval pennants were washed up in the same vicinity, all in good condition, indicating they had not long been in the water.

The "AARLA" was known to be in that area at that time, and from the above, it has been concluded that she was the victim concerned in a mysterious explosion observed at sea during the night of June 16/17.

(N.B. It has not been possible to contact the owners and in reply to inquiry, the Registrar-General states that this vessel has not been re-registered).

## SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

## UNIDENTIFIED CASUALTY

Portpatrick Radio, June 17.—Following received from British steamer Lairdsdale:

At 2.57 a.m., G.M.T.: Searching for survivors of unknown vessel in position lat. 55° 8' N., long. 5° 7' W., after hearing shouting.

At 3.29 a.m., G.M.T.: Been trying to pick up a lifeboat to identify vessel. Have picked up one dead man so far. We are still searching.

At 5.20 a.m., G.M.T.: We have contacted lifeboat but there is no name on it. No sign of survivors, only one body so far. We are now proceeding to Belfast.

London, June 17.—Aircraft from the R.A.F. station at Aldergrove, Northern Ireland, were this afternoon searching an area of the Firth of Clyde south of the Isle of Arran, as a result of the message from steamer Lairdsdale, which docked at Belfast at noon to-day.

London, June 17.—The Portpatrick lifeboat, after an all day search of the sea for clues to establish the source of the lifeboat, returned this evening having sighted only oil and wreckage.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

## UNIDENTIFIED CASUALTY

Belfast, June 18.—Master of steamer Lairdsdale states that the wreckage picked up bears no name or identification. Suggests that the vessel was either a small coaster or tanker. A patch of oil was seen on the water. Portpatrick lifeboat was due on the scene when the Lairdsdale left. (See issue of June 18.)

London, June 17.—The body which was picked up by the steamer Lairdsdale has been handed over to the Belfast police. So far it has not been identified. According to an official of the Burns & Laird Lines the body was picked up in the vicinity of Ailsa Craig, off the Argyllshire Coast. Nearby was an upturned boat, but when members of the crew of the Lairdsdale examined it they could find no marks of identification. Believing that he had passed an object resembling another body, the master turned back and searched over a wide area. He was unable to find any trace of a body. The official stated that the master believed that the man whose body was picked up had died before entering the water, either as the result of an explosion or a collision. The chief officer said: "The sea was covered with oil, bits of wood, oars, and other wreckage. We used a searchlight, and, by its light, we saw an overturned lifeboat but there was no sign of life around it." A member of the crew said that before the lifeboat was found a flash was seen at sea.

## WRECKAGE RECOVERED

Campbeltown, June 21.—Name board marked "AARLA" found on Kintyre shore.

London, June 20.—The finding of a wooden name plate, 6 ft. long, bearing the name AARLA, on the Kintyre shore, 8 miles north of Campbeltown to-night suggested that the vessel blown up off Ailsa Craig on Tuesday morning (June 17) was possibly the ex naval yacht AARLA which left Ardrossan on Monday night for Lowestoft, where she was due to-day. The board was found by Mrs. Cowan on the Ballochgar shore. She informed the Receiver of Wreck, to whom the name plate was handed at Campbeltown. The discovery followed the finding of a lifejacket, five oars and a cask of lubricating oil earlier to-day. There was a crew of 10 on board the AARLA, which is a yacht of 10 gross tons, built at Partick in 1903, and formerly owned by Mr. W. G. Hetherington, of Glasgow. She is now owned by Park Lane Court, Ltd. (See "Unidentified Casualty" in issues of June 18 & 19.)

London, June 20.—The mystery of the identity of the vessel which blew up near Ailsa Craig on Tuesday (June 17) is still unsolved. Owners of the yacht AARLA, which is known to have been in the area of the explosion at the time, have not yet succeeded in tracing her. The owners, Messrs. Park Lane Court, Ltd., London, stated this morning: "It is possible that the lost vessel is ours and we are making inquiries, but we have no definite news yet." The description of the body of a seaman, found after the explosion, does not tally with anybody known to have been on board the AARLA.

## WRECKAGE AND BODY RECOVERED

Edinburgh, June 21.—Port authorities at Campbeltown are of the belief that 20 naval pennants found on Thursday (June 19) could quite easily have been carried by the yacht AARLA. The AARLA also carried lifeboats without names. One such lifeboat is reported to have been picked up on a part of the beach a few miles north of Campbeltown, as also five oars which could have belonged to the two lifeboats which the AARLA is said to have carried. A cask of lubricating oil has also been found. The AARLA had an oil engine. Also found yesterday was a ship's door. There was a key in the door with the word "Eigner" on it. All the objects were found in close proximity to one another and were in good condition, showing that they could not have been long in the sea.

"The Scotsman." (See issue of June 21.) Glasgow, June 23.—Yacht AARLA: Body identified by brother-in-law as ship engineer, Joseph James, Castle Street, Morpeth.—Lloyd's Agents.

Lost 6.47

M. 29 AUG 1947

Lost 6.47

(in R.B.)

In Lloyd's 29/8

Assigned

Held - no action

Written

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Foundation