

"MAGDALENA"

Events leading up to the breaking of the vessel into two, partly from statements made by the Ship's officers and partly by observation. The hours stated are only approximate.

25th April 1949.

0640 hours.

Vessel ~~was~~ struck and stranded between two rocks, one half mile south of Ilha Pontuda. Fast on rocks apparently forward of No 3 Hold aft. bulk-head. Pounding on rocks throughout the day and very heavily from late afternoon until about 2230 hours when she commenced listing to starboard and continued listing and pounding until she came off during heavy swell at about 2330 hours. No 3 Hold had quickly flooded after striking. Making water in No 2 Hold but pumps contained this water until vessel floated, when it was found necessary to pump out No 1 which started leaking.

26th April 1949.

0630 hours.

Vessel taken in tow to Rio drawing about 37'0" forward. This increased to about two feet below the hawse pipe at about 1130 hours, when vessel fell into the trough of a heavy swell, at the entrance to Rio harbour, and struck bottom forward several times, heavily. After bumping on bottom several times the paint scaled off, then rivets shot out, topside plating started buckling and finally the shell plating ripped up. The paint scaling, rivets and fracture were at the position shown in sketch. Paint scaling and buckling also took place about 30ft. forward, but this part of the vessel sank without visibly fracturing. The two parts of the vessel swung easily, hinged about the promenade deck until at about 1250 hours when they parted, although still tied together by derrick gear. Before this derrick gear carried away both parts did severe damage to each other by shearing and colliding.



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