

WRECK SECTION

No. 544

SECTION 13342

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 90091 in R.B.

Wreck Book, p. 28/49

Date of writing this report 11th May 1949

Vessel's Name S.S. Christina Dawn

of Gloucester

Tons Gross 300 Net 110

Built at Felby

When 1909 5

Casualty notice sent to Owner 4.5.49

Owner's reply 10.5.49

Owner's Name J.P. Langford (Shipping) Ltd. (Victor W. Rowles & Co., Mgrs)

Address Sharpness Locks, Nr. Berkeley, Glos.

Case previously before Classing Committee.

Date Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

T100A1 + LMX M55,48 5,48 BS 9,46 ss. Shp-548(Dr) TS 448CL

Date of Casualty

14th April, 1949

Précis of particulars of Casualty

While lying aground in Irvine harbour, an explosion occurred on this vessel on the 14th April, 1949, due it is believed to gas emanating from the cargo of carbide.

She caught fire and was in flames from the bunker at aft end of the bridge to right forward. The starboard shell plating was burst open from amidships to right forward, together with port side shell plating and deck plating.

Fire was smouldering in the bunkers until eight days afterwards, and the steamer is considered to be a Constructive Total Loss.

The Owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

CHRISTINA DAWN.—Portpatrick, Apr. 3.—Steamer Christina Dawn has gone aground in Irvine harbour; crew taken off by Troon lifeboat.

LL 4.4.49

CHRISTINA DAWN.—Irvine, Apr. 4.—Steamer Christina Dawn, of Gloucester, 300 tons gross, when entering the port of Irvine at about 2 p.m. yesterday, was driven ashore on the north side of harbour entrance, strong SSW wind blowing. Extent of damage unknown except propeller, rudder and stern post gone; survey being arranged. Vessel has cargo of carbide in drums. Crew was taken ashore yesterday by Troon lifeboat. (See issue of Apr. 4.)

" 5/4

CHRISTINA DAWN.—Irvine, Apr. 4.—Steamer Christina Dawn cannot be examined until low water to-morrow morning. Vessel reported leaking into hold and stokehold and lying against rocks on starboard side and on sand on port side. Propeller smashed and rudder lost.—Salvage Association's Surveyors. (See issue of Apr. 5.)

" 6/4

—Ayr, Apr. 4.—Steamer Christina Dawn: Cargo calcium in drums undamaged.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

Irvine, Apr. 5.—Examined steamer Christina Dawn at low water this morning. Vessel lying on sand adjacent to boulders. Bottom plating badly damaged, but not apparently holed, all propeller blades broken, rudder lost, stern frame broken. Consider water in hold and stokehold can be comfortably pumped out by salvage pumps. With this and partial removal and shifting of cargo forward to trim and lighten vessel we think vessel can be refloated using anchor purchases aft. Metal Industries (Salvage) Ltd., now considering terms to refloat. Rough estimate of damage £5000.—Salvage Association's Surveyors.

CHRISTINA DAWN.—Irvine, Apr. 6.—Steamer Christina Dawn: Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association now arranging to commence operations. (See issue of Apr. 6.)

" 7/4

CHRISTINA DAWN.—Glasgow, Apr. 14.—Serious explosion occurred on steamer Christina Dawn at 6 33 a.m. to-day; as far as is known, nobody on board. Vessel still burning and can only be examined from the shore, but damage appears extensive.—Salvage Association's Surveyors. (See issue of Apr. 11.)

" 16/4

—Hoylake, Apr. 14.—Steamer Christina Dawn: At 6 30 this morning, with no one on board, a series of explosions occurred followed by fire, which continues to blaze furiously. Owing to risk of further explosions and proximity of vessel to navigable channel, harbour master has closed port for 24 hours.—Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association per Salvage Association.

Irvine, Apr. 14.—Steamer Christina Dawn: Explosion occurred on board vessel at 6 33 a.m. to-day. Vessel still on fire; expect constructive total loss.—Lloyd's Sub-Agent.

Irvine, Apr. 14.—Steamer Christina Dawn is in flames from bunker at aft end of bridge right forward. As seen from shore starboard shell plating burst open and must be considered completely destroyed from amidships right forward, together with port side shell plating, also deck plating, hatch coamings, &c., and all internals in way. Consider will not be safe to go on board before Tuesday or Wednesday next week (Apr. 19-20) but our present opinion is that vessel and cargo can be considered a constructive total loss.—Salvage Association's Surveyors.

London, Apr. 14.—Towns for miles along the Ayrshire coast were shaken early this morning when a 300-ton coasting vessel loaded with carbide exploded outside Irvine harbour. The vessel, the steamer Christina Dawn, had been stuck at the mouth of the harbour for 11 days since she went aground with her cargo from Port Talbot. The explosion is believed to have been caused by carbide gas.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

Irvine, Apr. 15.—Steamer Christina Dawn: Fire on board still smouldering, no one to approach vessel; meantime port closed yesterday, but now reopened.

CHRISTINA DAWN.—Irvine, Apr. 18.—Steamer Christina Dawn: Fire on board still smouldering. (See issue of Apr. 16.)

" 20/4

CHRISTINA DAWN.—Irvine, Apr. 22.—Boarded and examined steamer Christina Dawn to-day; bunkers still smoking. Of opinion vessel and cargo can be accepted as a constructive total loss.—Salvage Association's Surveyors. (See issue of Apr. 20.)

" 25/4

Suggested Record

Lost by explosion 4.49

Date of Committee

FRI. 13 MAY 1949

Committee's Minute

Lost by explosion 4.49.