

REPORT of SURVEY for REPAIRS, &c.

Date of writing Report 10th Aug. 1950

When handed in at Local Office

Port of

Calcutta

WRECK SECTION

No. 576

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 76710 in R.B.

Wreck Book, p. 98/50

Date of writing this report 13th December, 1950

Vessel's Name

S.S. 'Skeldergate'

of

London

Tons

Gross 4251
Net 2634

Built at Burntisland

When 1930

2

Casualty notice sent to Owner

4.12.50

Owner's reply

5.12.50

Owner's Name Redgate S.S. Co. Ltd. (Turnbull, Scott & Co., Mgrs.)

Address 24, St. Mary Axe, London, E.C. 3.

Case previously before
Classing Committee.

Date

Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

100A1 550
Fitted for oil fuel 550
F.P. above 150°F

Date of Casualty

17th November, 1950

Précis of particulars of Casualty

This steamer stranded during a cyclone on sandbanks off Puri, Bay of Bengal, on the 17th November, 1950.

Three days later her back was broken and she is considered to be a total loss.

The Owners concur.

RETAIN

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

SKELDERGATE. Calcutta, Nov. 18.—Steamer Skeldergate, from Australia (Wallaroo for Calcutta), has grounded at False Bay, 70 miles south-west of Sandheads. Latest information vessel breaking in two. Port Commissioners are sending tug Sir Frederick Dumayne to assist.

LL 20.11.50

"Skeldergate" Breaks her Back

The British steamer Skeldergate, which is aground south-west of Sandheads, has broken her back. Several members of the crew are still on board.

SKELDERGATE. Calcutta, Nov. 20.—British steamer Skeldergate ran aground in a cyclone on Friday (Nov. 17) somewhere between Chandbali and Puri, Orissa State, Bay of Bengal, according to information received here to-day. Calcutta Port Authorities said it was feared the vessel was a total loss. — Reuter. (See issue of Nov. 20.)

Calcutta, Nov. 20.—Three rescue vessels are to-day standing by the steamer Skeldergate. The vessel is lying eight miles north of the town of Kanarak, near the mouth of the River Devi. (Later) Steamer Skeldergate broke her back to-day with the master and seven of the crew still on board. Fifteen of the crew are ashore, six of them were taken on Calcutta Port Commissioners' tug, Sir Frederick Dumayne and four on motor 'anker Repton. — Reuter.

Calcutta, Nov. 20.—Steamer Skeldergate grounded during night of Nov. 17, owing to cyclone, approximately 60 miles southwest of Sandheads, position Lat. 19 56 N., Long. 86 21 E. Latest radio message at 2 p.m., G.M.T., on Nov. 19, from master states vessel ashore sandbanks off Puri with broken back. On receipt of first SOS pilot brig at Sandheads and Port Commissioners' tug Sir Frederick Dumayne were ordered to proceed to vessel's assistance but departure was delayed owing to severity of storm; now contact established. Total crew 33. 26 landed ashore, four on board tanker arriving to-morrow. Master, radio officer and engineer on board standing by. Arriving through chief officer of Mercantile Marine, police protection on board. Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

Calcutta, Nov. 20.—Latest news received from master of steamer Skeldergate on board tug Sir Frederick Dumayne reads: Crew all saved, vessel breaking and being swept by heavy swell fore and aft, think it impossible to save cargo, have abandoned vessel. Twenty-nine members of crew returning to Calcutta on board tug Sir Frederick Dumayne, four returning on board tanker. Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Nov. 21.)

SKELDERGATE. Calcutta, Nov. 22.—The 1150-ton steamer Skeldergate was to-day considered a total loss with nearly 6000 tons of wheat she was bringing from Australia to Calcutta. Her master, Captain J. M. Mills, and her crew of 32 arrived here to-day in the Calcutta Port Commissioners' tug. — Reuter. (See issue of Nov. 22.)

Adelaide, Oct. 19.—Survey was held at Wallaroo on Oct. 16 on board steamer Skeldergate in respect of damage to windlass and mooring winch, caused by heaving alongside in strong wind. Temporary repairs were effected and in surveyor's opinion were suitable for the voyage to India.

SKELDERGATE. Puri, Nov. 25.—Returned from wreckage of steamer Skeldergate. Master and crew left on Nov. 20 by rescue ship for Calcutta. Skeldergate aground about 22 miles NE. of Puri by sea, 200 yards from shore, cracked in the middle and tilting slowly on one side. One lifeboat on shore. Approach from Puri practicable by bullock cart 22 miles and foot 13 miles. On Nov. 23 ship L 3011 came, 18 officers surveyed ship and around. — Lloyd's Sub-Agents. (See issue of Nov. 23.)

SKELDERGATE. Calcutta, Dec. 12.—Steamer Skeldergate is lying with back broken, fracture extending below water, both sides on sand spit, 10 ft. of water amidships, 39 ft. bow and stern. Prospects of discharge of cargo and refloating stern portion very slender owing to position in surf. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Nov. 27.)

Suggested Record

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

FRI. 15 DEC 1950

Wrecked 11.50

Wrecked 11.50