

Grounded Trawler Breaks Up

THE STORY of how the Hull trawler Spaniard is gradually becoming a wreck on the North Norwegian coast, is told by messages relayed from Oslo.

On Friday, two Norwegian destroyers, a corvette and a salvage tug were racing towards the wreck, which was exposed to gales and was flooded in the engineroom and hold.

By night, the vessel had almost disappeared beneath the heavy seas and only her funnel could be seen, but a report was wirelessed from one of the ships standing by that the skipper and crew were safe.

During the night, the waves lashed by a fierce gale, dragged the trawler from off the rocks. It is believed that her back has been broken.

CREW SAFE

On Saturday the Norwegian salvage vessel Staerkodder was steaming for the wreck.

At the same time, the Indian Star, with most of the crew on board, was making for Tromso with the corvette Soroy, carrying the skipper and other members of the crew.

In Hull today, the owners, Northern Fishing Co., Ltd., told the Hull Daily Mail that they are awaiting a report from their surveyor. Beyond this they had received no further news.

HEAVY SWELL

According to Lloyd's List, the following message was received by Portishead Radio from the Hull trawler Macbeth: "Trawler Spaniard. Prospect of salvage very poor. Extensive damage to fore-end, but cannot fully examine owing to heavy swell and precarious position of vessel."

"She is above water from a line drawn under the forefoot to top red band on funnel. Stern submerged in six fathoms. Salvage vessels Busen and Havornen standing by."

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HULL DAILY MAIL
25.3.49

FIERCE GALES HIT TRAWLER ASHORE

HEAVY WEATHER on the rugged coast of Northern Norway is steadily reducing the chances of salvaging the 542-ton Hull trawler Spaniard, which went aground off Sletnes Lighthouse, near Gamvik, Finnmark, on Tuesday night. Since then, the vessel has been strained and pounded by fierce westerly gales.

A representative of the owners, the Northern Fishing Company, Ltd., told the Hull Daily Mail today that they did not regard the vessel as a total loss, but they would give no information about the organising of salvage operations.

Lloyd's have received a message from the Norwegian Salvage Company in Oslo, which stated that the Spaniard would probably be a total loss and added that the whole of the keel was aground and there was little chance of getting her off.

SHIPS STAND BY

Reported to be standing by, are the Indian Star and the Norwegian Salvage Company's vessel. The former is a Grimsby-owned trawler which took the crew off the damaged vessel two days ago.

The Spaniard, which was built in 1942 at Beverley, left Hull on March 7 for the Norwegian coastal fishing grounds.

HULL DAILY MAIL
24.3.49.

GROUNDING HULL TRAWLER

GALE-SWEPT, BUT HOPES OF SALVAGE

THERE ARE HOPES for the 542-ton Hull trawler Spaniard, which has been aground on the Norwegian coast since Tuesday night, and it is expected that a salvage vessel will be dispatched to assist her without delay.

Where the Spaniard is lying, off Sletnes lighthouse, near Gamvik, Finnmark, North Norway, westerly gales are lashing the coast, and it is feared that unless a special salvage vessel can be rushed to her assistance within a very short time, there is a danger that the trawler will break up under the constant battering of the seas.

CREW SAFE

All members of the Spaniard's crew are reported to be safe, and a message received by the owners of the Grimsby trawler Indian Star states that she is standing by, after having taken members of the crew off the damaged vessel.

One report states that a handful of men, including Skipper Ben Ashcroft, whose home is at 26, Carr-lane, Willerby, have remained on board.

The Hull owners of the Spaniard, Northern Fishing Co., Ltd., told the Hull Daily Mail today that the position remains the same as it was yesterday.



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