

Department of Survey for Dredging & of Engineers and Dockers

WRECK SECTION No. 558

SECTION 13391

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 20381 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 64/49

Date of writing this report 9th November, 1949

Vessel's Name S.S. "Noronic"

of Port Arthur Ont. Tons Gross 6905 Net 3935

Built at Pt. Arthur Ont. When 1913 11

Casualty notice sent to Owner 20.10.49 Owner's reply 25.10.49

Owner's Name Canada Steamship Lines, Ltd.

Address P.O. Box 100, Montreal, 1, P.Q., Canada

Case previously before Date
Classing Committee. Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.
+100A-1048
SS No 4-538
SS No 1-45
+1 MC 144
BS 4'49
TS 9,48
For service on the Great Lakes

Date of Casualty 17th September, 1949

Précis of particulars of Casualty

Fire broke out in the early morning of the 17th September, 1949, in the after part of this steamer, while she was at the dockside at Toronto.

The superstructure of the two upper decks was destroyed and the hull was buckled. The ship sank.

She was refloated on the 29th October and has been towed to Hamilton, Ont., for breaking up purposes, having been declared in the meantime as a Constructive Total Loss.

The Owners concur.

RETAI

\$
TS -15 3/4" - NO CLOSURE - A.
6/38 - Grooved 1" down to 1/2" thick
6/26 - Bent

Suggested Record

Date of Committee FRI. 11 NOV 1949

Committee's Minute Burnt 9.49

Im. 1,43.

W1027-0082 1/2

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

GREAT LAKES STEAMER FIRE DISASTER

LL 19.9.49

Nearly 200 Lives Lost

At least 197 lives were lost as a result of a fire which swept the Canada Steamship Lines passenger steamer Noronic while the vessel was alongside a pier at Toronto. The fire started at 2 40 a.m. on Saturday in the after part of the vessel, and Press agency messages state that the flames quickly enveloped the whole vessel, trapping many passengers below deck. The fire, which burned for almost five hours before firemen could board the vessel, destroyed the wooden superstructure of the two upper decks and buckled the hull. The blaze was fought by 18 fire engines and two fire boats.

The Noronic had arrived at Toronto overnight from Cleveland with about 520 passengers and was to have started a pleasure cruise on Saturday morning. Many of the passengers are believed to have been ashore at the time and some were saved by being transferred to the Cayuga lying alongside.

The Noronic, a Great Lakes steamer of 6905 tons gross with machinery aft, was built at Port Arthur, Ont., in 1912. Mr. K. R. Marshall, president of Canada Steamship Lines, Ltd., in a statement, said it appeared that the blaze began in one of the passenger staterooms and may have been caused by a lit cigar or cigarette being left in a stateroom which was left unoccupied. As a result no alarm was raised before the fire became uncontrollable. The ship was well equipped with modern fire-fighting devices and he added that it had been ascertained "beyond any reasonable doubt" that there was no negligence on the part of the crew.

NORONIC, Toronto, Sept. 17.—Steamer Noronic burned early this morning in Toronto docks. Information erratic as yet, but estimates of dead up to 160, injured approximately the same. Vessel believed a total loss, burned down to E deck and now lying on bottom of ship.

Toronto, Sept. 17.—Great Lakes steamer Noronic was reported on fire early to-day in Toronto harbour. A few minutes after the fire broke out the vessel is said to have been enveloped in flames from bow to stern. The vessel arrived yesterday from Cleveland and Detroit. The fire broke out at 2 40 a.m., local time, in the stern of the vessel. The interior of the vessel has been gutted by the fire, and firemen concentrated on preventing the blaze spreading to nearby piers. The ship appears to be a total loss. Mr. Peter Sage, a passenger, said the crew saved about 100 passengers by transferring them to the steamer CAYUGA, which was alongside when the fire started. Mr. Sage added that the CAYUGA caught fire around the bows but the flames were put out without much trouble.—Reuter.

Toronto, Sept. 17.—The fire on the pleasure steamer Noronic burned for almost five hours before firemen could go on board. The wooden superstructure of the two upper decks was burned away and the ship's skeleton buckled in at least two places.—Reuter.

Toronto, Sept. 18.—Fire which destroyed the Great Lakes pleasure steamer Noronic in Toronto docks, with loss of at least 197 lives, may have been started by a lit cigarette left in a cabin, Mr. K. R. Marshall, president of Canada Steamship Lines, stated here. He said that though investigations were not yet complete it appeared the blaze began in one of the passenger staterooms. Saying that the ship was well equipped with every modern fire-fighting device, he added that it had been ascertained beyond any reasonable doubt that there was no negligence on the part of the crew. A total of 690 people were on board the liner. Police found 190 bodies in the ship, three people died in hospital, and bodies of four others were recovered from the waters of Lake Ontario. Toronto hospitals and first aid stations in two hotels had last night counted 189 injured.—Reuter.

Toronto, Sept. 18.—All that is left of the steamer Noronic to-day is a mass of debris, down by the stern in 28 ft. of water. Steel lifeboats hung bent and twisted by the heat in their davits. The bridge has gone, and the bow points north towards the skyline, high out of the water.—Reuter.

Insert Character of Ship and Machinery precisely as in the Register Book

Is a Certificate required? If so, to be sent to

2020 Lloyd's Register Foundation P.T.O.

W1027-0091

clear.

Report of Survey for Repairs & of Engines and Boilers.

No. 1343

NORONIC. — Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 17. — Steamer Noronic, serious fire damage in Toronto harbour on Sept. 17: Vessel on bottom in 25 ft. of water, superstructure gutted. Too early to ascertain full extent of damage, but will be considerable.—Salvage Association's Surveyors. (See issue of Sept. 19.)

Toronto, Sept. 19. — A minor fire broke out in the steamer Noronic last night, though it had rained most of the day. It was quickly put out, and divers were continuing their search for bodies.—Reuter.

NORONIC.—Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 19. — Steamer Noronic: In our opinion cost of repairs alone would definitely exceed insured value. Authorities ordered removal of wreck. Owners received "no cure no pay" tender from Sinmae to raise and deliver wreck to Hamilton, 35 miles distant, for \$46,000.—Salvage Association's Surveyors. (See issue of Sept. 20.)

Ottawa, Sept. 19. — One hundred and thirty people are known to have lost their lives and 69 are still missing from the steamer Noronic. — Exchange Telegraph Company

It is the opinion of the Salvage Association's surveyors that repairs to the Great Lakes steamer *Noronic*, which caught fire when at Toronto, would definitely exceed the insured value. The authorities have ordered the removal of the wreck.

NORONIC.—Toronto, Sept. 22.—Six more bodies have been recovered from steamer *Noronic*, death toll now 136. Wrecking crews are still working to remove tons of debris from the lower decks of the vessel.—New York Maritime Association. (See issue of Sept. 21.)

NORONIC. — Toronto, Oct. 25.—Steamer *Noronic* is being slowly pumped out so that the hulk may be refloated and removed to Hamilton, for scrapping. The upper works have already been removed. Another body was found to-day.—New York Maritime Association. (See issue of Sept. 27.)

Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 29. — Steamer *Noronic* has been pumped out and refloated. Permanent ballast resecured and vessel in satisfactory trim for tow to Hamilton at 6 a.m. on Oct. 29.—Salvage Association's Surveyors.

NORONIC.—Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 31. — Steamer *Noronic* arrived at Hamilton at 4 p.m. on Oct. 29.—Salvage Association's Surveyors. (See issue of Nov. 1.)

LL 20.9.49

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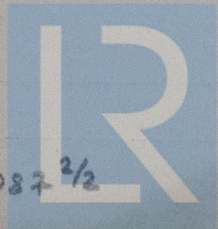
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49
44
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Insert Character of Ship and Machinery precisely as in the Register Book

Is a Certificate required? If so, to be sent to



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W1027-0087 2/2

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Clear.