

REPORT OF SURVEY FOR REPAIRS

WRECK

WRECK SECTION

No. 580

SECTION 3484

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 63378 in R.B.

Wreck Book p. 41/50

Date of writing this report 13th July 1950

Vessel's Name *S.S. "Indian Enterprise"* of *Sunderland* Tons { Gross 7319
Net 5179Built at *Sunderland* When *1946 2* Casualty notice sent to Owner *30.6.50* Owner's replyOwner's Name *India Steamship Co. Ltd.*Address *P.O. Box 541, Calcutta, India*Case previously before
Classing Committee.

Date

Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

+100A1 +LMC 246

with fld TS 849 CL

849

Casualty

of particulars of Casualty

19th June, 1950

This steamer sank after explosion

about 300 miles south of Suez on the 19th June,
1950.Her general cargo included about
500 tons of explosives and there was only one
survivor.

The London Agents concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

THE CASUALTY LIST

"Indian Enterprise" Blows up
in Red Sea

The British steamer *Indian Enterprise* (7319 tons gross) exploded and sank with heavy loss of life on Monday night in the Red Sea, about 300 miles south of Suez. A number of vessels, including the same owner's *Indian Exporter*, proceeded to the scene and searched for survivors. Of the crew of four European officers, one Anglo-Indian officer and 68 Indian seamen, only one Indian seaman is reported to have been rescued. The *Indian Exporter* reported, after searching for some 6½ hours, that there were no further survivors and that the search had been abandoned. The *Indian Enterprise* sailed from Bremen on May 17 and called at London where further cargo, including about 540 tons of explosives, was loaded, leaving for Calcutta on June 2. She passed Suez on June 18. The *Indian Enterprise*, owned by the India Steamship Company, Ltd., Calcutta, was built as the *Empire Mombasa* in 1945 by the Shipbuilding Corporation, Ltd. (Wear Branch), Sunderland, and acquired by her present owners in 1946.

INDIAN ENTERPRISE. — Portishead Radio, June 20. — Following received from British motor tanker *Busen Star*: At 11.21 p.m., G.M.T. (June 19): Following received from Kossair Rad.: At 8.28 p.m., G.M.T. (June 19) following received from steamer *Lake Chilliwack*: In position lat. 25° 35' N., long. 33° 23' E., at 8.15 p.m., G.M.T. (June 19) steamer *Indian Enterprise* (Bremen and London for Calcutta) exploded. I am proceeding to scene, all ships in vicinity keep sharp look-out for survivors.

At 11.27 p.m., G.M.T. (June 19): Following received on 500 kcs. from motor tanker *H. Westfal-Larsen*: XXX (urgency signal) to all ships: Searching area where steamer *Indian Enterprise* exploded. Have picked up one survivor and searched area thoroughly with motor boat and searchlight without further sign of life; am proceeding.

London, June 20. The following radio message has been received by the owners of the Norwegian motor tanker *H. Westfal-Larsen*, on voyage from Abadan to Suez: Steamer *Indian Enterprise* exploded near us. Picked up one survivor and searched thoroughly scene of disaster for two hours by motor boat and searchlights without result. Expect to arrive at Suez in evening of June 20.

Port Said, June 20. — Unconfirmed reports indicate that steamer *Indian Enterprise* blew up 300 miles south of Suez and disappeared.

London, June 20. — Steamer *Indian Enterprise* had a general cargo which included approximately 538 tons deadweight of explosives on account of the Indian Government and Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.

London, June 20. — The London agents of the steamer *Indian Enterprise* state that the vessel's crew numbered 73.

London, June 20. — Steamer *Indian Exporter* reports: At 8.15 p.m., G.M.T., on June 19, when 73 miles from steamer *Indian Enterprise* saw semi-circular brilliant orange flash ahead and realised possibility that *Indian Enterprise* was implicated. Message later received that one Indian had been rescued by a Norwegian vessel. At midnight sighted steamers *Lake Chilliwack* and *Roepat*, which then resumed voyage. Circled at reduced speed with searchlights and flood lights. After daylight proceeded at full speed with every available man on look-out and examined 250 sq. miles but no further survivors. Searched wreckage thoroughly principally for proof of identification and recovered lifeboat sail. Everything appeared shattered, except some after hatch covers. Lifeboat air tanks and oars not marked. At 6.30 a.m., G.M.T., today satisfied no more survivors, abandoned search and resumed voyage. Position of casualty lat. 25° 35' N., long. 33° 23' E.

Suggested Record

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

Sunk by explosion 6.50

FRI. 14 JULY 1950

Sunk by explosion 6.50

INDIAN ENTERPRISE. — Port Said, June 20. — Motor tanker H. Westfal-Larsen, due at Suez p.m. to-day, has wirelessly that she picked up one survivor ex steamer Indian Enterprise and searched thoroughly amid wreckage during two hours for other survivors without success. (See issue of June 21.)

London, June 21. — The owners of the Norwegian motor tanker H. Westfal-Larsen have received the following radio from her master: Steamer Indian Enterprise exploded in lat. 25 31 N., long. 35 27 E., at 8 10 p.m., G.M.T., on June 19. Our position was eight miles westwards. The explosion lasted a few seconds and a heavy pillar of smoke marked the scene. Proceeded at full speed and after 50 minutes was in centre of wreckage, where heard cries for help. Lowered motor lifeboats and picked up one badly burned man floating on lifeboat tank. He was a Pakistan lascar, 30 years old, named Ntomi Hussein, who suffered from shock. He spoke bad English and therefore no information obtained about the disaster. Afterwards continued search for two hours by motor lifeboats and searchlights, but none alive, no bodies. Wreckage consisted mainly of 3 ft. long wood pieces. Four vessels were at the scene of the disaster (including) Dutch steamer Roepat and British steamer Lake Chilliwack. We left at 11 p.m., G.M.T., on June 19. The Roepat remained until daylight and the Lake Chilliwack left at 11 30 p.m., G.M.T. Both vessels radioed us that they found no further survivors. H. Westfal-Larsen arrived at Suez at 9 p.m., G.M.T., on June 20. Survivor was taken to the military hospital, where doctor found him out of danger.

Alexandria, June 21. — Steamer Indian Enterprise: Following received from Kosseir Radio at 5 p.m., June 20: Following received from motor vessel Worcestershire and steamer Lancashire at 4 50 p.m., to-day: Have searched among wreckage in lat. 25 32 N., long. 35 38 E.; no survivors found and now proceeding.

LL 22.6.50



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