

WRECK

SECTION

No.

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 60197 in R.B.

Wreck Book, p. 77/50

Date of writing this report 1st November, 1950

Vessel's Name

S.S. "Fred Borchard"

of

Hull

Tons

Gross 1586

Net

833

Built at Lübeck

When

1935

Casualty notice sent to Owner

24.10.50

Owner's reply

X

Owner's Name Fairplay Towing & Shipping Co. Ltd.

Address 87, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.

Case previously before

Classing Committee.

Date

Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

BS

MBS 2.49

11.49

Bkr \$ 1.50

msp 2.49

ss. lmm - 2.49 TS 2.49 CL

Date of Casualty

8th October, 1950

Precis of particulars of Casualty

This steamer's stokehold and engine room flooded during a gale off North Norway on the 8th October, 1950. It was impossible to maintain steam and she drifted beam-on to the weather, shipping heavy seas. A list developed and she capsized, floating bottom up.

She subsequently drifted ashore on the island of Mosken and salvage was stated to be hopeless.

About a week later the ship slid off and sank in about 20 fathoms of water.

No reply has been received to the casualty notice addressed to the Owners on the 24th ultimo.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

British Steamer Capsizes

The trawler *Boston Fury* reported yesterday that the British steamer *Fred Borchard* (1586 tons gross), Kem for London, had capsized off the Norwegian coast. The trawler had picked up 27 of the crew but was continuing to search for two missing men.

FRED BORCHARD.—London, Oct. 8.—Trawler *Boston Fury* reported to-day: Steamer *Fred Borchard*, of Hull (Kem for London), is a total loss in position lat. 67 35 N., long. 11 35 E. Hull is now floating bottom up. Twenty-seven of crew rescued, including master; search being made for other two.

FRED BORCHARD.—Harstad, Oct. 8.—Following received by Harstad Radio at 11 5 a.m., G.M.T., to-day: Following SOS from British steamer *Fred Borchard*, M.T.C.: "Engine-room flooded fire, require immediate assistance. Position lat. 67 15 N., long. 11 11 E., outside Vestfjorden." Norwegian salvage steamers *Ula* and *Parat* have proceeded from Harstad and Bronnoysund respectively. Strong gale prevailing. Understood British trawler alongside at 6 p.m. (See issue of Oct. 9.)

London, Oct. 8.—Following received from British trawler *Boston Fury* at 7 35 p.m., G.M.T.: Vessel (steamer *Fred Borchard*) lost at 3 p.m. in to-day's gale, 27 of crew saved, third officer and a seaman missing; proceeding Harstad on trawler *Boston Fury*, due in morning of Oct. 9. Search being maintained by other vessel.

Trondheim, Oct. 8.—Salvage Company reports British steamer *Fred Borchard* abandoned by crew in lat. 67 24 N., long. 11 10 E. Understood wreck is still afloat, dangerous to navigation. Salvage steamer *Parat* left Bronnoysund and is expected at scene forenoon on Monday (Oct. 9).

Harstad, Oct. 9.—Grimsby trawler *Boston Fury* arrived here at 8 a.m. to-day with 27 survivors from steamer *Fred Borchard*. Third mate and one sailor missing. It is understood that vessel is floating on wood cargo with keel upright.

Oslo, Oct. 9.—Twenty seven survivors, including the master, Mr. Eggeslon, from the steamer *Fred Borchard* were landed to-day at Harstad. The two other members of the crew are presumed drowned, according to a radio message from the Grimsby trawler *Boston Fury*, which picked up the survivors.—Reuter.

Oslo, Oct. 9.—The radio operator of the trawler *Boston Fury* said to-day that the steamer *Fred Borchard* capsized in a storm off Norway yesterday. The engine-room flooded, the pumps were blocked and the fires were put out. The steamer drifted helplessly broadside on to the huge waves before she turned over.—Reuter.

Oslo, Oct. 9.—Hull trawler *St. Alcuin* remained to search for the two men missing from the steamer *Fred Borchard* until it was quite dark and then gave up hope for them. The steamer was then still floating hull-upward. The *Fred Borchard* is carrying a cargo of over 700 standards of timber from Russian White Sea ports.—Reuter.

Suggested Record

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

Capsized and wrecked 10.50.

FRI. 3 NOV 1950

Capsized & wrecked 10.50

The master of the British steamer *Fred Borchard*, which capsized off the Norwegian coast, has given to Lloyd's Agents at Harstad details of the casualty. The vessel's stokehold and engine-room flooded during a gale. It was impossible to maintain steam and the vessel drifted beam-on to the weather, shipping heavy seas. She developed a list and attempts were made to free the deck cargo of timber, but the ship capsized. On Monday evening the *Fred Borchard* was sighted, still afloat, off the Outer Lofoten Islands, but a salvage steamer has been unable to find her.

LL 12/10.50

FRED BORCHARD.—Harstad, Oct. 10.—Master of steamer *Fred Borchard* reports: "Stokehold and engine-room flooded owing to bilges choked, fires out, unable to maintain steam, vessel lying in trough of very heavy seas and shipping heavy waters through fiddle top. Ship developed heavy list, endeavoured to free deck cargo, eventually ship capsized with master on board and crew in water, being rescued by trawler *Boston Fury*. Vessel capsized keel up, floating dangerous to navigation. I consider prospects of recovery very poor, if at all." Chief engineer confirms master's report and considers ship a total loss. Owing to heavy gales prevailing on Sunday, Oct. 8, and presuming vessel sunk, salvage vessels *Parat* and *Ula* returned. At 6 p.m. yesterday vessel observed still floating three miles NW. of Rost, outer Lofoten Islands. *Parat* immediately proceeded from Sandnessjoen and expects to arrive at position indicated in about one hour, if successful in tracing vessel will ascertain possibilities of recovery.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Oct. 10.)

London, Oct. 10.—The following cable has been received from the Norwegian Salvage Company, dated Bergen, Oct. 10: Salvage vessel *Parat* reported at 9 a.m.: Position 15 miles S. of Vaeroy, Vestfjorden. Steamer *Fred Borchard* presumably drifted northwards towards Mosken. Continue searching for vessel.

FRED BORCHARD.—Harstad, Oct. 10.—Steamer *Fred Borchard*: Salvage vessel *Parat* ranged large areas all day until nightfall, passing large quantities of floating wood but without finding wreck. *Parat* entered harbour for the night, probably resuming at dawn.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association. (See issue of Oct. 11.)

" 13/10

The British steamer *Fred Borchard*, which capsized during a gale off the Norwegian coast, has been found aground on the northern shore of Mosken. A salvage vessel, which proceeded to the scene, has reported that the vessel is heavily aground and that there are no prospects of salvage.

LL 14/10.50

FRED BORCHARD.—London, Oct. 12.—The following message has been received from the Norwegian Salvage Company, dated Oct. 11: Steamer *Fred Borchard* now reported to have been found on north side of Mosken by motor vessel *Else*, which has been asked to stand by until salvage steamer arrives. If weather permits we hope towage can be started to-morrow morning. (See issue of Oct. 12.)

Harstad, Oct. 11.—Steamer *Fred Borchard*: Wreck observed at 3 p.m. to-day in lat. 67 46 N., long. 12 44 E. Understand fishing vessel standing by awaiting arrival of salvage vessel *Ula* to-morrow morning, which proceeded immediately from Harstad. Salvage vessel *Parat* temporarily engaged elsewhere.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

London, Oct. 12.—The following message has been received from the Norwegian Salvage Company, Bergen, dated to-day: On salvage steamer's arrival, steamer *Fred Borchard* aground and heavily damaged; no prospects for salvage.

FRED BORCHARD.—Oslo, Oct. 12.—The Norwegian salvage vessel which to-day found the hulk of the wrecked British steamer *Fred Borchard* reported that there was no hope of salvaging the vessel. The vessel is on a rock off the island of Mosken and her stern is under water with her bows pointing straight up. The surf is constantly breaking over the wreck and the salvage vessel was unable to approach it.—Reuter. (See issue of Oct. 13.)

" 21/10

Harstad, Oct. 13.—Salvage vessel *Ula* reports: Steamer *Fred Borchard* has grounded. Heavy surf prevents approaching nearer than 60 to 80 metres from wreck, which rolling with 90 deg. inclination, with aft ship submerged, presume bottom side torn up. Salvage impossible, total loss, this final.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

FRED BORCHARD.—Oslo, Oct. 20.—Norwegian fishing vessels have salvaged timber worth over 100,000 kr. found floating in the sea from the cargo of the British steamer *Fred Borchard*.—Reuter. (See issue of Oct. 14.)

" 24/10

LIFEBOAT AND WRECKAGE RECOVERED

London, Oct. 23.—The trawler *Ben-volio* returned to Hull yesterday carrying an unnamed ship's lifeboat and pieces of wreckage, believed to have belonged to the Hull steamer *FRED BORCHARD*, which sank off the Norwegian coast.—"Daily Mail."

FRED BORCHARD.—Harstad, Oct. 24.—Steamer *Fred Borchard*: Reuters' and similar reports utterly gratuitous. After careful investigations Chief of Police, Lofoten Islands, with sub-agent Bailwicks, declare quantity of timber salvaged and reported to authorities quite insignificant, hardly totalling 10 to 12 standards, scattered over vast coast-lines, involving heavy expenses in re-collection. Bailiff of Vaeroy district reports wreck now sunk and slid to about 20 fathoms depth, where diving impossible anyhow this season.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association. (See issues of Oct. 21 and 24.)

" 26/10



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