

Wreck Report No.

13619

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 31165 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 70/51 No. Date of writing this report 29th October, 19 51

Ship's Name s.s. "WAHINE" of Wellington Tons { Gross 4436
Net 1798

Built at Dumbarton When 1913 5 Casualty notice sent to Owner 21st Sept. Owner's reply -----

Owners The Union Steamship Co. of New Zealand,

Managers

Address 130 Leadenhall Street, E.C.3.

Classification details

100 A 1	LMC
Awning deck	BS 4,50
with freeboard	MS 6,49
3,50	
	NB (c. WT) 12,36
ssWln -6,49(Dr)	ts c2,49 p2,49
	s3,50 CL

Fitted for oil fuel 12,24 FP above 1500

Date of Casualty 15th August, 1951,

Details of Casualty

This ship ran hard aground on the Masela Island reef, 250 miles north of Darwin, in the Banda Sea, during thick haze on the 15th August. She was extensively damaged, and towing operations were likely to rip the bottom completely.

She was written off as a total loss by the Owners and abandoned to the Underwriters.

No reply has been received to the casualty notice addressed to the Owner on the 21st September.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

WAHINE. — Darwin, Aug. 15. — New Zealand steamer Wahine (Wahine for Korea) is reported aground on Masela Island, Banda Sea.

Darwin, Aug. 15. — New Zealand steamer Wahine, 575 New Zealand reinforcement Korea, ran hard aground to Masela Island, about 250 miles of here. The Wahine has a crew of 20. A Royal Australian Air Force with a naval officer on board to investigate. The Wahine is distress signals which were answered by a tanker. The Australian frigate is steaming to the aid of the Wahine. The naval officer in charge of the win area, Commander Arnold, said messages he received indicated danger to troops or crew. The left Darwin yesterday after spending day refuelling. — Reuter.

Darwin, Aug. 15. — The of the Lincoln reports that the steamer Wahine is out of and the vessel is jammed more halfway on the reef. The boats lowered and it appeared that troops being taken off. A naval observer said that about two of shallow reef water separated Wahine from the shore. The steamers Dulverton and Cape Otway have ordered to leave Darwin to pick up troops. The frigate Baretti, which left Cairns for the scene, has 150 to go. — Exchange Telegraph Company.

Darwin, Aug. 15. — Wahine has radioed that her reinforcements for Korea are being ferried to the tank steamer Karachi. The Stanvac Karachi is expected to bring the New Zealand troops to Darwin. The weather is fine and there appears to be no immediate danger. — Reuter.

Darwin, Aug. 15. — Four hours after the arrival of the tank steamer Stanvac Karachi, 250 troops had been taken off the steamer Wahine. The evacuation is expected to be completed by to-night. The troops and crew of the Wahine will probably be taken to Darwin. The Wahine is reef during a thick haze. — United Press.

Darwin, Aug. 15. — Wahine has been abandoned at tank steamer Stanvac Karachi, has taken off the troops, has scene and is expected at Darwin to-morrow. Any towing operations likely to rip the bottom out of the vessel. The stern appears to be with 8 ft. of water. — British Press.

WAHINE. — Darwin, Aug. 16. — Steamer Wahine: Aerial survey shows vessel fast on reef, little chance of refloating; survey proceeding. Crew and troops taken off by tank steamer Stanvac Karachi, proceeding Darwin. (See issue of Aug. 16.)

Darwin, Aug. 16. — New Zealand steamer Wahine, abandoned troopship, Wahine swooped on the \$50,000 cargo, included 20 tons of liquor. They overboard when an R.A.A.F. plane flew overhead. — Exchange Telegraph Company.

WAHINE. — Melbourne, Sept. 11. — The wrecked New Zealand steamer Wahine, aground on the Masela Island Reef, is a total loss, salvage experts reported to-day. Apart from light military equipment salvaged by a tug the vessel's equipment was looted by islanders. — Reuter. (See issue of Aug. 24.)

WAHINE. — Darwin, Aug. 22. — Steamer Wahine: Salvage Association special officer reports: Situation of Wahine on Aug. 21 at high water, forward draught minus 2 ft., aft draught plus 39 ft. Vessel flooded throughout with fuel oil, and tidal, list to port 34 deg. Approximately 200 friendly natives busy removing all portable items. Opinion salvage not advisable. Recommend disposal as is and where is, earliest. Party returning to Melbourne. — Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association. (See issue of Aug. 22.)

WAHINE. — Darwin, Aug. 17. — Steamer Wahine: Crew and troops landed here to-day by tank steamer Stanvac Karachi. Master's report and air photo indicate vessel sits upright and down by stern in exposed position, forefoot dry at low water. Vessel solidly aground from stem to forward funnel, double bottom open to sea, stern broken, tank top set up under forward boilers where structure deteriorating each tide, vessel pivoting at this point. Holds and engine-room dry when abandoned. Island natives observed boarding. Cargo confined to munitions and stores for Army movement. Owners' representative recommending his company consider constructive total loss in view of location, lack of equipment, and facilities and economic factors. No casualties, crew returning to Wellington, troops quartered at Darwin. (See issue of Aug. 17.)

Suggested Record

Wrecked 7,51.

FRI. 2 NOV 1951

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

Wrecked 7,51

Rmt.