

WRECK SECTION

No.

WRECK SECTION

No.

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

RETAIN

13468

mg

No. 18919 in R.B.

Wreck Book, p. 26/50

Date of writing this report 31st May 1950

Vessel's Name

Motor Trawler "Milford Viscount" of Milford

Tons Gross 314 Net 116

Year 1947

Month 7

Casualty notice sent to Owner 26.5.50

Owner's reply 30.5.50

Milford Steam Trawling Co. Ltd.
The Docks, Milford Haven

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

OVERDUE VESSEL

MILFORD VISCOUNT.—London, Apr. 19.—British trawler Milford Viscount, M 196, has been overdue since Sunday (Apr. 16), it was learned to-day at Castletown Berehaven, Co. Cork. She has a crew of 13, mostly from Milford Haven. The vessel left Castletown Berehaven on Mar. 30 for the Porcupine fishing grounds, about 130 miles off the west Cork coast, and was expected at Milford on Sunday. Aircraft from a British base made a search yesterday, and ships have been asked to keep a look-out.—"The Times."

Dublin, Apr. 18.—On Apr. 1 the steam trawler Dimita was in touch with the trawler Milford Viscount by radio.—"The Daily Telegraph and Morning Post" Correspondent.

London, Apr. 19.—A Lancaster of No. 19 Group, R.A.F., took off early to-day from St. Eval, Cornwall, to search an area off the west coast from Milford Haven to Fastnet for the missing trawler Milford Viscount. The managing director of the Milford Steam Trawling Company, owners of the trawler, said yesterday that her radio had been out of order since her first week at sea. There had been rumours about her safety and although there was no reason to believe anything was wrong, it had been decided to begin a search to check up.

MILFORD VISCOUNT.—Milford Haven, Apr. 19.—Some anxiety is felt for the safety of trawler Milford Viscount, which left this port on Mar. 29 and was to have returned on Apr. 17 at the earliest. The vessel did not arrive on that day and attempts by other vessels to contact the Milford Viscount by wireless telephone have been unsuccessful. She has not been seen since Apr. 7, on which date a vessel believed to be the Milford Viscount is stated to have been seen in the vicinity of the Farm Fishing Grounds. All possible steps have been taken to search for the vessel. (See issue of Apr. 20.)

London, Apr. 19.—A Halifax aircraft from Aldergrove returned to base at 5 p.m. to-day having seen nothing of the missing trawler Milford Viscount. The Lancaster from St. Eval also returned to base with nothing to report. The search will continue to-morrow.

London, Apr. 20.—Twenty-five fishing trawlers abandoned their fishing grounds late yesterday to join to-day in an extensive search over a wide area for the missing trawler Milford Viscount. Two Halifax aircraft also took off again to-day from Aldergrove, Co. Antrim, to continue searching. The Milford Viscount has been overdue since Sunday (Apr. 16) after leaving Castletown Berehaven (Co. Cork), on Mar. 30 for the Porcupine Fishing Grounds, 130 miles off the west Cork coast. She has a crew of 13, mostly Milford Haven men, under skipper Alex Smith, of Arbraith House, Milford Haven. Mr. J. C. Ward, managing director of the trawling company, said that they now feared something may have happened to her. Constant radio communication will keep the searching vessels in touch with each other and with the owners. One theory is that the Milford Viscount may have had engine trouble and has drifted. Later to-day the air search for the trawler was being concentrated in the north-west area of the Bay of Biscay. Developments had taken a dramatic turn when, it is understood, the steamer Basilisk put into Milford and reported on what was believed to be a distress signal in a position west of Ireland, on Apr. 5. Working on detailed calculations of varying wind strengths from this date, the plotting rooms of Coastal Command at Plymouth and Aldergrove chose an area to search on the presumption that the signal was from the trawler. It was as a result of this slender thread that the Plymouth centre of the Search and Rescue Organisation were directing operations in the Bay of Biscay. A Lancaster plane which also took off from St. Eval, Cornwall, early to-day, to resume yesterday's search in the Atlantic, was directed to the new area, and another Lancaster took off later. Yesterday the air searchers sighted over 40 fishing boats and contacted many by signal lamp, but gained no clue. (See "Unidentified Distress Signals" in issue of Apr. 8.)

LL20450

" 21/4

P.T.O.

Date
Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

F-100A1 FLMK 747
Motor Trawler TS1249CL
1249 OIL ENGINES

Overdue

Particulars of Casualty

This trawler left Milford Haven on the 9th March, 1950, for the Western Irish fishing grounds. She was in touch with another trawler on the 1st April by wireless and has not been heard of since.

Two lifebelts have been washed ashore along the south Irish coast.

Intensive search by ship and aeroplane has produced no result.

Posted at Lloyd's on the 24th May as a Missing Vessel.

The Owners concur.

RETAIN

Missing since 4.50

FRI. 2 JUN 1950

Missing since 4.50

Committee's Minute

1m.1.43.

C.O. 12/6

S. 12, 1/4



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