

WRECK SECTION

No. ....

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## REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &amp;c.

No. 18919 in R.B.

Wreck Book, p. 26/50

Date of writing this report

31st May

19 50

Vessel's Name

Motor Trawler "Milford Viscount" of Milford

Tons

Gross 314  
Net 116

When

1947

YEAR.

MONTH.

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, and her skipper is Alex. Smith, of 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 Dinito 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.)

ly before  
Committee.

Date

Last Minute

## Particulars of Classification.

100A1 FLMK 747  
Motor Trawler TS1249CL  
1249 OIL ENGINES

Overdue

Lars 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.

Missing since 4.50

FRI. 2 JUN 1950

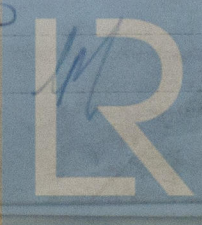
Missing since 4.50

Committee's Minute

1m, 1.33.

C.O. 12/6

S. 12, 1/4



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W1078-0025/2  
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**MILFORD VISCOUNT.**—London, Apr. 20.—A lifebuoy bearing the name, number, colours and markings of the Milford Haven trawler Milford Viscount, M 196, was washed ashore to-day near Ballybunnion, Co. Kerry. Exchange Telegraph Company. (See issue of Apr. 21.)

—London, Apr. 21.—Three Coastal Command Lancaster aircraft took off from St. Eval Station, Cornwall, two hours after dawn to-day to resume their search for the missing trawler Milford Viscount. Working on a report from the steamer Basilisk, R.A.F. navigators have plotted that the trawler might have drifted into the Bay of Biscay or out into the Atlantic.

**MILFORD VISCOUNT.**—London, Apr. 22.—The search continued to-day for the missing trawler Milford Viscount. Aircraft, which resumed the search this morning, have so far no news to report.

**MILFORD VISCOUNT.**—Land's End Radio, Apr. 27.—With reference to our XXX (urgency signal) trawler Milford Viscount, following received from Stonehaven Radio at 1.38 a.m., G.M.T.: From skipper of British trawler Inchmickery at 1.8 a.m., G.M.T.: Heard vessel calling herself Milford Viscount calling any trawler on 141 metres but nothing further received due to weak strength of signal. My position 180 miles N.E. by E. of Buchanness. (See issue of Apr. 24.)

Apr. 27.—Following received from motor vessel Innistallen at 1.59 a.m., G.M.T.: When listening on 140 metres at 1.40 a.m., G.M.T., heard two trawlers say they heard the trawler Milford Viscount transmitting at 2 a.m. (B.S.T.). They could not get her position except she said she was 5 W. They said rest faded out, reckon her batteries gave out. The trawlers still listening on 140 metres. One of those trawlers was Norman Wilson. They were sure it was Milford Viscount.

Land's End Radio, Apr. 27.—Following received from Stonehaven Radio at 1.23 p.m., G.M.T.: Following received from British trawler Inchmickery at 12.53 p.m., G.M.T., on 2012 kcs.: Re trawler Milford Viscount, I have to report that trawler William Caldwell definitely had the Milford Viscount at approximately 2 a.m. to 2.30 a.m., B.S.T., and thinks vessel said 5 degrees west. I also confirm that Milford Viscount said this as far as I could make out. He said he could only transmit for one minute at a time. Granton trawler Madden and an English trawler also heard the call from the Milford Viscount. The William Caldwell is at The Shermes. Milford Viscount called the Milford Queen or any trawler.

—London, Apr. 27.—Signals indicating the position of the missing trawler Milford Viscount were received early this afternoon, according to a statement issued by the Air Ministry in Edinburgh to-day. It was learned that the trawler was in lat. 52 N., long. 11 to 15 W. Three Lancaster aircraft, two from St. Eval, Cornwall, and one from Shawbury, Shropshire, left this afternoon to search the area. Meanwhile the destroyer Wizard has been sent out from Plymouth and is standing by until she receives further information from the aircraft. A close watch is being kept by R.A.F. Signals on 141 metres on which the last signals from the trawler were heard. Arrangements have been made to send messages to the trawler on that wavelength.

**MILFORD VISCOUNT.**—Land's End Radio, Apr. 28.—Following received from British trawler Milford Duke at 12.37 a.m., G.M.T.: Four or five different trawlers heard aircraft has located trawler Milford Viscount and rescue ship is proceeding to her position.

Following received from motor vessel Innistallen at 12.54 a.m., G.M.T.: Following received from steamer Wild Rose to trawler Milford Duchess saying trawler Milford Viscount has been located by plane and rescue ship is proceeding to her, position given as lat. 52 40 N., long. 16 W.

Following received from British trawler Milford Duchess at 8.15 a.m., G.M.T.: No information here regarding position of trawler Milford Viscount. Last night trawler Red Rose heard foreign ship broadcast on 181 metres that the vessel had been located and rescue ship was being sent. No information as to who gave position of Milford Viscount. (See issue of Apr. 28.)

—London, Apr. 28.—Several reports reached the Admiralty during the night that faint radio signals had been picked up from the missing trawler Milford Viscount and they are being investigated. A renewed air and sea search of thousands of square miles of sea off the south-west coast of Ireland was begun yesterday. British and foreign trawlers, who observed radio silence in order to pick up any message, were asked to pinpoint the position of the Milford Viscount if they heard any calls. Earlier a weak signal believed to be from the Milford Viscount had been picked up by Admiralty Radio, Plymouth.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

—London, Apr. 28.—Trawler Milford Viscount: The destroyer Wizard contacted a number of trawlers about 240 miles west of Ireland to-day. She has been directed to search a broader front towards the Galway Bay area, and to pay particular attention to that coastline.

**MILFORD VISCOUNT.**—London, Apr. 30.—Three destroyers of the Royal Navy and R.A.F. Coastal Command 'planes were standing by to-day, awaiting any further reports which might direct them to the missing Milford Haven trawler Milford Viscount. Thousands of square miles of the Atlantic have been swept by aircraft of Coastal Command since they began their search. Coastal Command officers in charge of the aerial search decided to-day to await any further radio contacts or reports from trawlers at sea, which would give a more exact chart reference for the missing trawler before sending out other search 'planes. Their view is that all the sea areas into which the Milford Viscount might have steamed or drifted have been combed. The destroyer Wizard to-day returned to Plymouth to make her report. She was off Galway Bay yesterday morning, and made a search southwards to the Fastnet Lighthouse. Another destroyer, the Wakeful, which left Tobermory early on Friday (Apr. 28) and steamed to Cape Wrath, to-day remained at her mooring in Scapa Flow. A third destroyer, Wrangler, was standing by off the Summer Isles, in the North Minch, and the Fleet minesweeper Wave, of the Fishery Protection flotilla, which has been on patrol in northern fishing waters, to-day proceeded to Tromsø to refuel, preparatory to being directed into the search. Amateur radio operators maintained an hour's radio silence from midnight until 1 a.m. to-day to give Land's End Radio and other Admiralty stations a chance of picking up, without interference, any signals which might be made from the trawler. A naval officer at Plymouth stated that nothing was heard from the Milford Viscount, and a number of amateurs also telephoned to say that they, too, had picked up no messages during the stipulated time. A report made to-day by the commanding officer of the Wizard told of making contact with each of the trawlers operating in the search area, led by the Milford Duke. The purpose of the contact was to trace the course of the message supposed to have come from the Milford Viscount. The destroyer went from trawler to trawler checking the course of the message, and trying to get an independent verification of its having been received. But none could report an independent verification and the course led them back to the trawler which first spoke of having heard of the Milford Viscount. (See issue of Apr. 29.)

**MILFORD VISCOUNT.**—London, May 1.—Mr. J. C. Ward, managing director of the Milford Steam Trawling Company, said to-day that the Milford King, one of the company's trawlers taking part in the search for the trawler Milford Viscount, is now on her way home, short of coal. The Milford Duke and other trawlers were continuing the search, working northwards from lat. 55 N., long. 18 30 W. No further message had been received from the missing trawler. (See issue of May 1.)

**MILFORD VISCOUNT.**—Tralee, May 3.—Trawler Milford Viscount: Information received from the Ballyheigue police barracks states that two men last night reported having found two lifebelts, painted red and white and marked "Milford Viscount" and "M 196," on the shore between Ballyheigue and Causeway, about 10 days ago. The Receiver of Wreck reports that another lifebelt painted red and white, marked "Milford Viscount" and "M 196" was found at Ballybunnion on Apr. 16 (not on Apr. 20 as before reported). (See issue of May 2.)

**MILFORD VISCOUNT.**—London, May 7.—A wireless message, weak but distinct, was picked up at Tarbat Ness Lighthouse, near Inverness, early to-day and may give a clue to the whereabouts of the Milford Haven trawler Milford Viscount. "This might be last call. Batteries going flat. Position 72 degrees 40 min. North, 17 West," the message said at 4.30 a.m. Tarbat Ness could not reply as the lighthouse is equipped with only a receiving set. That message was heard in company with one of the lighthouse keepers by William Smith, a brother of Alexander Smith, skipper of the Milford Viscount, who lives at Arbroath. William Smith is convinced that the voice sending the message was that of his brother. Messages have been radioed by the Admiralty to trawlers on the northern fishing grounds and to other vessels in the Iceland area to keep a look-out for the missing trawler and to listen for any further signals. A U.S. Air Force B17 bomber this afternoon took off from Iceland to search. A naval spokesman at Rosyth said that a message was also being sent to the fishery protection sloop Cygnet, now off the north-west coast of Ireland on passage to Iceland, informing her commander of the radio signal received at Tarbat Ness. (See issue of May 6.)

**MILFORD VISCOUNT.**—London, May 7.—The managing director of the Milford Steam Trawling Company, owners of the Milford Viscount, to-day said that he had been informed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries several days ago that an air search had been made from Iceland and that the reported position was completely icebound. "A message received at Tarbat Ness and passed on to me one day last week also gave the position as lat. 72 40 N., long. 17 W. It is completely and absolutely fantastic, it is more than 2000 miles from where she was last known to be and I know that she would never have steamed there." (See issue of May 8.)

—Reykjavik, May 7.—A United States rescue plane from Reykjavik, which flew north from Iceland to-day reached the position indicated by distress signals sent out by a British trawler last night. Low fog hindered the search, but the plane's radar screen showed that the area was completely covered with ice in this area. The plane will continue the search on Monday (May 8).—British United Press.

—Reykjavik, May 8.—An Icelandic Air Sea Rescue plane to-day searched Arctic waters for the missing trawler Milford Viscount after a trawler off Snæfjellnes, Iceland, reported hearing very faint signals last night.—Reuter.

**MILFORD VISCOUNT.**—Reykjavik, May 8.—An all-day search of Arctic waters by two rescue planes from Keflavik Airfield, Iceland, for the missing trawler Milford Viscount brought no results to-day. The planes searched a large area in clear weather, concentrating on the edge of the icefield, but sighted nothing to indicate the presence of the trawler. The Rev. Robert Jack, a Scottish clergyman serving on the island of Grimsey, off the north coast of Iceland, reported hearing a message from the trawler on his radio at 5.30 a.m., B.S.T., to-day. He said he heard: "This is Milford Viscount calling." Another British trawler also reported hearing faint signals.—Reuter. (See issue of May 9.)

—London, May 9.—The owners of trawler Milford Viscount report from Milford Haven under date of May 6: The Milford Viscount, with a crew of 12 men in addition to a skipper, but no apprentices, left Milford Haven on Mar. 29 and has not been heard of since Apr. 1. There have been various rumours of wireless signals having been received from the vessel, all of which have been investigated without

success. In addition, an intensive search has been made by aircraft, one H.M. ship and a large number of trawlers, again without success. We must, therefore, consider this vessel as lost.

**MILFORD VISCOUNT.**—Tralee, May 8.—The two lifebelts reported to the police authorities at Ballyheigue have been inspected. They were found at Meenago-have, on the north side of Kerry Head, and are marked "Milford Viscount, M 196." (See issues of May 6 and 10.)

### MISSING VESSELS

**MILFORD VISCOUNT.**—London, May 24.—Motor trawler Milford Viscount, of Milford, official number 165644, 314 tons gross, master Smith, which left Milford Haven for the Western Irish fishing grounds on Mar. 29, and reported by wireless Apr. 1, was to-day posted at Lloyd's as a Missing Vessel.



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