

R. SECTION No 38

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 82655 in R. B.

Wreck Book, p. 106/41

Date of writing this report

19

Vessel's Name

Twin I.S. "St. Patrick"

of London

Tons {Gross 1922

Net 792

Built at Glasgow

When 1930

YEAR. MONTH.

3

Casualty notice sent to Owner

Owner's reply

Owner's Name Fishguard & Rosslare Railways & Harbours Co.

Address

Fishguard Harbour, S. Wales

Case previously before
Classing Committee.

Date

Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

710071
 with fbd
 241
 32 No 2-37
 For Channel Service - Weymouth &
 Channel Islands & Irish Channel Service
 Fitted for oil fuel 3,30 F.P. above 150 °F.

+LMCR, 37
 BS 241
 P 1238
 TS 3 241 09

Date of Casualty

13th June, 1941

Précis of particulars of Casualty Sunk by aircraft off Fishguard on the

13th June, 1941.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

**CHANNEL STEAMER
SUNK BY BOMBS**
Times
17/6
**WOMEN PASSENGERS
SAVED BY RAFTS**

66 RESCUED OUT OF 89

At least 23 persons lost their lives when the cross-channel steamer St. Patrick (1,922 tons) was dive-bombed and sunk by enemy aircraft near the end of the trip from Rosslare to Fishguard early last Friday morning. Among the 66 survivors were women and children, many of whom were saved by jumping overboard and clinging to rafts until they were picked up by a warship, a merchant ship, and other craft.

Some survivors, including a number who were injured when four bombs hit the ship, were exhausted when brought ashore, where they were treated in hospital and in a sick bay at a railway station.

CAPTAIN KILLED

The crew numbered 45, and there were 44 passengers. Captain Faraday, the master, and the mate are believed to have been killed, and it is feared that all the first class passengers were killed except one, who is in hospital. Two stewardesses are also thought to have been lost.

All the women and children passengers are understood to have been rescued, several of them owing their lives to the pluck of men who, jeopardizing their own chances of safety, searched for them in the heavy sea and dragged them on to rafts which had been flung overboard as the steamer began to sink.

Most of the passengers were asleep when the steamer was hit. She sank in a few minutes—so quickly that there was little chance of lowering the boats. Many people were killed in the explosion.

PASSENGERS' STORIES

Nicholas Rossiter, a passenger, said:—"We were asleep below when we heard a terrific crash. I rushed on deck and saw that the boat was listing badly. I immediately jumped into the sea and got hold of a raft. Here I was joined by two women, one of whom was badly injured. It was blowing hard, and our raft was carried about by the sea and at times almost capsized. After about an hour we were picked up by a warship."

Another passenger, E. Power, said:—"It was a close thing. I had no sooner jumped overboard, like many others, than the boat sank. I went under water for some time, but when I reached the surface again I spotted some timber floating and held on until I was picked up."

A Rosslare passenger, C. Cornell, said that when he reached the deck the St. Patrick was on fire. He had only just enough time to get a raft, hurl it overboard, and jump in after it. He was joined by a man with a fractured arm. It was a terrible sight to see women and the wounded struggling in the water, but they all showed great courage.

David Healy said that with two women and a child he got on to a raft, and they were all saved. John Daly said he threw two rafts into the water, and a woman and her young daughter reached one after a struggle and were rescued.

The St. Patrick, which, according to Lloyd's Register, belonged to the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Company, was bombed twice in two days in the Irish Sea by German aeroplanes last August. The first time she zigzagged at full speed and drove the aircraft off. The second time a passenger and one of the crew were wounded by machine-gun fire, the seaman dying later.

ST. PATRICK.—London, June 16.—At least 23 persons lost their lives when the G.W.R. cross-channel steamer St. Patrick was dive-bombed and sunk by enemy aircraft near the end of the voyage from Rosslare to Fishguard early on Friday morning (June 13). Among the 66 survivors were women and children, many of whom were saved through jumping overboard and clinging to rafts until they were picked up by a warship, a merchant vessel and other craft. Some, including a number injured, were exhausted when brought ashore. The crew numbered 45, and there were 44 passengers. Captain Faraday, the master, and the mate are believed to have been killed, and it is feared that all the first-class passengers were killed except one, who is in hospital. Two stewardesses are also thought to have been lost. Most of the passengers were asleep when the steamer was hit. She sank quickly and there was little chance of lowering boats. People were killed in the explosion. All the women and children passengers are understood to have been rescued.

LL18/6

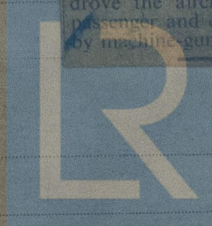
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Suggested Record

Date of Committee

6 AUG 1941

Committee's Minute


 Lloyd's Register
Foundation

W117-0127