

WRECK SECTION NO. 392

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 29463 in R. B.

Wreck Book, p. 89/39

Date of writing this report 4th December, 1939.

Vessel's Name

Steel S.S. "Matra"

of

Liverpool

Tons

Gross 8003
Net 4895

Built at

Port Glasgow

When

1926

11

Casualty notice sent to Owner 28/11/39 Owner's reply 30/11/39

Owner's Name

Thos. & Jno. Brocklebank, Ltd.

Address

Cunard Building, Liverpool, 3.

Case previously before

Classing Committee.

Date

Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

*100A1

FLMC

3,39

MS 6,38
BS 6,39

SS No 3-8,38

TS 5,37CL

Date of Casualty

14th November, 1939.

Précis of particulars of Casualty

This vessel is reported to have been beached after striking a mine in the North Sea on the 14th November, 1939.

She has sunk ten feet in a sandbank and all holds, except No. 1 hold, are full of water.

Her name is included in the List of War Losses which is periodically published in Lloyd's List.

In reply to the casualty notice, the Owners state that although the position of the steamer is precarious, they understand there is a possibility of salving her in the spring.

14th March, 1940.

In reply to inquiry the Owners state they are making inquiries as to whether salvage operations will be resumed and they hope to advise this Office later.

23rd May, 1940.

The Owners now state there is no reasonable prospect of salving this steamer and that the War Risks Associations have decided to accept her as a total loss.

They accordingly request her name to be deleted from the Register Book.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

TWO men were killed, two are missing, and 22 were injured in an explosion which caused the loss of the S.S. Matra (8,003 tons), a Liverpool cargo steamer, in the North Sea on Monday night. All the European crew of 85 have been saved, but two La cars are dead and two missing. The crew were taken off by a lifeboat which made three trips to the sinking vessel.

D.M.I.
15/11

LIFEBOAT RESCUES LINER'S CREW 2 KILLED, 22 INJURED

Two men were killed and 22 injured when the Matra, an 8,000-ton Liverpool cargo boat, owned by Thos. and J. Brocklebank, was severely damaged in the North Sea on Monday night after an explosion suspected to have been caused by a mine or torpedo.

The survivors took to the boats and burned fares. A lifeboat went out to them and in three trips landed 52 out of the 85 members of the crew. Another party was picked up by an oil tanker after rowing for some hours in the darkness.

All the British members of the crew were saved. Those landed included the captain, two pilots, 11 British officers and 59 lascars. Two or two injured La cars were taken to hospital.

Early yesterday the damaged ship was plainly visible from the coast. She was well down at the 10 fathoms and a tug was standing by.

D.Tel
15/11

88 take to boats

MATRA, 8,000-ton Liverpool steamer sunk in the North Sea, seventy men saved; eighteen men dead.

When there was an explosion the crew of eighty-eight took to the boats. Fifty men were landed by a lifeboat sent out to them; twenty more were picked up by a London-bound vessel.

Twenty-two men seriously injured are in hospital.

D.Ex.
15/11

Suggested Record

Date of Committee

TUE 5 DEC 1939

Committee's Minute

Deferred

3 mos