

BRITISH LIBERTY REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS

No. 21349 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 3/40

Date of w

Vessel's Name *Steel M.S. "British Liberty"* of

Built at *Harleston Hill* When *1939* *2* Casualty notice sent to

Owner's Name *British Tanker Co. Ltd.*

Address *Britannic House, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.2*

Case previously before

Date

Particulars of Classification.

Classing Committee.

Last Minute

100A1

LMC 239

CL

OIL ENGINES

Carrying Petroleum in bulk

Date of Casualty

6th January 1940.

Précis of particulars of Casualty This vessel is reported to have been struck by a mine in the North Sea on the 6th January, 1940.

The crew took to the boats, but as the ship did not sink, 20 men returned to her. There were immediately two more explosions, the cargo caught fire and the vessel sank. The 20 men are missing.

The Owners concur.

HOUSE,
RY CIRCUS,
LONDON, E.C.2.

E.

36
84

RETAIN

TANKER

BOAT'S RETURN TO SHIP AFTER EXPLOSION

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

FOLKESTONE, JAN. 9

The oil tanker British Liberty has been lost off the north-east French coast following violent explosions as she was nearing the port for which she was bound with a cargo of crude oil.

Eighteen members of her crew reached port yesterday, but it is feared that the captain and 19 others have lost their lives.

After the first explosion on Saturday the captain decided, as there was grave risk of fire, to abandon ship. Two boats were launched, the captain and 19 others getting safely afloat in one. The other, which was to take 18 men, overturned as it was being launched and several men were thrown into the oil-covered sea. The boat was righted and the men were picked up after great difficulty.

As no fire was seen in the British Liberty the captain's boat returned. They had not been long in the ship when two heavy explosions were heard and fire broke out, and later the vessel sank. Those in the other boat pulled to a lightship.

WB No 161
SECTION 4

Suggested Record

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

BUNK - WAR LOSS. 1/40

FEB 2 FEB 1940

Sunk - War Loss 1.40

19/6



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Foundation

W161-0105