

WRECK  
SECTION

# REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

W1644-0151

Wreck Report No.

13931

H.

No.

WRECK  
SECTION

No. 03112

in R.B.

Wreck Book, p. 91/53

Date of writing this report 22nd October,

19 53.

Ship's Name S.S. "BECKENHAM"

YEAR.

MONTH.

Built at Dundee

When

1937

10

Casualty notice sent to Owner 19.10.53

Owner's reply 20.10.53.

(By Telephone & letter)

Owners Britain S.S. Co., Ltd.

Managers Watts, Watts & Co., Ltd.

Address Southsea House, 37, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.2.

## Classification details

W 100A1	LMC12,51
with freeboard	BS12,52
8,52	
ssShl.-12,51	ts 11,51 CL
Fitted for oil fuel 12,51 F.P. above 150°F.	

Date of Casualty 7th October, 1953.

Details of Casualty

This ship broke in two while stranded  
in heavy weather near Cape Ratmanova, Kara Sea.  
The owners concur.

## SOURCE OF INFORMATION

BECKENHAM. — London, Oct. 7. — The owners of the steamer Beckenham (Lanka for London) have received the following message from the master, dated to-day: Grounded at 4.47 a.m. in Kara Sea, in vicinity of Cape Ratmanova.

LL 8.10.53

London, Oct. 7. — The Black Sea & Baltic General Insurance Company have received the following cable from Ingosstrakh, dated to-day: Steamer Beckenham: Steamer Sukhumi has proceeded to assist.

BECKENHAM. — London, Oct. 8. — The owners of the steamer Beckenham have received the following message from the master, dated Oct. 8, 9 a.m.: Signature on Lloyd's Form unobtainable. Have agreed to accept assistance of steamer Alexandr Suvorov as per Maritime Arbitration Commission. Vessel aground in lat. 71 35 N., long. 56 E., jettisoning cargo to lighten ship. Suspect heavy bottom damage, starboard side. (See issue of Oct. 8.)

LL 9.10.53

BECKENHAM. — London, Oct. 9. — The owners of the steamer Beckenham received the following message from the master early this morning: Experienced moderate to strong south-east winds and moderate to rather rough south-east swell during the night, vessel pounding heavily at times. Making water slowly in No. 1 hold and tonnage well. (See issue of Oct. 9.)

LL 10.10.53

London, Oct. 9. — The owners of the steamer Beckenham have received following message from the master, timed 12.40 p.m. to-day: At present still on ground. Towing wire being given steamer Alexandr Suvorov, to prevent vessel driving further ashore. When wire fast will start jettison cargo.

London, Oct. 10. — The steamer Beckenham received the following message from the master, timed 8 a.m. to-day: Tow rope parted. Vessel now last on steamer Alexandr Suvorov at 11.35 p.m. Vessel now jettisoning afterdeck cargo, expect refloat to-morrow morning. (See issue of Oct. 10.)

London, Oct. 11. — British steamer Beckenham reported: At 1.35 p.m., Oct. 10: Deck cargo jettisoned. Now jettisoning cargo from No. 1 and No. 3 tween decks. Wind and sea freshening from SE. Vessel starting to pound heavily at times. At 4.50 p.m., Oct. 10: Wind now moderate to fresh gale force. Vessel pounding heavily. Salvage operations hampered by weather. Tunnel filling with water. Engineers report slight leak around watertight door, No. 4 bulkhead buckling in engine-room. Nos. 1 and 2 tanks show increase, also bilges.

LL 12.10.53

At 2.30 a.m., Oct. 11: Have experienced fresh SE gale since 6 p.m. yesterday. Wind still strong. Water in all hatches. Tunnel full of water, leaking into engine-room. Steamer Alexandr Suvorov standing by. Towing wire still fast.

At 6.15 a.m., Oct. 11: Steamer Alexandr Suvorov slipped tow wire last night owing to heavy weather. Vessel now on two anchors, lying very quietly, now awaiting for weather to moderate.

HAM. — London, Oct. 12. — The owners of the steamer Beckenham reported that vessel has broken in two, no crew have been saved. (See issue of Oct. 12.)

LL 13.10.53

BECKENHAM. — London, Oct. 13. — The crew of the steamer Beckenham are on their way to Archangel in a Russian ship, the Alexandr Suvorov, it was learned in London to-day. A spokesman for the managers, Messrs. Watts, Watts & Co., Ltd., said: We have just had word this morning that the crew of the Beckenham are on the Russian steamer Alexandr Suvorov, which is bound for Archangel. There they will be transferred to another ship going to Hull. (See issue of Oct. 13.)

LL 14.10.53

BECKENHAM. — London, Oct. 14. — The following cable has been received from Ingosstrakh, Moscow, dated Oct. 13: Steamer Beckenham: Owing to hopelessness of salvage, abandoned. (See issue of Oct. 14.)

LL 15.10.53

BECKENHAM. — Moscow, Oct. 15. — Steamer Beckenham: Steamer Alexandr Suvorov took off members of the crew and the steamer Sukhumi and the tugs Olyok and Volna (also went to the scene, the Russian Foreign Ministry has told the British Embassy. The Ministry said the holds of the Beckenham were filled with water and the ship broke in two. British United Press. (See later report in issue of Oct. 15.)

LL 17.10.53

37 crew of the British steamer Beckenham have arrived at Archangel on board the Russian steamer Alexandr Suvorov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry told the British Embassy to-day.

Register  
of  
Maritime  
Casualties

Suggested Record Wrecked 10.53

Date of Committee TUESDAY 27 OCT 1953

Committee's Minute

1m, 8.51.

Wrecked

10.53

Print.

8.53 All subject