

WRECK SECTION REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

W1644-0151
Wreck Report No. 13931 H.

WRECK SECTION
No.

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" of London Tons { Gross 4906
Net 2756
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.

RETAIN

Classification details

100A1 with freeboard 8,52	LMC12,51 BS12,52
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.

M/M
BOX 1644

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

BECKENHAM. — London, Oct. 7. — The owners of the steamer Beckenham (Leads 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.

LH 8.10.53

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.)

LH 9.10.53

BECKENHAM. — London, Oct. 9. — 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.)

LH 10.10.53

BECKENHAM. — 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.

BECKENHAM. — London, Oct. 10. — The owners of the steamer Beckenham received the following message from the master, timed 8 a.m. to-day: Towing wire parted at 11 35 p.m. Vessel now jettisoning afterdeck cargo, expect refloat to-morrow morning. (See issue of Oct. 10.)

LH 12.10.53

BECKENHAM. — 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.

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.

LH 13.10.53

BECKENHAM. — London, Oct. 12. — The owners of the steamer Beckenham reported: That vessel has broken in two, crew and cargo have been saved. (See issue of Oct. 12.)

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.)

LH 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.)

LH 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 Olyonok 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.)

LH 17.10.53

BECKENHAM. — Moscow, Oct. 16. — The 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. (Reuter.)

Suggested Record Wrecked 10,53
Date of Committee TUESDAY 27 OCT 1953
Committee's Minute Wrecked 10.53

853 All subject

Register of Shipping Information