

WRECK
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No.

Wreck Report No. 14029

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 03519 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 39/54

Date of writing this report 17th May, 19 54.

Ship's Name s.s. "BHARATBALA" of Bombay Tons Gross 1137 Net 426

Built at Port Glasgow When 1928 1 Casualty notice sent to Owner 3.5.54. Owner's reply 10.5.54.

Owners The Bharat Line, Ltd.

Managers

Address Mehta House, Apollo Street, Fort, Bombay, India.

RETAIN

Classification details

BS*	MBS* 1,51
2,54	BlrS2,53
ssBom-1,51	mspl,51
A.S.2,53	
	ts 3,52 CL

Date of Casualty 31st March, 1954.

Details of Casualty

This ship went aground on rocks at Salbet Island, Gulf of Cambay, and was badly holed.

The Owners concur in total loss.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

BHARATBALA. — Bombay, Apr. 1. — Steamer Bharatbala reported stranded on rocky bottom at high water at Salbet Island, Gulf of Cambay, at 9.30 p.m. G.M.T., yesterday, in position lat. 20 54 10 N., long. 71 32 E. Vessel making water badly in No. 2 hold and straining. Understood vessel approximately half laden with general cargo.

Bombay, Apr. 1. — Steamer Bharatbala now reported also leaking badly in No. 1 hold. Surveyor and owners' representatives with salvage gear proceeding p.m. to-day to site in steamer Bharatbala.

BHARATBALA. — Bombay, Apr. 2. — Steamer Bharatbala: No. 1 hold also leaking otherwise nothing further yet. Surveyor and owners' marine superintendent sailed p.m. on Apr. 1 on steamer Bharatbala to investigate, advise and report; salvage gear taken to assist if possible. Expected to arrive at 4.30 a.m., G.M.T., on Apr. 2. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Apr. 2.)

Bombay, Apr. 2. — Steamer Bharatbala: Surveyor's preliminary report: Position at 8 a.m. G.M.T., Apr. 2, approaching high water ship rolling easily, no apparent pounding. Water in No. 2 hold floods to main deck level. No. 1 hold, water approximately 1 ft. less. Propose jettisoning bag cargo from No. 2 hold to make well for suction of portable pumps. Consider if pumping successful ship can be floated, but requires salvage tug. Ship's own heaving gear inadequate for heaving off with anchors. Proceeding as above.

Owners inquiring of Svitzers' representatives and Cowasjee terms prepared to undertake towage service required when vessel ready to refloat. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

BHARATBALA. — Bombay, Apr. 2. — Steamer Bharatbala took a dangerous list at low water this morning. Afraid ship may capsize at next high water. Propose withdrawing crew and shore labour and as much of ship's stores and equipment as possible to steamer Bharatbala and proceeding Bombay. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Apr. 3.)

BHARATBALA. — Bombay, Apr. 3. — Steamer Bharatbala: Surveyor reports position at high water worsened. Fore- about 3 ft. deeper, afterpart afloat, approximately 10 deg. to starboard. Water deeper. Considers Cowasjee's offer must be viewed against probable very costly repairs. Undoubtedly fore end of ship's bottom extensively damaged to after end of No. 2 hold. All personnel, some stores and two lifeboats safely taken on board steamer Bharatbala. Cowasjee adheres to offer of Apr. 1, nothing yet from Smit & Co. or Svitzers. Owners' Bhavnagar office arranging shore watch. Steamer Bharatbala is expected to arrive at 1.30 a.m., G.M.T., on Apr. 4. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Apr. 3.)

Bombay, Apr. 4. — Steamer Bharatbala: Cowasjee definitely decline option (abandonment to salvors) and on the spot surveyor considers that if vessel survives the next 48 hours no substantial deterioration is likely to occur until next spring tide. Cowasjee cannot in any case commence actual salvage operations earlier. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

BHARATBALA. — Bombay, Apr. 7. — Owners of steamer Bharatbala report forepart of vessel now awash at high water and that list is materially worse, inviting offers forthwith for vessel "as lying." Buyers undertaking to account to cargo owners for any cargo recovered. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Apr. 6.)

Bombay letter 17.4.54.

Suggested Record

WRECKED 3,54

Date of Committee

FRIDAY 21 MAY 1954

Committee's Minutes

Wrecked 3.54

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