

WRECK SECTION
No. 12979
REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 19546 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 95/45 Date of writing this report 31st October, 1945

Vessel's Name S.S. "Argos Hill" (YPMC) of London Tons Gross 7178 Net 4413

Built at Halifax, N.S. When 1922 1 Casualty notice sent to Owner 22/10/45 Owner's reply 23/10/45

Owner's Name Ernests Shipping Co. Ltd. (Counties Ship Management Co. Ltd. Agents)

Address Holland House, Bury Street, London, E.C.3.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

Case previously before
Classing Committee.

Date
Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.
+1000H
Shelter dk
with fld 5.45
Examined 11.44
SS No 3-134
SS No 1-37
+LMC
MS 138
BS 545
+Lloyd's RMC 942
TS 443CL
Fitted for oil fuel 122
F.P. above 150°F.

Date of Casualty 7th August, 1945

Précis of particulars of Casualty

Caught fire, believed through a burst fuel pipe in the boiler room, in the North Atlantic on the 7th August, 1945.

Towed into St. John's, Newfoundland, where it is stated she was burnt out fore and aft, and it is estimated cost of repairs will be about 1,000,000 dollars. Trying to sell as lying.

In reply to the casualty notice, the Owners state they have been paid a Total Loss and that the steamer is the property of the Underwriters.

ARGOS HILL. — Campdown, wireless Station, Aug. 7. — At 5.42 a.m., G.M.T., Q.T.P. (British steamer Argos Hill) sent distress signal: On fire in lat. 41° 35' N., long. 54° 54' W. At 11.9 a.m., G.M.T., WQFK (American steamer Noah Brown) reported Argos Hill abandoned but ship salvageable when fire burns out and cools. At 11.25 a.m., G.M.T., Brown reported proceeding survivors, one man missing.

LL 8/8

ARGOS HILL. — London, Aug. 7. — H.M. tug left St. John's, N.F., at 1 p.m., G.M.T., on Aug. 7 to assist steamer Argos Hill. American steamer Noah Brown has been requested to stand by Argos Hill until relieved by another vessel or until tug arrives on the scene. Noah Brown reported at 5.17 p.m. that there were 44 survivors and one man missing. Steamer Montclair Victory is proceeding from the scene with 13 survivors. Steamer Robert Parrot and tank steamer Empire Marvell were reported going to assistance of Argos Hill. (See issue of Aug. 8.)

LL 9/8

ARGOS HILL. — London, Aug. 8. — The following wireless message was received from American steamer Noah Brown on Aug. 8: Steamer Montclair Victory proceeding to Boston with 13 survivors from steamer Argos Hill, 27, including master, on board Noah Brown. Total crew of Argos Hill 45, one man missing. American steamer Noah Brown is standing by awaiting arrival of tug. Steamer Argos Hill is considered salvageable. (See issue of Aug. 9.)

LL 10/8

Halifax, Aug. 8. — Three Royal Canadian minesweepers equipped with fire fighting apparatus are to-night proceeding to the British steamer Argos Hill which is on fire 385 miles out from Halifax. Before being ordered to abandon ship the crew fought the flames for 24 hours. — Reuter.

ARGOS HILL. — Halifax, Aug. 9. — British steamer Argos Hill is still burning, the Royal Canadian Navy Ministry announced to-day. A heavy swell is preventing the Navy's fire-fighting tug Tenacity from closing in on the stricken ship. Steamer Noah Brown is still standing by. — Reuter. (See issue of Aug. 10.)

LL 11/8

Halifax, Aug. 9. — Fire still rages uncontrolled in the engine-room and holds of the British steamer Argos Hill, the Canadian Navy Minister reported to-day. Information received from minesweepers at the scene of the disaster stated that the vessel was a total wreck and it was considered that she could not be saved. The vessel which picked up survivors from the burning vessel is reported en route for St. John's, N.F. — Exchange Telegraph Company.

London, Aug. 10. — Thirteen of the crew of steamer Argos Hill were landed at Boston on Aug. 9 (from steamer Montclair Victory).

ARGOS HILL. — London, Aug. 11. — Steamer Montclair Victory landed 13 survivors from steamer Argos Hill at Boston on Aug. 9. Survivors report vessel caught fire at 5 a.m. on Aug. 7 in lat. 41° N., long. 54° W. Fire believed to have started from burst fuel pipe in stokehold. When last seen vessel was abandoned, but not sinking. (See issue of Aug. 11.)

LL 13/8

Ottawa, Aug. 10. — Navy officials stated at Halifax to-day that the survivors of the steamer Argos Hill were being taken to Boston on board the American steamer Noah Brown. Fire-fighting minesweepers which went to aid the Argos Hill are expected to reach port to-morrow. — Exchange Telegraph Company.

Suggested Record

Damaged by fire 8.45

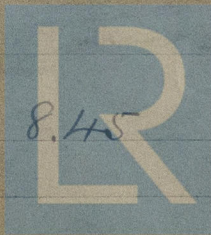
Date of Committee

FRI. 2 NOV 1945

Committee's Minute

Damaged by fire 8.45

FRI 2 NOV 1945



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W280-0076

ARGOS HILL.—London, Aug. 13. — A report dated Aug. 11 states: Tug Tenacity, with steamer Argos Hill in tow, is proceeding to St. John's, NF. (See issue of Aug. 13.)

LL 14/8

ARGOS HILL.—St. John's, NF., Aug. 13. —Steamer Argos Hill, London for United States, in ballast, with extensive fire damage, is due to arrive in Bay Bulls p.m. Aug. 13 in tow of tug Tenacity. (See issue of Aug. 14.)

LL 15/8

ARGOS HILL.—London, Aug. 16. — A report dated Aug. 13 states: Steamer Argos Hill, in tow of tug Tenacity, has arrived off St. John's, NF. Brief examination shows vessel completely fire-swept on deck and below, with main deck and portions of hull buckled. Vessel will be anchored in Bay Bulls p.m. Aug. 13 for further examination. (See issue of Aug. 15)

LL 17/8

London, Aug. 16. — Steamer Argos Hill arrived in Bay Bulls on Aug. 13. Remains of one unidentified man found in wireless cabin.

St. John's, NF., Aug. 14. Steamer Argos Hill arrived in Bay Bulls p.m. Aug. 13. Understand that Ministry of War Transport surveyor's opinion is that vessel is a constructive total loss.—Lloyd's Agent.

ARGOS HILL.—St. John's, NF., Aug. 17. —After abandonment steamer Argos Hill was towed to Bay Bulls by naval tug Tenacity. Vessel extensively fire damaged for entire length above water, shell plating as seen on port side also upper and 'tween deck plating, beams and bulkhead buckled. Bridge, amidship accommodation, forecabin, poop and boat deck destroyed, all hatch covers destroyed and coamings bent, funnel, masts and ventilators standing. Vessel listed 25 deg. to starboard, sand ballast and 8-10 ft. of water in three holds, water and oil in engine-room, stokehold and cross bunker. Salvage pumps placed on board to clear water out and, if possible, upright vessel. Owing to damage being so extensive and difficulty of obtaining estimate of cost of repairs recommend instruct Salvage Association's Montreal surveyor to proceed soonest with view to determining whether vessel is a constructive total loss as suggested. Master now here states that he is unable to explain cause of fire, which originated in stokehold and spread rapidly over entire vessel.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association. (See issue of Aug. 17.)

LL 20/8

ARGOS HILL.—St. John's, NF., Aug. 24. —Steamer Argos Hill was surveyed at anchorage in Bay Bulls. She had 15 degrees starboard list, on even keel and about three feet of water and oil fuel on all tank tops. Machinery space and holds had been pumped down, but starboard auxiliaries were covered by oil fuel; only watchmen ashore attending. In view of probability of vessel dragging in exposed bay and no tugs or pumps available there, recommended towing her to St. John's, NF. She arrived there on Thursday (Aug. 23), and is now moored at buoys. Fire reported due to blow back in furnace of starboard boiler and breaking fuel line to burner. Vessel burnt out fore and aft, no wood on board except one raft and ceiling below ballast. Practically every plate on and above line of lower 'tween decks buckled, all main frames slightly buckled in way of upper 'tween decks. Necessary to renew forecabin, poop, shelter and upper 'tween deck plating and some beams; remainder of beams, also lower 'tween deck plating, off and fair. Main, auxiliary and deck machinery apparently not seriously damaged. On port side 38 shell plates renew, 52 off and fair, 13 fair in place, probably similar on starboard side. Damage down to fifth strake below shelter sheer amidships.—Lloyd's Agents and Salvage Association's Surveyor. (See issue of Aug. 20.)

LL 27/8

ARGOS HILL.—St. John's, NF., Aug. 28. —Steamer Argos Hill: Co-operating with owners' representatives with a view to selling as lying.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Aug. 27.)

LL 30/8



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