

~~WRECK SECTION No. 408~~ 13048
REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 78562 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 2646 Date of writing this report 19
 Vessel's Name *S.S. Meerkerk* of *The Hague* Tons { Gross 7995
 Net 5050
 Built at *Vegesack* When *1916* Casualty notice sent to Owner *5th July 1946* Owner's reply *11th July 1946*
 Owner's Name *M.V. Vereenigde Nederlandsche Scheep Maats (Directie en Agentuur Maats "Holland Oost Azie" Lijn N.V. Nags)*
 Address *137 Stationsweg 's-Gravenhage, Holland*

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

MEERKERK. — North Foreland Radio, June 16. — Following received from Ostend Radio: —
 At 1 48 a.m. G.M.T.: S.O.S received from Pilot Boat 15: Steamer Meerkerk mined, sinking slowly in position NW. of Midden Steen Bank buoy, south-west of Westkapelle. Pilot boat now in vicinity.
 At 2 32 a.m. G.M.T.: Crew and passengers going on board pilot boat. Wreck not dangerous for navigation. Distress now ended.

MEERKERK. — London, June 16. — Steamer Meerkerk was mined near bank in approximate position lat. 51 37 N., long. 03 26 E. Passengers and crew on board pilot vessel No. 15, master and officers still on board. (See issue of June 17.)

— Brussels, June 16. — Twelve members of the crew, two Dutchmen and 10 lascars, are missing from the Dutch steamer Meerkerk, which broke in two and is sinking after striking a mine off Westkapelle, at the mouth of the River Scheldt, early to-day. The Meerkerk had a crew of 91 and 14 passengers. — Reuter.

— Amsterdam, June 16. — One hundred survivors of the Dutch steamer Meerkerk were rescued by pilot boats from Breskens and Flushing. It is stated that the master and five members of the crew are still on board the half of the vessel which remains afloat. — Exchange Telegraph Company.

— London, June 17. — The following cable has been received from Rotterdam: Steamer Meerkerk struck mine off Westkapelle, ship broken, engine-room full of water. Surveyor with representative of salvors, Van der Tol, on the spot.

MEERKERK. — Amsterdam, June 17. — Steamer Meerkerk broke on Sunday (June 16). A wireless message from the master at 3 40 p.m. to-day stated that those still on board wished to leave the vessel and asked for lifeboat.

— Antwerp, June 18. — Steamer Meerkerk is lying on sandy bottom in vicinity of mouth of the Scheldt. After part aground, forward part waterborne. Vessel broken abaft engine-room bulkhead in way of No. 4 hold, also severely twisted. After holds, engine-room and boiler-room flooded, aftership awash at high water. Heavy tidal scour indicates possibility of vessel being raised in two sooper or later. L. Smit, officer, considers no prospect of recovery of cargo and machinery. Cargo quantity and quality not known. Salvage Association.

MEERKERK. — Antwerp, June 24. — Steamer Meerkerk was surveyed on June 22 during northerly wind and swell. Vessel split on port and starboard sides also across deck at after end of No. 4 hatch and after end of No. 5 hatch. Aftership has 6 degrees list to starboard and setting in sand, hatches now awash at low water. Fore-end waterborne and hinging in way of No. 4 hatch. Nos. 1 and 2 holds dry, No. 3 hold tidal with lag. Machinery spaces fully tidal. Salvage of entire hull impossible but remote possibility of cutting and salvaging forward end. Consider this course impracticable in view of small salvaged value of forward end. — Salvage Association's Surveyor. (See issue of June 25.)

MEERKERK. — Flushing, July 1. — The position of the sunken steamer Meerkerk has become more critical. Water has entered the engine-room and Nos. 4, 5 and 6 holds and cargo stowed there is regarded as totally lost. The cargo in Nos. 2 and 3 holds has been recovered and cargo in No. 1 hold is now being salvaged. A salvage vessel will undertake recovery of deck fittings next week. — "Lloyd Anversois." (See issue of July 2.)

L.L. 17-6-46
 L.L. 18-6-46
 L.L. 19-6-46
 L.L. 26-6-46
 L.L. 27-46

Case previously before Classing Committee.	Date	Particulars of Classification.
	Last Minute	<i>100 Ft with foreboard L.M.C.</i> <i>Examined 4-45</i> <i>S.S. Rot 702 4-36</i> <i>M.S. 11-37</i> <i>S.S. Rot 101-38</i> <i>B.S. 4-45 / S.T. 44 / 109</i>

Date of Casualty *16th June 1946*

Precis of particulars of Casualty

The vessel struck a mine S.W. of Westkapelle, mouth of the Scheldt, in lat. 51-37 N. long. 03-26 E on 16th June, 1946, and broke in two. In view of exposed position of wreck, salvage operations were difficult and were finally abandoned, vessel becoming a total loss.

The Owners concur.

Suggested Record *War Loss 6-46*
 Date of Committee *FRI. 9 AUG 1946*
 Committee's Minute *war loss 6.46*

