

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 89462 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 3/47

Date of writing this report 12th February 1947

Vessel's Name S.S. Varvassi of Piræus Tons 3874 Gross 3874 Net 2400

Built at Newcastle When 1915 3 Casualty notice sent to Owner 6.2.47 Owner's reply 7.2.47

Name Mrs. Evgenia J. Chandris

Address London Agents: Chandris (England) Ltd., 7, St. Helen's Place, London, E.C.3.

Previously before Date
Committee. Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

<u>+100 AI</u>	<u>+LMC 846</u>
<u>Shelter dk</u>	<u>TS 746 CL</u>
<u>with fbd</u>	
<u>846</u>	
<u>2.5 846 (Dr)</u>	

Casualty

5th January, 1947

Particulars of Casualty

Stranded on a rocky bottom near the Needles Lighthouse on the 5th January, 1947.

All holds, engine and boiler rooms were common to the sea.

Shell plating on the starboard side and the decks, fore and aft, were buckled.

Distortion indicated bottom heavily set up, and owing to bad weather the salvage contract was abandoned.

In reply to the special casualty notice, the London Agents state that their Surveyor considers that, even if the vessel is refloated, it will not be an economical proposition to repair her and he recommends that she be regarded as a total loss.

They have abandoned her to the Underwriters and they believe it is intended to sell the steamer as she lies for breaking up purposes.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

VARVASSI.—Niton Radio, Jan. 5.—Following received from Greek steamer Varvassi (Bona for Southampton and Boulogne):
At 7.9 a.m., G.M.T.: Aground Needles Light.
At 7.44 a.m., G.M.T.: Ashore on The Bridge, Needles Lighthouse 600 ft. away.
At 9.7 a.m., G.M.T.: Aground Needles Rocks, making water. Salvage assistance requested.
London, Jan. 5.—Greek steamer Varvassi is ashore near the Needles Lighthouse and has asked for assistance. The Yarmouth, I.O.W., lifeboat and tugs from Southampton have gone out to her.—Exchange Telegraph Company.
London, Jan. 5.—Steamer Varvassi: The Yarmouth, I.O.W., lifeboat has returned and there is a salvage officer on board. Tug Calshot will attempt to refloat vessel this evening.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

VARVASSI.—Needles, Jan. 5.—Following received from salvage officer: Steamer Varvassi drifted on rocks, double bottom full for complete length of ship. Soundings in No. 1 hold, two feet, No. 2 hold, four feet six inches, No. 3 hold, three feet six inches, No. 4 hold, seven feet six inches, all rising slowly. Vessels position 350 feet from Needles Lighthouse bearing 75 degrees. Port anchor run out seven and half shackles. Strong southeast wind and sea. Present circumstances O.K. providing vessel commences to move at high water; suggest assistance of further two tugs under tow contract for 7 p.m. (See issue of Jan. 6.)

—Niton Radio, Jan. 5.—Following received from tug Calshot:
At 6.12 p.m., G.M.T.: Following received from steamer Varvassi: Further tugs' assistance sent for to be here at 7 o'clock to-night: Will you please stand by under ordinary towage contract.
At 9.54 p.m.: Steamer Varvassi making water, no attempt this tide, ordered to stand by.

—Needles, Jan. 5.—Following received from salvage officer on board steamer Varvassi addressed tug Calshot: Vessel making water, not advisable attempt tow this tide. Please remain handy during night.

—Niton Radio, Jan. 6.—Following received from Greek steamer Varvassi at 11.59 p.m., G.M.T. (Jan. 5): Vessel firmly aground, water in holds, salvage vessels standing by. Pumping necessary before tow off is attempted; weather very bad.

Following received from tug Calshot:
At 7 a.m., G.M.T.: Steamer Varvassi making water all holds, ship being abandoned, standing by to assist.
At 8.28 a.m., G.M.T.: Crew taken off steamer Varvassi by lifeboat; tug Calshot returning.

—Needles, Jan. 6.—No appreciable change in position of steamer Varvassi. Vessel grinding and seas breaking over. Crew just embarked in lifeboat and being landed.

—London, Jan. 6.—The Yarmouth, I.O.W., lifeboat took off the crew of the Greek steamer Varvassi shortly before 8.30 a.m. to-day and brought them into Yarmouth.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

—London, Jan. 5.—Steamer Varvassi has no passengers. Her cargo of 300 tons of tangerines is for Southampton and there is a cargo of ore for Boulogne.

—London, Jan. 6.—Later to-day the master and members of the crew of the steamer Varvassi left Yarmouth, I.O.W., by private launch in an attempt to save some of their personal belongings. The tug Calshot has returned to Southampton, but two salvage vessels remain in attendance. The Varvassi has not moved with the changing tides and has filled with water since the pumps were stopped when she was abandoned. Local boatmen say her sides are already bulging under the pressure and consider her a total loss. No attempt is likely to be made to save her to-day, but it is hoped to take off the livestock before darkness.

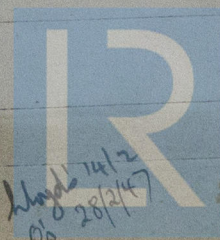
Record

Committee

Minutes

Wrecked 1.47
FEB 14 FEB 1947

Wrecked 1.47



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VARVASSI.—Niton Radio, Jan. 6.—Following received from master of steamer Varvassi, on board salvage steamer Lady Southborough, at 7 52 p.m. G.M.T.: Situation very bad, vessel buckled, holds common to sea also engine-room, impossible crew remain on board and they left vessel this morning. Salvage officer making further detailed examination when weather permits. (See issue of Jan. 7.)

London, Jan. 6.—The crew of the steamer Varvassi, still remaining on the Isle of Wight, managed to feed and water the cattle on deck shortly before dusk, and it is hoped to rescue the animals at low water to-morrow.

Needles, Jan. 7.—No change in steamer Varvassi; further examination being made to-day.

LL 8.1.47

VARVASSI.—Needles, Jan. 10.—Steamer Varvassi: No. 3 hold now exposed. (See issue of Jan. 10.)

LL 11.1.47

VARVASSI.—London, Jan. 11.—Rough seas have made it impossible to save the cargo of the Greek steamer Varvassi. Cattle slaughtered on deck had to be dumped overboard.—"The Times." (See issue of Jan. 11.)

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Needles, Jan. 11.—No apparent change regarding steamer Varvassi.

VARVASSI.—Needles, Jan. 13.—Steamer Varvassi: Heavy seas breaking over vessel, rudder carried away and port lifeboat carried away and floating partly submerged, dangerous to navigation. (See issue of Jan. 13.)

" 14/1

VARVASSI.—Yarmouth, I.O.W., Jan. 7.—Steamer Varvassi: Grounding position Needles Lighthouse bearing 75 deg. 200 ft. Condition as reported at noon on Monday (Jan. 6): Aground on rocky bottom, vessel pounded heavily on rocks before settling. All holds, engine-room and boiler-room flooding, 'tween decks dry. Shell plating amidships showing signs of buckling; hatch covers intact. Lloyd's Form of Salvage Agreement signed between master and Risdon Beazley, Southampton. Contractor's salvage vessels standing by to lighten vessel when weather conditions moderate. —Salvage Association's Special Officer. (See issue of Jan. 8.)

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Needles, Jan. 8.—No appreciable change regarding steamer Varvassi.

VARVASSI.—Yarmouth, I.O.W., Jan. 16.—Steamer Varvassi was boarded to-day. Port side from foremast forward set in heavily and decks fore and aft buckled. One hold stanchion set up through deck between Nos. 1 and 2 hatches and all hatch covers more or less gone from Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 holds. Landing of ship's stores and equipment proceeding. —Salvage Association's Special Officer. (See issue of Jan. 14.)

" 17/1

VARVASSI.—London, Jan. 8.—To-day heavy seas were breaking completely over the steamer Varvassi and attempts by a tank landing craft to save her cargo had to be abandoned. In addition to 7000 tons of iron ore and 300 tons of tangerines, there is a large quantity of Algerian wines on the vessel. (See issue of Jan. 9.)

" 10/1

Yarmouth, I.O.W., Jan. 8.—Steamer Varvassi: Estimated draught at high water 20 ft. forward, 22 ft. aft. Nine feet of water in No. 1 hold, Nos. 2, 3 and 4 holds, engine-room and boiler room at sea level. Distortion to hold ladders and pillars indicate bottom set up heavily for nearly full length of vessel. Shell plating on starboard side has heavy buckling amidships, extending from decksheer to below waterline, shell plating on port side slight buckling abreast of No. 2 hold. Weather deck set up between Nos. 1 and 2 hatchways. Salvage work suspended owing to heavy weather. Vessel exposed to all weather from ESE. through S. to W.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

Needles, Jan. 9.—Heavy seas are breaking over steamer Varvassi, and tarpaulins of Nos. 2 and 4 holds are off and some hatch covers washed overboard. The sea is entering these holds.

Yarmouth, I.O.W., Jan. 9.—Steamer Varvassi: The salvage contractors have intimated that in view of continued unfavourable conditions and present position of vessel, they have abandoned the contract to save either vessel or cargo.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

VARVASSI.—London, Jan. 19.—Four thousand cases of tangerines, approximately one-eighth of the 300 tons on board the Greek steamer Varvassi, have been salvaged from the vessel since Saturday (Jan. 18) by Yarmouth, I.O.W., boatmen and the crew of a Royal Army Service Corps landing craft. For 12 days after the vessel went ashore it was impossible to get alongside with any vessel large enough to handle the cargo, and a salvage firm gave up their contract a week ago owing to the conditions. The fruit already brought ashore is in good condition, and if the weather holds it is hoped to complete the salvage. (See issue of Jan. 17.)

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