

WRECK SECTION

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

267 in R.B.

Wreck Book, p. 26/47

Date of writing this report 1st May 1947

Name S.S. "Willodale"

Box 322
No. of Cardiff

Gross 1777
Net 1096

Sunderland When 1909 11

Casualty notice sent to Owner 23.4.47 Owner's reply

Name Bromage Shipping Co. Ltd.

Address 200, The Exchange, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff

Previously before
of Committee.

Date
Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

HOOA1 746	TLMC
Examined 4.46	MS 841
s.s. No 3-432	BS 746
s.s. No 1-36	TS 945 CL

Casualty 4th April, 1947

of particulars of Casualty

This vessel developed a leak in No. 2 hold in a heavy storm on the 4th April, 1947, when about 45 miles off the mouth of the River Gironde.

She listed badly and subsequently sank in deep water. Salvage is considered practically impossible.

The cause of the leak is not yet known, but it is thought it may have been due to the cargo of pitprops shifting as a result of the storm.

No reply has been received to the casualty notice addressed to the Owners on the 23rd ultimo.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

WILLODALE.—Land's End Radio, Apr. 3.—Following received from British steamer Willodale: At 9.33 p.m., G.M.T.: SOS require immediate assistance, bulwarks carried away, serious list, position lat. 45 45 N., long. 2 W.

At 4.12 a.m., G.M.T., addressed French pilot boat FPUA: Vessel will not steer, making water in No. 2 hold.

Bordeaux, Apr. 4.—British steamer Willodale sank early this morning near Rochefort. A tug from Verdon is going to La Pallice with 10 men and three drowned.

La Rochelle, Apr. 4.—Steamer Willodale has sunk off Cordonan. Pilot boat is trying to reach La Pallice with 10 rescued; six dead and six missing.

Royan, Apr. 4.—Steamer Willodale sank in lat. 45 45 N., long. 2 W., about 10 miles north-west of BXA buoy (lat. 45 39 33 N., long. 1 48 7 W.).—British United Press.

Paris, Apr. 4.—British steamer Willodale sank outside the mouth of the Gironde River to-day. The vessel sank with six men on board and six other men died during rescue operations carried out by the French steamer Eglefin; there were 10 survivors. The Eglefin is reported to be on her way to La Pallice with the survivors. Distress signals from the Willodale were received at Royan last night shortly after she left Verdon. The vessel sailed from Bordeaux yesterday afternoon with a cargo of wooden poles (for Cardiff) but was obliged to take refuge at Verdon shortly afterwards owing to a heavy storm.—Reuter.

WILLODALE.—La Rochelle, Apr. 4.—A French battleship and seaplanes were still searching the sea at the mouth of the River Gironde late to-day in an effort to locate the six missing members of the crew of the British steamer Willodale, which sank this morning. Members of the crew of the French pilot ship Eglefin, which went to the aid of the Willodale, said to-night that there was a chance that some of the missing men might still be alive clinging to the floating cargo of pitprops which the Willodale was carrying. One of the survivors stated that the crew of the Willodale battled for seven hours in very heavy seas with 30-ft. high waves breaking over the deck. All the lifeboats were smashed, he stated. The crew tried to cut away some of the cargo so as to remove the list of the vessel. The attempt was in vain. The cause of the leak is not yet known, but it is thought it may have been due to cargo shifting as a result of the storm.—Reuter. (See issue of Apr. 5.)

Paris, Apr. 5.—Survivors of the steamer Willodale told of a desperate struggle for five-and-a-half hours before daylight yesterday to try to keep the water which was flooding through a leak from filling the vessel. When the water broke out of the hold and flooded the engine-room, the Willodale was listing badly and the master gave orders to abandon ship, they said. Shortly afterwards she sank and the crew were thrown into the water amid some of her cargo of floating pitprops. They were picked up 90 minutes later by the French pilot ship Eglefin.—Reuter.

WILLODALE.—Paris, Apr. 8.—It was reported here to-day that 2500 tons of pitprops were recovered when part of cargo of the British steamer Willodale, which sank in a storm last Friday (Apr. 4), was washed ashore on Ile de Re.—Reuter. (See issue of Apr. 7.)

WILLODALE.—Bordeaux, Apr. 8.—Steamer Willodale; British Consul at Bordeaux has gone to La Pallice, crew remaining there; will see him when returned. Pilots state that vessel is sunk about 20 miles W. of Chassiron in deep water, salvage practically impossible. Interrogating master of salvage tug.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association. (See issue of Apr. 9.)

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Record

Committee

's Minute

FRI. 2 MAY 1947

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