

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 09073 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 111/40 Box 324 Date of writing this report 19
Vessel's Name Sch. Lw. 80 M/S Accra of Liverpool Tons (Gross 9337 Net 5471)
Built at Belfast When 1926 8 Casualty notice sent to Owner ☒ Owner's reply ☒
Owner's Name Elder Dempster Lines Ltd.
Address India Buildings Water Street, Liverpool, 2.

Case previously before Classing Committee.	Date	Particulars of Classification.	
		+ 100 A.I.	+ LMC
		with freeboard	CS 3,40
		7,39	11,38
		S.S. Liv. No. 3-7,39	DBS. 7,40
		Oil Engines	T.S. 8,38 cl

Date of Casualty 26th July 1940
Precis of particulars of Casualty Sunk by submarine off the West Coast of Ireland on the 26th July, 1940.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

CL 27/7, 29/7, 13/8 and 30/8.

LINER SUNK IN CONVOY

450 SURVIVORS LANDED; 19 MISSING

It was revealed yesterday that the Accra, a 9,337-ton Elder Dempster passenger liner, was sunk off the west coast of Eire in a submarine attack on a convoy on July 26.

Over 450 survivors have been landed at a North-West English port, and 19 persons, including 11 passengers, are reported missing. It is learned authoritatively that there were no children on board the liner.

The liner sank in about half an hour with colours flying. The rescue work had then been completed, and most of the loss of life occurred when a motor-boat overturned in the choppy sea. Some of the survivors were in lifeboats for hours.

Captain John Joseph Smith, of Gerard Road, Wallasey, said yesterday that the officers and crew of the Accra displayed great courage and coolness after the explosion and during the rescue operations.

CREW'S CALMNESS

"I hope I have the same crew when next I sail," he said. "If Hitler thinks he is going to win the war against me, he had better think again. The officers and crew might have been queuing up the passengers for a cinema show or to go down a gangway at the landing stage, so quietly and coolly did they go about the work of marshalling those on board."

Captain Smith added that the Accra's passengers were having luncheon when the torpedo explosion occurred, and filed out of the saloon in orderly fashion. There was an abundance of room in the lifeboats.

He paid a tribute to the cool gallantry of a 16-year-old bell-boy, who lined up passengers for the boats.

The men in the lifeboats sang "There will always be an England" when on the way to the rescuing ships, and the whole of the rescue work was completed in half an hour.

A steward, Herbert Enright, of Coventry, who was making his fourth trip in the Accra, was torpedoed for the third time in this war. He was torpedoed in the Yorkshire and was picked up by another ship, which was also torpedoed. In the last War he was torpedoed in the Lusitania, and after that joined the Army and was captured by the Germans.

He said that one of the engineers was blown along the propeller tunnel by the explosion, but managed to get back to the motor room, and in spite of his injuries this engineer helped to lower the motor lifeboat.

A.B. Edward Long, of Dingle, Liverpool, a lamp-trimmer of the Accra, said he was up the mast when the vessel was struck by a torpedo, and as he was coming down another explosion occurred which nearly threw him to the deck. He paid tribute to Chief Officer Thompson, who showed great coolness and resource when he went round to every boat to make sure that it was provisioned and that those on board were comfortable.

The Accra was one of the largest of the Elder Dempster ships and was launched from Belfast in 1926. She was a fast and popular vessel on the West African route.

ACCRA.—London, Aug. 7.—Motor vessel Accra, an Elder Dempster liner, has been sunk off the west coast of Eire. Over 450 survivors were landed at a north-west English port. Twenty-five persons are missing. The liner sank in about half an hour, going down stern first. Rescue work by other ships was by then completed. Lives were lost when a motor boat overturned in a choppy sea.

Suggested Record ☒
Date of Committee
Committee's Minute

MITT FROM R.B.
TUE. 24 SEP 1940

MITT FROM R.B.



© 2020
Lloyd's Register
Foundation