

WRECK SECTION

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

13404

No. 548

No. 548

No. 03934 in R.B.

Wreck Book, p. 92/49

Date of writing this report 4th January 1950

Vessel's Name S.S. "Britkon"

of Hull

Tons Gross 3881 Net 2354

Built at Sunderland When 1917 11

Casualty notice sent to Owner 29.12.49

Owner's reply X

Owner's Name Woking Shipping Co. Ltd. (John Carlborn & Co. Ltd. Mgrs)

Address Yorkshire Insurance Buildings, Lowgate, Hull

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

Case previously before
Classing Committee.

Date
Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

+100A1 +LMC 8,46

5,49 BS 9,49

ss 2nd No 3-845 TS 8,47 CL

Date of Casualty

27th November, 1949

Decis of particulars of Casualty

This steamer stranded during a storm north-east of the pilot station off Oskarshamn, Sweden, on the 27th November, 1949.

Salvage operations were put in hand, but during the gale of December 10/11th, she broke in two. It was still thought possible, however, that she could be refloated in two parts and towed into port.

The salvage master now considers that the steamer has only scrap value, even if possible to salve the sections, and that it is impossible to salve the engines and boilers.

No reply has been received to the casualty notice addressed to the Owners on the 29th ultimo.

BRITKON. — Calmar Radio, Nov. 27. — Following received from Elbe-Weser Radio at 8.45 p.m., G.M.T., addressed XXX (urgency signal). Following received from Rescue Station at Wangerooge at 8.22 p.m., G.M.T.: Since 8 p.m., G.M.T., observed distress signals by lamp from unknown vessel in approximate position one sea mile north-west of J12 Light Buoy (Lat. 55° 51' N, Long. 7° 40' 48" E.) at 8.30 p.m., local time, Nov. 27.

Wick Radio, Nov. 27. — Following received from Stavnsas Radio: 8.17 p.m., G.M.T.: Following received from British steamer Britkon: ground off Oskarshamn. At 8 p.m. received "Now abandoning ship."

At 8.39 p.m., G.M.T., addressed SOS: At 7 p.m., G.M.T., British steamer Britkon, in distress off Furon Pilot Station, Oskarshamn. Crew have left the ship at 8 p.m. Ships in vicinity keep sharp look-out.

Stockholm, Nov. 27. — The 33 members of the crew of the British steamer Britkon, of Hull, took to the boats this evening after their vessel had gone aground off Oskarshamn. A 40-miles-an-hour gale is sweeping the coast. — British United Press.

Wick Radio, Nov. 28. — Following received from Hamburg Radio: At 3.30 a.m., G.M.T.: Following received from Stavnsas Radio via Gothenburg Radio: Steamship Britkon: Pilots have taken off second mate and engineer and eight men of the crew safe on shore. Twenty-eight of the others are in lifeboat near the ship and will be saved later by pilots of Furon.

At 3.40 a.m., G.M.T.: Following received from Stavnsas Radio via Gothenburg Radio: At 3.30 a.m., G.M.T., eight men and three women have gone back on board steamer Britkon. Pilots waiting sunrise. Weather conditions bad.

Stockholm, Nov. 28. — Swedish salvage vessels which have made several unsuccessful attempts to reach steamer Britkon during the past five hours are preparing to make a new attempt. The storm shows no signs of abating. Swedish destroyer Gave has been ordered to the scene to help in the rescue work and is proceeding to the position at full speed. (Later.) Two big salvage vessels and one trawler are patrolling the coast in the lee of the shore. They are still unable to get near the vessel owing to the heavy seas. — British United Press.

RETAIN

Suggested Record

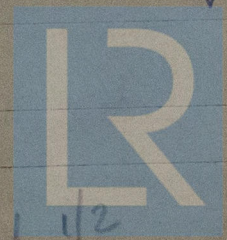
Wrecked 11,49

Date of Committee

FRI, 6 JAN 1950

Committee's Minute

Wrecked 11.49



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LL 29.11.49 - cont.

London, Nov. 28.—Two salvage tugs and a destroyer are to-day making repeated efforts to rescue 27 men believed to be still on board steamer Britkon. The Hull managers of the ship stated to-day that 11 of the crew had reached the shore, but that 27 other men who left the vessel in a small boat had to return to the ship when they could make no headway owing to the rough sea.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

Stockholm, Nov. 28.—All the members of the crew of the British steamer Britkon are safe, according to a Swedish salvage vessel which succeeded in reaching the wreck early this morning. Eleven members of the crew reached the shore in a lifeboat late last night. The other 27 members of the crew, including the master, were found safe in a motor boat lying in the lee of the vessel. Because of the heavy seas still running, the salvage vessel was unable to take any of the crew of the Britkon on board.—British United Press.

Stockholm, Nov. 28.—The entire crew of the steamer Britkon are safe. The Britkon ran aground during a heavy storm last night, and sent out distress signals. First reports said the vessel was hard aground. Two salvage vessels were sent out to take the crew ashore, but they were unable to reach the vessel because of the heavy seas and were forced to return. Shortly after 8 p.m., G.M.T., the lights of the vessel went out and it was later established that she had sunk with part of her structure remaining above sea level.—British United Press.

London, Nov. 28.—The following cables have been received from the Neptun Salvage Company, of Stockholm:

Timed 10 15 p.m., Nov. 27: British steamer Britkon, partly loaded with props, badly ashore at Furon, outside Oskarshamn; dangerous position, crew leaving. Are sending salvage vessel Atlas from Oxelosund to assist; rough weather.

Timed 10 15 a.m., Nov. 28: Steamer Britkon: Seas still breaking over ship; crew landed at Oskarshamn. Will also dispatch salvage vessel Hermes to assist.

London, Nov. 28.—The following telephone message was received from the master of the steamer Britkon at 11 a.m., G.M.T.: All crew landed at Oskarshamn. Sixteen feet of water throughout ship. Her back is broken at the forepart of vessel. She has 985.03 fathoms of pitprops.

Oskarshamn, Nov. 28.—Steamer Britkon, of Hull, on voyage from Koping to Oskarshamn and Tyne, ran hard aground northeast of pilot station outside Oskarshamn at 7 45 p.m. yesterday. She has 985 fathoms of props on board and was to complete loading cargo of props at Oskarshamn. The crew has been saved. Salvage steamer Atlas is expected at pilot station at 3 p.m. to-day.

"Britkon" Broken in Two

The British steamer Britkon (3881 tons gross), Koping for Oskarshamn, to complete loading for the Tyne, partly loaded with pitprops, went aground on Sunday night during a gale at Furon, outside Oskarshamn. The crew abandoned ship. A message from the master yesterday morning stated that there was 16 ft. of water throughout the ship and that her back was broken at the forepart of the vessel. The salvage vessels Atlas and Hermes have proceeded to the scene of the stranding.

LL 30.11.49

BRITKON.—Oskarshamn, Nov. 28.—Steamer Britkon is lying in exposed position. Salvage vessel Atlas could do nothing to-day owing to bad weather. Salvage vessel Hermes comes to-morrow. Both will commence work as soon as weather permits. (See issue of Nov. 29.)

Kalmar, Nov. 28.—Steamer Britkon remains port side hard on ground, badly damaged and leaking; 15 ft. of water in engine-room. Salvage vessel Atlas arrived at 2 p.m. to-day. Salvage vessel Hermes on way. Present hard gale makes all salvage impossible. Vessel must be lightered; drydocking possibilities at Oskarshamn.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

Stockholm, Nov. 28.—Though steamer Britkon has settled no lower and her top deck is still above water to-night, salvage experts who have inspected her consider that her bottom plates are too badly damaged to permit salvage.—Reuter.

1.12.49

BRITKON.—Oskarshamn, Nov. 29.—Experts predicted here to-day that steamer Britkon can be saved. The vessel has stood up to nearly 48 hours buffeting by gale-lashed seas, which are subsiding to-day. Salvage crews plan to unload her cargo of pitprops on to lighters. This should raise the vessel three or four feet, enabling tugs to draw her off the rocks. Though her bottom is holed, the salvors hope her bilge tanks will make her buoyant.—Reuter. (See issue of Nov. 30.)

Kalmar, Nov. 29.—Steamer Britkon: Salvage vessel Atlas arrived at 10 a.m. and salvage vessel Hermes at 1 30 p.m.; inspecting vessel and position.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

London, Nov. 30.—The following cable has been received from the Neptun Salvage & Diving Company, Ltd., Stockholm, timed 7 20 p.m., Nov. 29: Steamer Britkon partly examined by diver; extensive damages. Lloyd's Contract will be signed and salvage work commenced, weather permitting.

3.12.49

BRITKON.—London, Dec. 2.—The following telephone message was received from the Neptun Salvage & Diving Company, Ltd., Stockholm, this afternoon: Steamer Britkon: Salvors at present concentrating on discharging cargo. Salvage of vessel as yet uncertain. Weather still bad. (See issue of Dec. 1.)

5.12.49

BRITKON.—Kalmar, Dec. 2.—Steamer Britkon: Lighter Raketen arrived and work commenced. Contract signed on Lloyd's Form of Salvage Agreement.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association. (See issue of Dec. 3.)

13.12.49

BRITKON.—London, Dec. 12.—The following message has been received from the Neptun Salvage Company, Stockholm, dated Dec. 8: Steamer Britkon: There have been considerable difficulties for us to get suitable lighters for the discharge of the vessel, but since Dec. 2 we have had the big lighter Raketen, belonging to Goteborgs Bogserings-och Bargnings A/B, Gothenburg, and tug Sundet in attendance on the spot, and later two other smaller motor vessels. The discharge will take a long time, as most of the cargo has to be taken away, and more so on account of unsuitable weather, as to-day. As to the vessel, our steamers have been busy with the tightening of leaks reachable by the divers and we understand a pumping trial from the engine-room will take place as soon as possible after the necessary tightening work has been effected. (See issue of Dec. 5.)

LL 14.12.49

BRITKON.—London, Dec. 13.—The following cable has been received from the Neptun Salvage Company, Stockholm, timed 10 55 a.m. to-day: Steamer Britkon has unfortunately broken amidships and moved inwards after latest gale. Still unsuitable weather for discharging, which now more difficult owing to decreased water draught. (See issue of Dec. 13.)

London, Dec. 13.—The owners of the steamer Britkon have received the following cable from their agents at Oskarshamn, dated to-day: During recent gale at week-end (Dec. 10-11), Britkon was broken in two under funnel; salvage procedure later.

Kalmar, Dec. 13.—Steamer Britkon: On account of gale vessel broken right before funnel across ship, crack 1 1/2 ft. wide, shell plating creased, engine pressed upwards, ship closer against ground and midship section partly demolished; salvage continued.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

The British steamer Britkon, which went aground at Furon, outside Oskarshamn, on Nov. 27, has broken in two just forward of the funnel. Salvage operations are proceeding.

LL 19.12.49

BRITKON.—Gothenburg, Dec. 14.—When the discharging crew and the salvage vessel Hermes went out to the stranded steamer Britkon yesterday it was found that the vessel had broken during the heavy weather and that both parts were only held together by some bottom plates. The engine-room with inventory and the galley space had thereby suffered to a large extent. Discharge of the cargo of props will continue and it is possible that the hull will be cut in two and the parts towed to Oskarshamn Varv. The salvage company has called for a report as to the extent of the damage and will make a decision on the matter in a few days.—Goteborgs Handels och Sjöfarts-Tidning. (See issue of Dec. 14.)

23.12.49

BRITKON.—Kalmar, Dec. 21.—Steamer Britkon: Position unchanged. Refloating doubtful as fore and after body must be salvaged in parts. Half of cargo landed.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Dec. 19.)

28.12.49

BRITKON.—Kalmar, Dec. 23.—Steamer Britkon: Master of salvage steamer considers only of scrap value, even if possible to salvage parts. Impossible to salvage engine and boilers. Contractors want guarantee for salvaged cargo before shipment per steamer Ashgate.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Dec. 23.)

The following message has been received from the scene of the stranding of the British steamer Britkon, which went aground outside Oskarshamn on Nov. 27: "Master of salvage steamer considers only of scrap value, even if possible to salvage parts. Impossible to salvage engine and boilers."



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