

WRECK SECTION

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 66531 in R.B.

Wreck Book, p. 92/47

Date of writing this report 8th September, 1948

Vessel's Name

S. Tanker "Los Pozos"

of Buenos Aires

Tons { Gross 5810
Net 3548

Built at Newcastle

When 1924

YEAR. MONTH.

3

Casualty notice sent to Owner

Owner's reply

Owner's Name Compania Argentina de Nav. Loderio S.A.

Address Avenida Corrientes 389, Buenos Aires

Case previously before
Classing Committee.

Date

Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

+100A1

+LMC

11.47

MS 645

SS No 3-736

BS 3.47

SS No 2-45

TS 11.47 CL

Carrying Petroleum in bulk

Fitted for oil fuel 3.24 F.P. above 150°F.

of Casualty

15th December, 1947

is of particulars of Casualty

This tanker was damaged by collision with the
tanker "TUCUPITA" and subsequent fire off Curacao
on the 15th December, 1947.

She arrived at Caracas Bay the following day
and it was found that the damage included forecastle
head deck, main deck in way of forecastle,
accommodation, bulkheads, furniture and fittings
in forecastle totally destroyed, and amidship
accommodation totally destroyed.

The damage was estimated at approximately
25 per cent. of the value of the vessel prior to
the accident, and opinion was that the cost of
repairs would exceed the value of the vessel.

The Curacao Surveyor reported in June last
that the vessel was laid up, no repairs having
been effected.

In reply to enquiry the Owners state that the
tanker has been abandoned as a Constructive Total
Loss, and this has been confirmed upon enquiry
of Lloyd's.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

LOS POZOS. — Willemstad, Dec. —
Argentine tank steamer Los Pozos and
Venezuelan tanker TUCUPITA have
been in collision off Curacao. Both vessels
are on fire. Salvage vessels are taking
care of crew.

LL 16.12.47

London, Dec. 15. — New
York Coastguard Headquarters quote a
wireless report from the motor tanker
San Eliseo stating that one vessel is still
burning heavily amidships off Curacao.
Intense fires had prevented the San
Eliseo approaching near enough to
identify the vessels. Lifeboats had
been sighted but no survivors. —
Exchange Telegraph Company.

Willemstad, Dec. 15. —
Argentine tank steamer Los Pozos and
Venezuelan tanker TUCUPITA were in
collision near the Curacao coast at about
4 a.m. to-day. Both vessels are still
burning. Survivors and victims being
landed. So far four reported dead and
several injured and several missing. —
Reuter.

Washington, Dec. 15. —
The fires on the Los Pozos and TUCU-
PITA are being fought and a message
received by the Coastguards suggests
that the aid available is sufficient at
present. — Exchange Telegraph Co.

LOS POZOS. — Curacao, Dec. 15. — Tank
steamer Los Pozos was proceeding to
Curacao, the TUCUPITA had loaded
here. Both vessels abandoned.
Extinguishing of fires seems very diffi-
cult and improbable. (See issue of
Dec. 16.)

"17/12

Willemstad, Dec. 15. —
Seven of the crew are still missing from
the Venezuelan tanker TUCUPITA and
12 from the tank steamer Los Pozos.
The Shell Oil Company, which operates
petroleum installations at Willemstad,
brought all available equipment to help
fight the blaze. Technicians have been
sent with the tug Neptunus to the
burning Los Pozos, which is in ballast.
It is not known whether any of her crew
are still on board. Attempts are also
being made to save the TUCUPITA, but
the vessel had temporarily to be aban-
doned because she is loaded with
100 octane aviation spirit. Survivors of
both vessels were rescued by the tank
steamer Mariana, a motor lifeboat, the
Norwegian motor tanker Bergeland, a
harbour motor boat, a harbour police
boat and a Navy motor boat. Men from
the TUCUPITA said to-night that the
vessel was proceeding at eight knots
when they felt a shock amidships, fol-
lowed by the explosion of her cargo.
Members of the crew lowered the life-
boats and jumped overboard. People
rescued from the burning tankers were
to-night being cared for on shore by the
Shell Company. — Reuter.

New York, Dec. 16. — The
death roll as the result of the collision
between the tank steamer Los Pozos and
tanker TUCUPITA off Curacao rose to
eight to-day, with 12 persons still
reported missing. A message from the
Puerto Rico Coastguard headquarters
stated that eight bodies had been
brought ashore and 50 persons, eight of
them seriously injured, had been res-
cued. The tanker TUCUPITA, a con-
verted tank-landing craft, which carried
a crew of 36, including two women, was
a total loss, the message added. The
Los Pozos, which carried a crew of 34,
was reported drifting north-west.
Coastguards stated that she was
salvaged but was still on
hope was held for any
on board; the mast
dead. — Reuter.

Suggested Record

Damaged by collision & fire 12.47

Date of Committee

FRI. 10 SEP 1948

Committee's Minute

Damaged by collision

2 fire 12.47

LOS POZOS.—Willemstad, Dec. 16.—Tank steamer Los Pozos arrived at Caracas Bay, in tow, to-day, still some fire on board, two dead, 12 missing; arranging survey. Fire on motor tanker TUCUPITA has been extinguished and vessel is being towed to Curacao; three dead, nine missing.—Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Dec. 17.)

LL 18.12.47

LOS POZOS.—New York, Dec. 15.—Tank steamer Los Pozos was in ballast and motor tanker TUCUPITA fully loaded.

" 19/12

New York, Dec. 16.—Motor tanker TUCUPITA, formerly L.S.T. 972, converted into a tanker by the Texas Company for operation in Venezuelan waters, had fire extinguished to-day, still drifting in WNW. direction off the coast of Curacao. Vessel probable total loss. This derelict should be given wide berth, but danger of explosion is not now present. (See later report in issue of Dec. 18.)

LOS POZOS.—Curacao, Dec. 17.—Tank steamer Los Pozos arrived here on Dec. 16. (See issues of Dec. 18 and 19.)

" 22/12

Willemstad, Dec. 16.—Press reports state that tank steamer Los Pozos arrived in the harbour under her own power and moored shortly before noon at Caracas Bay; fire completely extinguished. Fifteen of crew and passengers on board the Los Pozos and motor tanker TUCUPITA are reported dead and 12 missing. Motor tanker TUCUPITA, which is being towed here, has five dead, including the master, his wife and two children, and wife of the chief engineer. It is also reported that 10 unidentified bodies were on board the Los Pozos.—New York Maritime Association.

LOS POZOS.—Curacao, Dec. 31.—Tank steamer Los Pozos, collision damage: Stem bar and approximately 12 shell plates and 10 shell frames to be removed. Fire damage: Forecastle head deck, main deck in way of forecastle, and accommodation, bulkheads, furniture and fittings in forecastle totally destroyed, amidship accommodation totally destroyed, 32 shell plates forward over-

LL 2.1.48

heated, to renew, bulwark plates to renew. Further examination after discharge of ballast and vessel has been tipped.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Dec. 22.)

LOS POZOS.—London, Feb. 10.—In reply to inquiry, Lloyd's Agents at Curacao write under date of Feb. 5: Tank steamer Los Pozos arrived at Caracas Bay on Dec. 16, where she is still lying. A joint survey was held by our surveyor together with the representatives of her owners, Texas Company of New York, and Curacaosche Scheepvaart Mij., and the damage was estimated at approximately 25 per cent. of the value of the vessel prior to the accident. The technical director of the owners, who was also present at the survey, confirmed the stand taken by the owners that in their opinion the vessel has to be considered as a total loss, as he opines that the cost of repairs will exceed the value of the vessel. The cost of temporary repairs to enable the vessel to proceed under her own power to a port in the United States for permanent repairs is estimated at \$17,500. It is believed even that she will be able to carry cargo there. We have been informed that a representative of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, of Baltimore, will arrive here to-day to look over the vessel, with view to carrying out permanent repairs. No temporary repairs have yet been started as the necessary guarantee has not yet been received from the interested parties. (See issue of Jan. 2.)

" 11/2

LOS POZOS.—Kingston, Ja., Feb. 25.—Tank steamer Los Pozos arrived at Curacao on Feb. 21. (See issue of Feb. 11.)

" 27/12



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