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"Hookwood"

WORK DAY 167 Section 4 9713

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No 26199 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 96/39 Date of writing this report 13th December, 1939  
Vessel's Name Steel S.S. "Hookwood" of Dover Tons { Gross 1537 Net 926  
Built at Haverton Hill/Tees When 1923 7 Casualty notice sent to Owner 6/12/39 Owner's reply 9/12/39  
Owner's Name Hookwood S.S. Co. Ltd. (P. Hawksfield & Son, Ltd.)  
Address Castle Street, Dover.

Case previously before Classing Committee.	Date	Particulars of Classification.	
	Last Minute	F100A1 8,39 SS No 3-7,36	FLMC 7,36 BS 12,38 TS 8,39CL

Date of Casualty 23rd November, 1939.  
Précis of particulars of Casualty This vessel is reported to have sunk in four minutes by striking a mine off the coast of Kent on the 23rd November, 1939. Only the masts and top of the funnel are above water.  
The Owners concur.

RETAIN

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

LONDON STEAMER  
SUNK BY MINE

BOATS WRECKED : 2  
OF CREW MISSING

VESSEL "SEEMED TO  
FALL TO PIECES"

It became known yesterday that the London steamer Hookwood, 1537 tons, was sunk by a German mine on Thursday. She went down in four minutes.  
Two of the crew are missing. The rest, including the master Capt. Ferguson, of South Shields, were landed at a north-east coast port by a naval vessel.  
One of the missing men is James Shearer, 34, of Blyth, a donkey-man, who was making his first trip on the vessel. The other came from Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.  
The youngest of the survivors, George Willis, 15, a mess boy, of Blyth, is detained in an east coast hospital suffering from seasickness and shock. He was in the galley when the explosion occurred.  
The chief engineer, Mr. John Main, who has returned to his home at Blyth, said that there was a blinding flash, and the ship seemed to fall to pieces.  
"I found myself up to the waist in water, and then a wave swept me into the sea," he said. "I was hampered by my heavy boots, but managed to struggle through the wreckage. A piece of timber struck me in the face, but I got hold of another piece and hung on to it. Willis was floating on some wood some distance away from me.  
"The lifeboats were wrecked by the explosion, and all we could do was to swim about holding pieces of timber until we were picked up about an hour later."

LONDON STEAMER SUNK

The London steamer Hookwood (926 tons), it was learned yesterday, sank after striking a German mine on Thursday. Two members of the crew are missing; the rest, including the master, Captain Ferguson, of South Shields, were landed at a North-East Coast port by a naval vessel. The Hookwood sank in four minutes.

The British steamer Hookwood was mined off the Kent coast on Thursday and two men lost their lives, the remaining 14 members of the crew being picked up by a warship in the light of lanterns. A lifeboat was called but arrived to find the rescue work completed. A vessel of 1537 tons gross, the Hookwood was owned by P. Hawksfield & Son, Ltd., Dover. She was built by the Furness Shipbuilding Company, Ltd., Haverton Hill-on-Tees, in 1923.

Passed Mine

TWO ships passed in safety the German mine which sank the British steamer Hookwood in the North Sea last week.  
This was revealed last night by 19-years-old Joseph Bell, one of the Hookwood's 15 survivors, when he arrived at his home in Jarrow.

Suggested Record  
Date of Committee

SUNK-WAR LOSS. 11,39  
WED 20 DEC 1939

Committee's Minute

Sunk-War Loss 11.39  
W415-0068

W415-0078  
Lloyd's Register  
W415-0068  
W415-0078