

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 35548 in R. B.

Wreck Book, p. 67/39

Date of writing this report 16th October, 1939

Vessel's Name

Steel S.S. "Truro"

of Hull

Tons { Gross 974

Net 548

Built at

Aberdeen

When

1922

YEAR. MONTH.

3

Casualty notice sent to Owner 10/10/39 Owner's reply 13/10/39

Owner's Name

Ellerman's Wilson Line, Ltd.

Address

Hull

Case previously before

Committee.

Date

Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

F 100A1

1/39

F LMC

MS 10,38

SS No 3-8,34

BS 12,38

SS No 1-39

TS 12,380G

Casualty

15th September, 1939.

particulars of Casualty This vessel is reported to have been sunk by submarine in the North Sea on the 15th September, 1939.

The Owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

ULTIMATUM FROM U-BOAT COMMANDER

"KEEP OFF THE SEAS FOR THE REST OF THE WAR"

The choice between giving their word to keep off the seas for the rest of the war or of remaining prisoners in a German submarine until they could be landed and interned was given to the captain and officers of the British ship Truro (974 tons), of Ellerman's Wilson Line, Limited, when they found themselves taken aboard the U-boat.

One of the officers said yesterday that the German commander said:—"If you break your parole you will have to take the consequences." With their ship sinking beneath them after the U-boat's attack the officers and men took to a boat, which the submarine took in tow. Taken aboard the submarine and faced with the alternative of indefinite captivity in a U-boat and ultimate internment in Germany, they submitted to the ultimatum of the U-boat's commander and signed an undertaking to keep off the seas for the duration of the war.

The commander of the submarine warned the crew that if they were found at sea they would be treated as if they had broken their parole, and would have to take the consequences.

After being provided by the U-boat's crew with cigarettes and 24 bottles of beer, the British officers and crew were turned adrift. Thirty-three hours later they were picked up by a Belgian vessel, and they have now reached safety.

Times 25/9

Suggested Record

SUNK-WAR LOSS.

Date of Committee

TUE 17 OCT 1939

Committee's Minute

Sunk-War Loss