

CRAZIO
REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. *30991* in R. B. Wreck Book, p. *11/40* Date of writing this report *7th March*, 19 *40*
Vessel's Name *Steel Twin 463 "Orazio"* of *Genoa* Tons {Gross *11669*
Net *6779*
Built at *Bari* When *1927* *10* Casualty notice sent to Owner *19/2/40* Owner's reply *✓*
Owner's Name *"Italia" Società Anonima di Navigazione*
Address *Piazza de Ferrari 34 Genoa.*

Case previously before _____ Date _____
Passing Committee. Last Minute _____

Particulars of Classification.
+100A1 with freeboard 10,39
SS No 2-36
OIL ENGINE
+ILMC CS 10,36
11,39
DBS 10,39
+ILloyd's RMC
11,39 etc.
TS 2,39CL

e of Casualty *21st January 1940*

is of particulars of Casualty Fire is reported to have occurred due to the back firing of forward port No. 1 engine on the 21st January 1940 when in the Mediterranean Sea. This ignited some greasy rags and lasted for 2 hours and caused an explosion in a naphtha tank. This led to the blaze which, fanned by a gale, spread over the ship. The vessel was abandoned. Search for the derelict continued until the 6th February when it was given up.

(No reply has been received to the casualty notice addressed to the Owners on the 19th ultimo.)

The Owners concur

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

**ITALIAN LINER
ON FIRE**

**HUNDREDS RESCUED
BY DESTROYERS**

From Our Correspondent

MARSEILLES, JAN. 21

The Italian steamer Orazio (11,669 tons) signalled this evening to the harbour authorities at Toulon that she was on fire some miles off the French coast, and asked for immediate assistance from naval vessels.

Another Italian steamer signalled by wireless that she was changing her route and going to the assistance of the Orazio. It is believed that the Orazio has 600 passengers on board. Hospitals at Toulon are being held ready to receive them.

Two of the fastest destroyers stationed at Toulon were at once sent by the naval authorities to the Orazio. They are stated to have reached the ship and to be taking off the passengers, who are expected to reach Toulon this evening.

SINKING IN FLAMES

According to a British United Press report, the French destroyers have wirelessed that they have rescued nearly all the 600 passengers and 350 crew of the Orazio. The Orazio was due to call at Barcelona on her voyage to South America.

The commander of one of the French destroyers reports that the Orazio is enveloped in gigantic flames and is sinking. Two other French destroyers have been ordered to stand by to dispose of the wreck when the fire burns out.

Many of the passengers are reported to be suffering from exposure. They have been provided with blankets and clothes on board the warships.

In Marseilles, however, it is reported that 800 of those saved are believed to be in lifeboats which are drifting towards Marseilles in a strong Mediterranean breeze. Six ships are looking for them in the darkness.

* The Orazio is owned by the "Italia" shipping company and is registered at Genoa.

RETAIN

Suggested Record

Abandoned on fire 1,40

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

Abandoned on fire 1,40
1,40



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W423-0102

LL 23/1

FIRE IN ITALIAN LINER**"Orazio" Abandoned in Mediterranean**

A serious fire broke out in the Italian motor liner *Orazio*, of 11,669 tons gross, on Sunday, when the vessel was between Marseilles and Barcelona on an outward voyage to South America, having left Genoa on Saturday. The vessel was abandoned, and, according to Reuter, is considered a total loss. She had on board 417 passengers and 231 crew, and it is announced by the owners that all the passengers have been saved; only a few mechanics belonging to the crew are still missing. They were in the engine-room at the time of the explosion.

The fire is stated to have broken out early on Sunday morning when the vessel was 40 miles from Toulon. It originated in the engine-room and spread rapidly in a strong northerly gale, burning a number of ship's boats. Distress messages were sent out, which were answered by a French destroyer, the French steamer *Ville d'Ajaccio*, and three Italian vessels, the *Conte Biancamano*, *Colombo* and *Recco*. The first rescue vessel reached the *Orazio* at 4.30 p.m. The rescue ships launched their boats and the work of taking off the passengers and crew continued during the night. It is stated that 318 persons have been saved by the *Conte Biancamano*, 173 by the *Colombo* and 48 by French vessels. Five of the ship's engineers are reported to have lost their lives as a result of an explosion. Latest reports indicated that the *Orazio* was still blazing and that attempts had been made to take her in tow.

The *Orazio*, which is owned by the "Italia" Soc. Anon. di Navigazione, Genoa, is a twin-screw motor liner, having a speed of 15 knots, and was built in 1927 at the Cantieri ed Officine Meridionali, Baia. She has three decks and a shade deck, and has accommodation for 640 passengers.

Tel. 23/1

LINER FIRE DUE TO EXPLOSION IN ENGINE ROOM**FLAMES STOP SOS CALLS IN GALE****PASSENGERS ALL SAFE****LIFE-LINE RESCUES FROM BURNING SHIP****FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT****GENOA, Monday.**

It was announced to-night that the fire which destroyed the 11,669-ton Italian liner *Orazio* was caused by an explosion in the engine-room.

The ship's commander, Capt. Schiano, called the crew to their stations and strove to quell the outbreak, but the number of passengers on board and the violence of the gale blowing at the time greatly hampered the fire fighters.

The battle with the flames continued, and when the ship was south-west of Toulon the situation became desperate. It was then that the order to abandon ship was given, and the first lifeboats were lowered.

At the same time a general call for help to all ships was sent out by the wireless operators. The SOS said: "Look out carefully for lifeboats which have been lowered with passengers on board."

Italian tugs left here this morning in the hope of being able to tow the burning liner to Genoa, but it is understood that this has been prevented by bad weather.

Tel 24/1

ORIGIN OF FIRE

Members of the crew of the *Conte Biancamano* said that a defective piston in the *Orazio's* engine-room caused a spark which started a fire among some greasy rags.

The fire lasted over two hours and finally caused an explosion in a tank of naphtha. This led to the blaze which, fanned by a gale, destroyed the ship.

LL 25/1

ITALIAN LINER FIRE**107 Persons Missing****GENOA, Wednesday**

The latest list issued by the owners indicates that 47 passengers and 60 of the crew of the burnt-out Italian liner *Orazio* are still unaccounted for. It is hoped that numbers of these may have been taken to French ports. One of the survivors landed here was also saved from the mined Dutch liner *Simon Bolivar*.

A passenger who was lowered by a rope to a lifeboat and then pulled on board the *Conte Biancamano* stated that she was awakened by an explosion, and had just time enough to throw a few garments on before the fire forced her to leave her cabin for the dining room. The whole centre part of the ship was ablaze, and the heavy storm made the work of the crew extremely difficult.

"I saw two of the four lifeboats which were lowered first turn over in the high sea, but know nothing about the fate of the passengers they had on board. There was no panic, but the situation was nevertheless terrible during the long hours while we were waiting and watching for some ship to come near. When help arrived the difficulties were still enormous. The smoke made it extremely hard to breathe and to keep one's eyes open, and the fire had made the whole ship burning hot. At the same time the storm threatened to smash the lifeboat against the side."

Preliminary investigations indicate that the disaster was due to a backfire which set alight a pipe of fuel oil, which exploded.—Reuter.

Times 26/1

THE BURNT ITALIAN LINER**FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT****MILAN, JAN. 25**

The official figure of those missing from the Italian liner *Orazio*, which caught fire off Toulon on Monday, is now given as 104. Of these 44 are passengers and 60 belong to the crew. Two large tugs are leaving Genoa in order to tow into dock the burned-out hull which, according to a report from Naples, has been sighted near the Straits of Bonifacio, south of Corsica.

The captain of the *Orazio* confirms that the fire was caused by an explosion in the forward part of the port engine. The flames opened a breach in the engine-room, and the gale which was blowing made all attempts to control the fire vain.

An expression of thanks for the prompt assistance given to the passengers and crew of the *Orazio* was conveyed to the French Government yesterday by Signor Guaraglia, the Italian Ambassador (says Reuter).



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