

MERCATOR

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 29614 in R. B.

Wreck Book, p. 100/39

Date of writing this report 21st March

1940

Vessel's Name

Steel S.S. "Mercator"

of Helsingfors

Tons {Gross 4260
Net 2569

Built at W. Hartlepool When 1904

YEAR. MONTH.

Casualty notice sent to Owner 14/12/39 Owner's reply

Owner's Name

A/B Finland Amerika Linjen O/y,

Address

Södra Magasinsgatan 4, Helsingfors.

Case previously before

Date

Particulars of Classification.

Classing Committee.

Last Minute

+100A/
Spark
3,39
SS2nd No 3-329
S.S. No 2-37

+LMC
MS 43/7
BS 7/39
TS 8/38CL

Date of Casualty

1st December, 1939

Précis of particulars of Casualty This vessel is reported to have been
sunk by mine off the Scottish Coast on the 1st
December, 1939.

No reply has been received from the
Owners in Finland..

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

The Finnish steamer Mercator, of 4260 tons gross, was mined off the coast of Scotland early yesterday while on her way to Finland. The crew took to boats, which have reached port. The officer stated there was a terrific explosion in the fore-part of the ship which shattered the bridge and mast. The vessel sank in six minutes and one of the crew, who was trapped below, was probably killed. The Mercator, which was owned by the Finland-Amerika Linjen O/y, Helsinki, was built by Furness, Withy & Co. Ltd., West Hartlepool, in 1904. She was formerly the Manchester Mariner, having been sold to the Finnish company in 1938.

FINNISH STEAMER MINED

SHORE CROWDS WATCH SHIP SINKING

The Finnish steamer Mercator (4,260 tons), outward bound for Norway, was mined off the Scottish coast early yesterday.

The chief officer, with his wife, and 11 members of the crew landed at a Scottish port safely in one boat, and later, towed by a motor fishing boat, the second of two small boats launched after the explosion brought the captain and the rest of the crew except one to land. Altogether 35 survivors were landed.

One of the crew was trapped below the deck and probably killed. As one of the boats was pulling away from the sinking steamer it overturned and the occupants were thrown into the water. Several managed to scramble back on board the boat, which had righted itself. Others climbed on a life raft which had fallen off the steamer.

It is now known that three other neutral ships, which were sunk some time ago, were the victims of the coldly considered, deliberately aimed, torpedo of German submarines. These ships were the Finnish Mercator, sunk on Dec. 2, the Swedish Lars Magnus Tracalla, sunk on Dec. 1.

Suggested Record

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

SUNK-WAR LOSS 12/39
WED 27 MAR 1940

Sunk - War Loss 12/39



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