

TORCHBEARER

WRECK

175 Section 19710

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 35318 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 92/39

Date of writing this report 13th December 1939

Vessel's Name *Steel & S "Torchbearer"* of *London* Tons {Gross 1267 Net 684

Built at *Sunderland* When *1929* 11 Casualty notice sent to Owner *7/12/39* Owner's reply *11/12/39*

Owner's Name *Gas Light & Coke Co. (Stephenson Clarke and Associated Companies Ltd, Mgrs.)*

Address *Bellingwood Buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1.*

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

Case previously before
Classing Committee.

Date
Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.	
<i>100A1</i>	<i>FLMC 9.38</i>
<i>9.39</i>	<i>BS 9.39</i>
<i>ss. No 2-38</i>	<i>TS 6.37CL</i>

Date of Casualty *19th November 1939.*

Précis of particulars of Casualty *This vessel is reported to have been sunk by a mine off the southeast coast on the 19th November, 1939.*

The Owners concur.

NINE OF CREW MISSING
Four survivors of the crew of 13 on board the British collier Torchbearer were landed on Sunday night at an East Coast port, and removed early yesterday to the Essex County Hospital at Colchester. They were all seriously injured. The master, Leonard Hotter, was suffering from a double fracture of the spine and a bad leg injury. Nine of the crew are missing. The Torchbearer was one of the Gas Light and Coke Company's fleet of colliers which brought coal direct to the company at Wandsworth from the North-East Coast.
News was received yesterday that the trawler Wigmore had been lost in the North Sea with her crew of 16. She left on Friday for northern waters. No news has been received of any survivors being picked up. Thirty-one children are left orphans. The Wigmore (345 tons) was built in 1928 and was owned by the Clan Steam Fishing Company (Grimsby), Limited.

Times
21/11

Torchbearer, collier (1,267 tons), owned by the Gas Light and Coke Company. She struck a mine off the east coast, and four of the crew of 17 are missing. Thirteen of the survivors have been landed, and four, seriously injured, are in hospital.

D. Mail
21/11

A LONDON COLLIER
Nine of the crew of the British collier Torchbearer are missing, and the four survivors of the crew of 13 were landed on Sunday night at an East Coast port and taken to the Essex County Hospital at Colchester. They were all seriously injured, the master, Captain Leonard Hotter, having a double fracture of the spine and a badly injured leg. Owned by the Gas Light & Coke Company (Stephenson Clarke & Associated Companies, Ltd., managers), London, the Torchbearer was engaged in carrying coal from the Tyne to above the London bridges at Wandsworth. She was built in 1929 by J. Crown & Sons, Ltd., Sunderland.

LL 21/11

RETAIN

WB no 175
Section 1

Suggested Record

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

SUNK - WAR LOSS. 11.39
FRI. 15 DEC 1939

Sunk War loss 11.39
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