

# REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

175 Section 19710

No. 35318 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 92/39 Date of writing this report 13th December, 1939

Vessel's Name Steel S.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 Bollingwood Buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1.

### SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Case previously before Classing Committee.	Date	Particulars of Classification.	
	Last Minute		<u>FL 100A1</u>
		<u>9,39</u>	<u>BS 9,39</u>
		<u>ss. No 2-38</u>	<u>TS 6,37CL</u>

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 2/11

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 2/11

**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 2/11

# RETAIN

WB no 175 Section 1

Suggested Record SUNK - WANDSWORTH 11/39

Date of Committee FRI. 15 DEC 1939

Committee's Minute Sunk Wandsworth 11/39

Wiley Hoys.

W433-0119



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