

# REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 06547 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 89/39

Date of writing this report 4th December, 1939

Vessel's Name *Steel Arm Trawler "Cresswell"* of *Millford* Tons {Gross 275  
Net 107Built at *Middlesbrough* When 1917 10 Casualty notice sent to Owner 30/11/39 Owner's reply 2/12/39Owner's Name *Boston Deep Sea Fishing & Ice Co. Ltd. (B. & P. Parkes Mgrs.)*Address *Fleetwood*

## SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Case previously before  
Sinking Committee.

Date

Last Minute

## Particulars of Classification.

100A1	LNC
Strm Trawler	105-5,38
839	BS9,38
SS No 3-10,29	
SS No 2-38	TS5,38CL

of Casualty 12th November, 1939.

of particulars of Casualty This vessel is reported to have been sunk by submarine gunfire off the north of Scotland on the 12th November, 1939.

The Owners concur.

**BRITISH TRAWLER LOST**  
The Fleetwood trawler *Cresswell* (275 tons gross) has been lost. She is believed to have been sunk by a German submarine off North Scotland. Six of her crew of 12 are missing. The remainder, including the skipper and mate, having been picked up by the trawler *Phyllisia*.

## TRAWLER SHELLED AND SUNK

### SURVIVORS TAKEN ON BOARD U-BOAT

Seven survivors of the Fleetwood trawler *Cresswell* spent more than six hours in a U-boat after they had been shelled and sunk by a submarine off the north of Scotland. The survivors were transferred to another U-boat. The U-boat commander's parting words to the skipper were, "Tell Mr. Churchill that the German U-boat men are not the heartless murderers you are led to believe." Six of the trawler's crew are missing.

When the survivors were landed at Fleetwood yesterday by the Fleetwood trawler *Phyllisia*, the mate said: "The U-boat crew did everything to make us comfortable. They gave us clothing, hot food, brandy and other drinks."

The *Cresswell* was shelled without warning. Ten of the crew escaped on a raft, two of them to a smashed lifeboat, and one had a lifebelt. Three fell exhausted from the raft, and the two on the lifeboat and the other with the lifebelt were drowned. The survivors on the raft were picked up by the submarine after two hours.

After firing at the trawler the submarine disappeared, and the survivors thought she had left them for good. Then the U-boat reappeared and hauled the men aboard. They learned that the submarine had left to find another ship which could take them aboard.

Frederick Lee, 17, the youngest member of the crew, said, "We did not know a submarine was near until shells began whizzing all round us. The submarine sent at least 20 shots at the trawler."

The **CRESSWELL** was sunk without warning. Shells burst over her, and ten of the crew pushed off on a raft.

Three of these men were drowned. A lifeboat, though shattered by a shell, held up two more men in the icy sea for a time. The last member of the crew clung to a lifebelt.

But at last these three had to let go, or were washed under.

### Tell Mr. Churchill—

After two hours the U-boat reappeared and took the seven survivors from the raft. Seven hours later a ship was stopped and the men were put on board.

The U-boat commander's parting words were: "Tell Mr. Churchill that the German commanders are not the heartless murderers you are led to believe."

He did not know that the man lost with the lifebelt was the father of Winnie Andrews.

Winnie Andrews, fifteen years old, was told last night of her father's death, and found herself the head of a family of four.

Upstairs in their home in Macbeth-road, Fleetwood, Lancs, the

other three children of the family slept.

They knew that their mother was dead, that Winnie looked after them. But they did not know they no longer have a father.

Suggested Record

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

TUE 5 DEC 1939

SUNK-WAR LOSS 11-9



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