

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

SAINT NIDAN

WRECK DAY

No. 172
Section 2

9690

No. 13425 in R. B.

Wreck Book, p. 84/39

Date of writing this report 23rd November 1939

Vessel's Name Steel Steamer Trawler "St. Nidan" of Hull

Built at Beverley When 1937 1 Casualty notice sent to Owner 16/11/39 Owner's reply 20/11/39

Owner's Name Thomas Hamling & Co. Ltd.

Address St. Andrew's Dock, Hull.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

Previously before
Committee.

Date

Particulars of Classification.

H 100A1 F LMC 1,37

Steamer Trawler TSN 10,37

7.39

CL

Casualty

27th October, 1939.

Particulars of Casualty This vessel is reported to have been sunk by gunfire from a submarine 90 miles north of Pentland Firth on the 27th October, 1939.

The Owners concur.

"IT'S CHAMBERLAIN WE WANT"

Times
31/10

U-BOAT COMMANDER'S TALK TO TRAWLER SKIPPER

The skipper of the Hull trawler St. Nidan (565 tons) was told by a U-boat commander who sank his vessel, "It is not you fellows we want; it's Chamberlain." The crew, together with the crew of the Grimsby trawler Lynx II (250 tons), which rescued them after the St. Nidan had been sunk, but was in turn also sunk, were picked up by the Hull trawler Lady Hogarth, which the submarine apparently mistook for some other type of ship, for she made off and dived out of sight. They were landed on the Scottish coast and yesterday left for their homes at Grimsby and Hull.

The St. Nidan was homeward bound from the fishing grounds, and on Friday night was about 90 miles north of the Pentland Firth when the submarine met her. The crew of 15 took to the lifeboat and the U-boat then fired 24 shells into the trawler.

The submarine took the skipper, William Nightingale, of Hull, on board and he was treated well by the commander, who told the skipper that he had no quarrel with these men in the trawlers, but Chamberlain had begun the war and now Germany was going to win it. "It is not you fellows we want; it's Chamberlain," he added.

A BOX OF BISCUITS

The commander asked if they had any food in the lifeboat, and on being told no, he gave them a box of biscuits. The crew lighted flares and these were seen later by the look-out in the Lynx II, which came upon the crew of the St. Nidan just as their ship was about to sink. The St. Nidan's men told the Lynx II that there was a submarine about, and hardly had they been taken on board than the submarine reappeared.

The Lynx II sent a wireless S.O.S., and this caused the submarine to fire upon the trawler with some fury. One shell knocked away the galley, and two of the crew of 10 were injured. Both crews had to leave the trawler, and in doing so the box of biscuits which the submarine commander had given to the men of the St. Nidan was left behind.

The submarine continued to shell the Lynx II and splinters fell around the lifeboat, but the trawler did not sink, so a boat put off from the U-boat, a time-bomb was placed in the trawler, and she afterwards went down. When the Lady Hogarth, also outward bound, hove in sight the submarine promptly made off.

The Lady Hogarth picked up the two crews, and on landing them in Scotland they were cared for by the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society before leaving for their homes.

"The submarine fired 24 shells at us," one of the St. Nidan's crew said. "Men sleeping in their bunks had to jump into the lifeboat in their pyjamas."

"Our skipper, William Nightingale, was taken aboard the submarine."

Shelled After S.O.S.

The St. Nidan's men had hardly been rescued by the Lynx before the U-boat reappeared and began shelling.

D. Mail
31/10

Suggested Record

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

SUNK - WAR LOSS. 10,39
FRI. 24 NOV 1939

Sunk - War Loss. 10,39

Write Lloyd's.

R6

W450-0070

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