

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 27173 in R. B.

Wreck Book, p. 66/39

Date of writing this report 16th October,

1939.

Vessel's Name

Steel S.S. "Kafiristan"

of Newcastle

Tons {Gross 5193

Net 3226

Built at Sunderland When 1924

8

Casualty notice sent to Owner 10/10/39 Owner's reply 13/10/39

Owner's Name Hindustan Steam Shipping Co. Ltd. (Commonwealth Brothers Ltd. Agents)

Address Exchange Buildings, Quayside, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

by before

Committee.

Date

Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

F 100A1

F LMC 4,36

2,39

BS 4,38

ss. No 3-9,37

TS 9,37CL

17th September, 1939.

Particulars of Casualty This vessel is reported to have been sunk by submarine in the Atlantic on the 17th September, 1939.

The Owners concur.

AEROPLANE FIGHTS

SUBMARINE

GERMAN SUBMERGED

From Our Own Correspondent

NEW YORK, Monday.

An account of an aeroplane attack on the submarine which sank the British cargo ship Kafiristan has been sent by radio to the New York office of the United States Lines by Capt. Pedersen, master of the American Farmer, which rescued 29 members of the crew.

"The submarine assisted us to locate the boat," states Capt. Pedersen. "During the rescue operations an aeroplane suddenly appeared and bombarded the submarine. The submarine responded with machine-gun fire and then disappeared leaving a heavy white smoke on the surface."

Six men on board the Kafiristan are reported missing

D. Tel 19/9

SAILORS MISSING FROM SUNKEN SHIP

Several members of the crew of the Newcastle steamer Kafiristan (5,193 tons), which has been sunk, are missing. The Kafiristan, which was owned by the Hindustan Steam Shipping Company, Limited, was built in 1924. Four years ago she was badly damaged and caught fire when she was involved in a collision with the Canadian Pacific liner Empress of Britain in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Times

21/9

U-BOAT ATTACKED BY BRITISH BOMBER

INCIDENT AFTER SINKING OF STEAMER

NEW YORK, Sept. 24.—The United States steamer American Farmer arrived here to-day with the 29 surviving members of the crew of the British steamer Kafiristan, which was sunk by a U-boat.

Mr. Armistead Lee, of Chatham, Virginia, said that as they sighted the lifeboats belonging to the Kafiristan, they saw a British bomber swoop down "from nowhere as if by magic." It sprayed the deck of the submarine with machine-gun fire and the crews rushed to the conning-tower hatch. The submarine submerged rapidly but the aeroplane dropped two bombs.

We saw the bow of the submarine lift (Mr. Lee added); then the whole ship slid backwards into the water. Then the bomber flew over us. One of the fliers waved triumphantly and pointed down as if signalling that the submarine was destroyed.

Captain Pederson, master of the American Farmer, said that there was a 50-50 chance that the submarine was destroyed. "One bomb struck the conning-tower squarely," he declared.

Captain John Busby, master of the Kafiristan, said that the submarine fired a warning shot. Six out of 34 of his crew were drowned in launching the first lifeboat while the Kafiristan was still moving. The submarine commander, he added, reported that he was sending out an S.O.S. and offered to tow the lifeboats towards the shore if no help came.—Reuter.

Times

25/9

Suggested Record

SUNK-WAR LOSS.

Date of Committee

TUE 17 OCT 1939

Committee's Minute

Sunk-War Loss

White & Hayes

16/6



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