

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

9114

1935.

No. 2508 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 10/36

Date of writing this report 6th February 1936

Vessel's Name Steel S.S. "Forthbridge" of West Hartlepool Tonnage Net 3156 Gross 5140

Built at Sunderland When 1928 - 3 Casualty notice sent to Owner 3/2/36 Owner's reply 4/2/36

Owner's Name North of England S.S. Co. (Crosby, Son & Co., Mgrs)

Address Shipping Chambers, West Hartlepool

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

FORTHBRIDGE.—London, Jan. 24.—The owners of the steamer Forthbridge have received the following messages from the master:
Received Jan. 21: Hakodate. Passed here to-day proceeding direct Taku Bar. Have Dairen coal on fire owing to spontaneous combustion; under our control. Dated Wakasa Radio, Jan. 24, 5.10 a.m.: Cannot control fire, proceeding

Moji for assistance, due Saturday evening (Jan. 25). Crew entirely exhausted. Dated Wakasa Radio, Jan. 24, 9.40 p.m.: Doubtful reception owing operator leaving ship owing fire, ship (? dulled) amidships, (? decay) cargo after fire (probably meaning deck cargo aft on fire) spreading fast, standing by to abandon ship.

The owners have also received the following message from the agents of the charterers, dated Shanghai, Jan. 24, 5.54 p.m.: Forthbridge reported in distress lat. 36 33 N., long. 133 27 E., at 3.18 p.m., Jan. 24. Japanese motor vessel Kahoku Maru intercepted, due reach her 7.30 p.m.

Tokio, Jan. 24.—Apprehension is felt for the safety of the crew of 32 of the British steamer Forthbridge, which has sent out an SOS saying she is on fire in the vicinity of Oki Island. The Forthbridge is bound for Moji from Victoria, B.C., with a cargo of lumber.—Reuter.

FORTHBRIDGE.—Tokio, Jan. 24.—The first SOS from the steamer Forthbridge was followed by the receipt of the following wireless message at Tsuruga: "Fire spreading rapidly; crew taking to boats." Japanese motor vessel Kahoku Maru, which rushed to the scene, has now wirelessed saying that she has reached the scene of the disaster but is unable to approach the Forthbridge owing to the dense smoke. The vessel is a fiery furnace. A two-hour search for her boats was without result. A heavy sea is running, it is added. A torpedo boat is proceeding from the Japanese naval base of Matsuzuri, and several motor boats from Tsuruga are also on the way.—Reuter.

Tokio, Jan. 25.—According to a message from Tsuruga, the crew of the British steamer Forthbridge were picked up by the Japanese motor vessel Kahoku Maru and three motor boats, and have been landed at the village of Saigo, on Oki Island. The Forthbridge is burned to the water's edge.—Reuter.

Shimonoseki, Jan. 25.—British steamer Forthbridge: Report states on fire in lat. 37 N., long. 133 E.; crew abandoned steamer. Salvage steamer has gone to assist.

Kobe, Jan. 25.—Steamer Forthbridge: Newspapers report wireless information received states fire broke out 3 p.m. on Jan. 24, position lat. 36 N., long. 133 E. Crew of 32 abandoned steamer at 6 p.m. and landed Oki Island.—Lloyd's agents per Salvage Association.

London, Jan. 25.—The owners of the steamer Forthbridge have received the following messages from the master:—

From motor vessel Kahoku Maru via Wakasa Radio, timed 6.30 p.m., Jan. 24: Gutted out from amidships aft. Abandoned ship Saturday (Jan. 25), 2 a.m. (local time); all hands saved.

Timed 11.30 p.m., Jan. 24.—Ship ablaze from poop to bridge deck and below, fire working forward, engine-room stokehold completely gutted, no danger ship sinking, will burn days. Do not consider salvage possible, still standing by but crew landed. Weather prospects bad.

(Cont'd over)

Previously before Committee.	Date	Particulars of Classification.	
		+100A1	SS. No. 1-31
	Last Minute	8.35	+LMC 6.31 BS 8.35

Casualty 24th January, 1936

Particulars of Casualty

This vessel was reported in distress & on fire in lat. 36 N., long. 133 E., on the 24th January, 1936.

It was later reported that she had been abandoned by her crew on the 25th January, & subsequently drifted ashore at the north-west end of Dogo (Oki) Island, with her port side split amidships; starboard side badly buckled and back broken.

Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association, stated on the 29th January that he considered nothing left was worth salvaging, even if possible.

In reply to a casualty notice the Owners state as follows:— "Whilst it would now appear definite that this vessel has in fact become a total loss, it is nevertheless a little premature for us to authorize that she be expunged from the Register Book"

5th March, 1936.

Upon inquiry at Lloyd's today (4th March) it was stated that the Underwriters had accepted this vessel as a total loss & all claims paid

A further letter, dated 2nd March, has been received from the Owners intimating that the vessel's name may now be omitted from the Register Book

Suggested Record x

Date of Committee FRI. 7 FEB 1936

Committee's Minute

Deferred 7/2/36

Lost by fire 1.36

By 1.36

FRI. 6 MAR 1936

Lost by fire 1.36
Lloyd's Register
Foundation

W494-0301 1/2

115 W494-0328

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FORTHBRIDGE.—Kobe, Jan. 26.—
Steamer Forthbridge: Master telegraphs
4 55 p.m., Jan. 25: Lat. 36 30 N., long.
133 2 E., ship gutted out from poop
to bridge on deck, engine-room and
stokehold, fire spreading; lumber cargo
will burn for days. Consider salvage
prospects possible but poor; standing
by, but crew landed all safe.—Lloyd's
Agents per Salvage Association.

28/1/36

—Kobe, Jan. 27.—Steamer
Forthbridge: Master telegraphs 4 p.m.,
Jan. 26: Blowing a gale, on fire from
stem to stern.—Lloyd's Agents per
Salvage Association.

—London, Jan. 27.—
The following telegrams have been re-
ceived to-day from the owners of the
steamer Forthbridge: Master of Forth-
bridge cables from Saigo, Jan. 26:
Saturday night (Jan. 25) ship ablaze
from foremast to poopdeck, tweendeck
and lower hold. Weather NE. gale. Dis-
patching crew Monday (Jan. 27) to
Kobe, chief engineer, two mates and self
remaining.

Master of Forthbridge cables from
Saigo, Jan. 27, 3 23 p.m.: Ship drifted
apparently ashore NW. end of Dogo
(Oki) Island. Bad weather. Will
examine to-morrow, weather permit-
ting. Ablaze end to end. Crew leaving
to-night except four mentioned.

FORTHBRIDGE.—Kobe, Jan. 29.—
Steamer Forthbridge: Master telegraphs
5 30 p.m., Jan. 28: Visited vessel, can-
not get on board owing to heat. All
holds ablaze, vessel ashore in an ex-
posed position NW. end of Dogo (Oki)
Island. Port side split amidships, star-
board badly buckled, back broken. Con-
sider not worth salvaging, even if possible.
—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Associa-
tion.

30/1

—London, Jan. 29.—
The following telegram was received
to-day from the owners of the steamer
Forthbridge: Master cables 6 15,
Jan. 29: Unable approach steamer
to-day, bad weather. Nippon Salvage
tug here to examine.

FORTHBRIDGE.—Kobe, Jan. 30.—
Steamer Forthbridge: Nippon Salvage
Company report could not approach
vessel on account of bad weather. Con-
dition at sight adrift, stranded, listed
to port 5 deg., drawing 18 ft. forward
at high water, 30 ft. aft., rocky shelving
bottom. Wind NW., heavy sea. Nos.
2, 3 and 4 holds upper deck burnt out,
hogged near engine-room, all deck
fittings destroyed, side plates corru-
gated at every frame. Some lumber
cargo washed ashore. Fishermen report
all holds flooded. Nos. 2 and 3 holds
smoking considerably. Salvage im-
practicable.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage
Association.

31/1

—Shimonoseki, Jan. 30.
—British steamer Forthbridge: Salvage
steamer reports vessel drifted ashore
Oki Island. Salvage steamer obliged to
leave on account of the weather.

FORTHBRIDGE.—Kobe, Feb. 7.—
Steamer Forthbridge: Owing to heavy
storm refloating now made impossible.
Still burning.—Lloyd's Agent per
Salvage Association.

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