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# REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

**RETAIN**

WRECK BAY  
No. 147

No. 75351 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 82/38 Date of writing this report 2nd February 1939.

Vessel's Name Steel S.S. "Guernica" of Bilbao Tons {Gross 3109  
Net 1865

Built at Bilbao When 1920 5 Casualty notice sent to Owner 9/1/39 Owner's reply X

Owner's Name Auxiliar Maritima S.A.

Address Gran Via 31-1°, Bilbao, Spain

### SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

**GUERNICA.**—Gothenburg, Nov. 19.—Spanish steamer Guernica, cargo pit props, went ashore south of here and remains. Weather unfavourable. No arrangements have yet been made for salvage.

LL 21/11

Gothenburg, Nov. 19.—Spanish steamer Guernica is in a very bad position and it is uncertain whether she can be saved. Crew saved and landed here.

The Spanish steamer Guernica, 3109 tons gross, with pit props, has gone ashore south of Gothenburg. She is in a very bad position and it is uncertain whether she can be refloated. The crew has been landed at Gothenburg.

**GUERNICA.**—Gothenburg, Nov. 21.—Spanish steamer Guernica: Weather conditions very unfavourable, impossible commence salvage operations before present southerly storm abates. Stranding position at Nidingen exposed all winds except east. Vessel abandoned on Saturday (Nov. 19), remains fast aground. Possibilities of salvage poor. Local salvage company will commence operations as soon as weather permits on "no cure no pay" terms.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

LL 22/11

**GUERNICA.**—Gothenburg, Nov. 19.—Steamer Guernica, of Bilbao, ashore near Nidingen Light, is bound for Grimsby from Leningrad, with cargo principally pulpwood.—"Helsingborgs Dagblad."

LL 23/11

**GUERNICA.**—Gothenburg, Nov. 21.—The cargo of the Spanish steamer Guernica, ashore at Nidingen, is said to consist of pit-props from Leningrad for Grimsby.

Gothenburg, Nov. 23.—Steamer Guernica: Weather conditions improved, salvage operations will probably commence to-day. Good prospects for part cargo, doubtful vessel can be saved.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

LL 24/11

**GUERNICA.**—Gothenburg, Nov. 26.—Steamer Guernica: Weather conditions continue to prevent salvage operations. Steamer remains in same position but recent gales have carried away much of remaining deck cargo and part of vessel's bridge.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

LL 28/11

**GUERNICA.**—Gothenburg, Nov. 28.—Spanish steamer Guernica: We have nothing further to report to-day except that the weather continues to be very bad and makes all thought of salvage out of the question at the moment. Both yesterday and to-day we have had a strong southerly wind, and since the early hours of this morning it has freshened considerably and has rained almost continuously.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Nov. 28.)

LL 1/12

Case previously before \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Last Minute \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Particulars of Classification.  
 FI 100A1 335  
 LMC. MS336  
 BS237  
 ss. No3-332 TS335  
 NO LATER SURVEY REPTD.

Casualty 19th November, 1938.

Particulars of Casualty This vessel is reported to have stranded at Nidingen, near Gothenburg, on the 19th November, 1938.

She was in an exposed position and owing to gales, major salvage operations were not begun until the 21st December. At the end of that month divers' inspections revealed that the bottom was pierced by eight boulders on the port side and by four boulders on the starboard side, whilst the whole of the bottom itself was badly indented and the stern of the vessel distorted.

Salvage operations were accordingly abandoned.

No reply has been received to the casualty notice addressed to the Owners on the 9th January, but the Gothenburg Surveyors state that the vessel is reported to be a total loss.

Suggested Record

Wrecked 11,38

Date of Committee

FRI 8 FEB 1939

Committee's Minute

Wrecked 11.38



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**GUERNICA.**—Gothenburg, Dec. 2.—  
Steamer Guernica: Weather conditions continue to make it impossible to attempt to save either vessel or cargo. Earlier in the week the wind subsided and the local salvage company immediately made ready to commence operations, but a few hours after the first salvage steamer had arrived alongside and before any serious start could be made the wind blew up again and all the salvage plant had to return to port. The wind is still from the south and southwest, and it has a velocity reaching quite 30 miles per hour at times.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

LL 6/12

**GUERNICA.** — Gothenburg, Dec. 15. —  
Steamer Guernica: The weather conditions have improved slightly during the last few days, and now that the wind has swung round to the east the salvors have dispatched one of their salvage steamers to the Guernica. The salvage steamer reports to head office by wireless to-day that there still remains a considerable quantity of deck cargo on board, and arrangements are now being made to commence the discharge of cargo. A heavy swell is said to be running still, so that it is at present impossible to come up alongside with one of the salvors' barges, but the outlook is promising and all the necessary plant is being moved out once more to the vicinity of the stranding place.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association. (Note.—Guernica stranded at Nidingen on Nov. 19.)

LL 17/12

**GUERNICA.** — Gothenburg, Dec. 21. —  
Steamer Guernica: A commencement has at last been made on the salvage of the cargo from this steamer. The salvors' barge has been fully laden with salvaged deck cargo and taken into Varberg, where she has been discharged. As will be gathered from this, the weather conditions have considerably improved, although the working conditions are much hampered by the snow and the cold spell that has set in.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

LL 29/12

Gothenburg, Dec. 22.—  
Steamer Guernica: It is estimated that the first barge load of deck cargo salvaged and discharged at Varberg amounted to 260 standards. The barge was then towed back to the steamer again and further deck cargo was discharged, also part of the under deck cargo in No. 1 hold. These salvage operations continued until about midday, when work was stopped on account of the unfavourable weather. The barge was then half filled, estimated at about 130 standards, and was towed into Varberg again where discharge took place yesterday afternoon and this morning. To-day the weather is a few degrees warmer at about freezing point and the wind has blown up again from the south-east. It is therefore probable that the management will order all the salvage plant back again to this port until after the Christmas holidays, when renewed efforts will be made to save the cargo and ship as soon as the weather conditions permit.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

**GUERNICA.**—Gothenburg, Dec. 29. —  
Steamer Guernica: The salvage contractors have recommenced their operations. They sent out their barge, one salvage steamer and other plant yesterday at midday and to-day a report has been received to the effect that the salvage of cargo is proceeding and that it is hoped to get the barge fully laden and taken into Varberg. The diver's report dealing with the condition of the ship's bottom is not a good one. He reports that the stem is fractured in two places, there are some eight large boulders that have gone through the steamer's bottom on the port side, the bottom is badly indented throughout its entire length and the stern of the steamer is twisted and out of line. The weather conditions are favourable just at present in so far as the sea is fairly smooth but the thermometer is down to about 10 degrees Fahrenheit.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

LL 2/1/39

**GUERNICA.** — Gothenburg, Dec. 30. —  
Steamer Guernica: The weather has quickly changed for the worse, there is a strong southerly gale blowing. This blew up in the night and the salvors were again obliged to suspend operations.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

LL 3/1

**GUERNICA.**—Gothenburg, Jan. 3.—From the further diver examinations made at the stranded steamer Guernica, the vessel must definitely be considered a wreck. Four large points of rock have penetrated the vessel's bottom on the starboard side, the sternport is broken in two places and the whole after-ship is distorted. About 400 standards of the cargo has been salvaged. The Spanish crew will shortly be sent home.—"Goteborgs Handels och Sjöfartstidning."

LL 6/1

**GUERNICA.**—Gothenburg, Jan. 3.—  
Steamer Guernica: As it is now generally accepted by all that there is no chance of salvaging the vessel the salvors have therefore intimated that they do not propose to proceed with the salvage operations, even if the weather conditions should permit within the near future.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

LL 11/1



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