

# REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c. 9323

83968 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 437 Date of writing this report 15th June 1937  
 Vessel's Name *Steel Twin S.S. "Silvercypress"* of *London*  
 Tons (Net 3693 Gross 6440)  
 Built at *Belfast* When *1930 - 6* Casualty notice sent to Owner *x* Owner's reply *x*  
 Owner's Name *Silver Line, Ltd. (Stanley & John Thompson, Ltd. Mgrs.)*  
 Address *Bishopsgate House, 80, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2*

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

previously before Date Particulars of Classification.  
 ssing Committee. Last Minute  
 of Casualty *13th January 1937*  
 of particulars of Casualty

*This vessel was reported to have been beached on fire near Buenavista, opposite Iloilo, on the 13th January.*

*The fire was not extinguished until the 21st January, when the Salvage Association's Special Officer stated that the whole of the machinery in the engine room would be a total loss.*

*The vessel was subsequently refloated & proceeded in tow to Manila. She is now reported to have been sold to Japanese Shipbreakers*

*The Manila Surveyor cabled on the 4th May that the vessel had been declared a Constructive Total Loss, & in reply to inquiry further states that he has made no survey of the vessel & no certificate has been issued by him with regard to the proposed voyage to China or Japan in tow*

SILVERCYPRESS. — Iloilo, Jan. 13. — British motor vessel Silvercypress: Generator caught fire 3.45 a.m., today, spread to ship and cargo. Vessel beached near Buenavista, Guimaras Island, opposite Iloilo. Master on board, crew and passengers landed here.

Iloilo, Jan. 13. — British motor vessel Silvercypress: Master signed Lloyd's Form of Salvage Agreement in blank Luzon Stevedoring Co., salvage contractors. Nos. 1 and 2 holds cargo still intact. No. 3 hold flooded, engine-room and all Nos. 4, 5 and 6 holds gutted by fire. Fire not yet extinguished. Salvage contractors have telegraphed Manila to send all pumps available. Still cannot get on board, but have cofferdam between deep tank flooded also after deep tank partly.

London, Jan. 13. — The owners of the motor vessel Silvercypress have received the following cables from Manila, dispatched Jan. 13:—

Silvercypress arrived Iloilo yesterday afternoon, caught fire engine-room 3.30 this morning, which spread Nos. 3 and 4 holds. Presently not under control, attempting beach vessel Guimaras Island.

Silvercypress now practically beached Buenavista Point, but difficult account rising tide. Pumps now working No. 3 hatch, fire not spreading forward, but all afire aft engine-room. Engineer Ingram sustained severe burns, now in hospital; no other injuries.

Silvercypress beached low tide, but afloat high tide, being held in position by tugs. Holds Nos. 1 and 2 appear still unaffected, but No. 3 shelter deck afire which expect to control, pump now delivering 200 tons hourly through holes cut in deckway subsequently flooding engine-room. Impossible to get alongside from engine-room aft. We estimate vessel did about ten hours' discharging prior to fire. Passengers have no accommodation at Iloilo or Manila and therefore we have arranged ship Hongkong Tuesday (Jan. 19), which best arrangement possible; passengers agreeable on assumption this best for continuance of their voyage.

SILVERCYPRESS. — Iloilo, Jan. 14. — Motor vessel Silvercypress: Master on board again, reports following: Beached, heading windward, engine-room and afterpart full of water, engine-room and afterpeak still burning, but under control; pumping arrangements satisfactory, deep tank flooded. Nos. 1 and 2 holds still intact, after end of vessel from engine-room gutted, after deck collapsed. Water pumped into engine-room running out of tonnage port(s) carrying away paraffin oil in bulk. — Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

London, Jan. 14. — The owners of the motor vessel Silvercypress have received the following cables from Manila, dated Jan. 14: Silvercypress beached, engine-room and after holds completely flooded, bulkhead between engine-room and No. 4 given way, oil from double bottoms floating on top of water and burning, likewise kerosene in afterpeak which will have to burn itself out or flow through ports. Nos. 1 and 2 hatches remain unaffected. Impossible to lay alongside ship from engine-room aft. Stephenson arrives at Iloilo on Sunday evening (Jan. 17).

Iloilo telegraphs: Following details of cargo discharged from Silvercypress prior to outbreak of fire:—Hawaiian Philippines New York B/Lading eight 6661 bags ammophos Baltimore four 4694 sulphate of ammonia Tabacalera New York six and seven 10,003 ammophos Baltimore three 1475 sulphate of ammonia Pacific Commercial Baltimore one 319 bundles galvanized iron sheets Elnaval New York four 1 case hammers Castel New York four 1 cation merchandise, Hoskyn New York eleven 64 packages. Customs check shows only 1455 Tabacalera sulphate of ammonia. All cargo held lighters and cascos except 924 ammophos in Customs warehouse. Will now arrange delivery and recheck.

ested Record  
 of Committee

*Damaged by fire 1.37*  
 TUE 15 JUN 1937

mittee's Minute

*Damaged by fire 1.37*  
*12/6*



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1/2 W576-0311

W576-0332

**SILVERCYPRESS.**—Iloilo, Jan. 15.—  
Motor vessel Silvercypress: Oil fuel from double bottom Nos. 3, 2 and 1 holds flowing in the engine-room all holds aft, causing increased fire damage aided strong wind. Forward engine-room bulkhead given way. At high water last night fire reached quarters under bridge poop deck flush at high water. No. 1 hold intact, No. 2 hold probably damaged by sea water. Prospects doubtful.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

London, Jan. 15.—The following messages have been received by the owners of the motor vessel Silvercypress:—

Still confining fire to after part but heat in holds and engine-room vaporising fuel in double bottoms, burning at exit air vents. Dense black smoke making work very difficult. After deck and mast have collapsed from engine-room aft. Ship constructive total loss.

Dated Jan. 15, 7 40 a.m.: Oil has run from forward double bottoms to after holds causing tremendous blaze. At high water last night it crossed into stewards' store-room under bridge. Still fighting but prospects very bad.

**SILVERCYPRESS.**—Iloilo, Jan. 15.—  
Motor vessel Silvercypress: Owners' surveyor, Stephenson, due here on Jan. 17. Cargo discharged prior to outbreak: No. 1 hold, 285 tons, No. 2 162 tons, No. 3 243 tons, No. 4 330 tons, No. 5 218 tons, all fertiliser. No. 2 384 packages general, about 30 tons. Agents received instructions deliver. Cargo remaining: Condition No. 1 good, No. 2 slightly damaged by water, No. 3 all damaged by water, Nos. 4, 5 and 6 destroyed by fire.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

**SILVERCYPRESS.**—Iloilo, Jan. 16.—  
Motor vessel Silvercypress: Fire still raging aft but again under control. Additional pumps arrived from Manila. No. 2 'tween-decks cargo damaged by water, but still intact.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

London, Jan. 18.—The following cables have been received by the owners of the motor vessel Silvercypress:—

Dated Manila, Jan. 15: Silvercypress: Iloilo telegraphs position this evening: Prospects saving Nos. 1 and 2 again improved but danger to-night when fire expected again enter store-rooms under wheelhouse with high tide. Present position No. 2 hatch lower hold 'tween deck probably intact, shelter deck partly damaged by fire water.

Master signed Lloyd's Salvage Agreement in blank Luzon Stevedoring Salvage Contractors.

Dated Manila, Jan. 16: 12 30 a.m., after high tide Iloilo (reports): Impossible say how long fire will take to burn itself out but now feel confident we can confine it and save Nos. 1 and 2 with cargo intact.

Dated Manila, Jan. 17: Iloilo reports this morning: Little change in position but fire aft shows signs abating. Master only using six officers aboard, remainder crew on shore.

Dated Manila, Jan. 18: Position unchanged, still burning aft; will probably take two or three days to burn out, meanwhile holds Nos. 1 and 2 safe.

Dated Manila, Jan. 18.—Silvercypress: Fire confined now to No. 6, which burning furiously. Nos. 1 and 2 unharmed except slight water smoke damage shelter deck 2. Master's opinion from 3 aft ship from outward deck appearance constructive total loss. Native crew proceeding Manila for soonest distressed British seamen, European crew holding Iloilo day or two awaiting your instructions. Stephenson arrived Iloilo this morning.

**SILVERCYPRESS.**—Iloilo, Jan. 20.—  
Motor vessel Silvercypress: Fire not yet extinguished, still burning No. 4 hold shelter deck. She is ashore in Guimaras Strait, off Salag, lying on a soft bottom, heading N. by E. Preliminary survey held indicates afterpart extending from navigating bridge to the sternpost very badly damaged, mainmast, shelter deck, upper deck collapsed 15 ft., shell plates, deck plates badly corrugated and buckled so much so that complete reconstruction of affected area will be required. With regard to damage to engines consider in view of damage to machinery to motor vessel Nora Mærsk under similar circumstances whole machinery in engine-room will be a total loss including steering gear winches on after deck. Afloat forward, resting easily from amidships aft; do not anticipate any damage sustained through grounding. Vessel is flooded from deep tank aft, after deck entirely covered at high water. With regard to cargo on board that which is stowed Nos. 1 and 2 holds apparently undamaged except little water and possibly damage by smoke. Cargo in Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 holds and afterpeak tank will be a total loss.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

London, Jan. 21.—The following cable has been received by the owners of the motor vessel Silvercypress, dated Manila, Jan. 21: Silvercypress: Fire out, still grounded aft, afloat forward, everything aft of forward frame 17 flooded and apparently total loss. Forward this point vessel and cargo practically undamaged, hope float Jan. 25. Believe fire caused by spark from generator relief valve igniting oil from fractured fuel pipe. Master advises Salvage Association representative proposing discharge Iloilo cargo at Iloilo, towing vessel stern first to Manila to discharge balance cargo, thence drydocking Navy Dock at Olongapo.

Iloilo, Jan. 21.—  
Motor vessel Silvercypress: Fire extinguished. Divers are being sent out to close shell openings shelter deck sea and discharge valves preparatory to pumping out flooded holds and engine-room. If successful we recommend discharge balance of 500 tons of sound cargo destined for Iloilo, which can be done by means of barges fitted with winch. Next proposal is the vessel proceeds in tow of three tugs on the spot stern first to Manila discharge 1070 tons of sound cargo destined for Shanghai and Hongkong into seven piers where direct electric current 220 volts available to work ship's winches. After discharging contemplate placing Olongapo floating dock, survey fully all damage to obtain competitive tenders for repairs.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

**SILVERCYPRESS.**—Iloilo, Jan. 21.—  
Motor vessel Silvercypress: Tobacco in No. 2 lower hold and No. 2 'tween deck should be saved, in good condition. Balance Nos. 3 and 4 holds total loss. Cargo forward not yet touched.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

**SILVERCYPRESS.**—Iloilo, Jan. 25.—  
Motor vessel Silvercypress is being pumped out; pumps gaining on water. Stern afloat, fully anticipate will be refloated to-morrow.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

**SILVERCYPRESS.**—Iloilo, Jan. 26.—  
Motor vessel Silvercypress has been floated, draught aft 31 ft., forward 20 ft. After winches derrick Samson post mainmast totally destroyed by fire rendering quite impossible to work damaged cargo Nos. 3 to 6 hatches inclusive, will have to discharge by means of crane at Manila. Can proceed to Manila bows first. Survey has been held, damage as follows: Whole after part consisting principally of machinery specified in our cable of Jan. 20, machinery casing, boat deck, lifeboats, shelter deck and upper deck together with 4 strakes shell plating from shelter deck sheerstrake downward from frame 14 forward of amidships right aft must be renewed. Commencing discharge of cargo 630 tons, not 500 tons as before reported, destined for Iloilo, Jan. 28.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

**SILVERCYPRESS.**—Iloilo, Feb. 6.—  
Motor vessel Silvercypress leaves to-day Manila, proceeding in tow of three tugs; certificate of seaworthiness obtained.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

**SILVERCYPRESS.**—Manila, Feb. 10.—  
Motor vessel Silvercypress arrived to-day, discharge commences to-morrow.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

**SILVERCYPRESS.**—Manila, Apr. 6.—  
Motor vessel Silvercypress drydocked on Monday (Apr. 5) when vessel raised to about 10 ft. draught. Diver reports keel line buckled up aft about 31 in. above keel blocks to zero midships. Ship floats on Tuesday, meanwhile completing specifications view obtaining tenders.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

**SILVERCYPRESS.**—Manila, June 3.—  
Motor vessel Silvercypress: Authorities order removal from Olongapo before June 10. Will tow Manila Harbour next week.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association. (Note.—Silvercypress had fire and put back to Manila on Feb. 10.)

**SILVERCYPRESS.**—Manila, June 10.—  
Motor vessel Silvercypress has arrived at Manila.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

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