

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

22 FEB 1937

WRECK BOX

No. 128

9249

No. 7777 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 1134

Date of writing this report 15th March 1937

Vessel's Name Steel S.S. "Kakariki"

Built at Selby When 1926 - 6

Casualty notice sent to Owner

Owner's Name Union S.S. Co. of New Zealand Ltd.

Address 36, Custom House Quay (P.O. Box 1521), Wellington.

Case previously before

Date

Classing Committee.

Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

+100 A1

H. 36

SS Mel No 2-34

+LMC 4.34

BS 5.36

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

KAKARIKI. Melbourne, Jan. 29.—When the inter-State cargo steamers Kakariki and CARADALE collided in Port Phillip Bay, off Williamstown, at midnight to-night, the Kakariki sank with the loss of six lives. The CARADALE rescued sixteen of the crew of the Kakariki.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

KAKARIKI. Melbourne, Jan. 30.—British steamers Kakariki, Tasmania for Melbourne, and CARADALE, Melbourne for Sydney, have been in collision. Former vessel sank; latter put in badly damaged, holed in forepeak and No. 1 hold which is (are) flooded; will discharge cargo and go into dock for repairs. Accident happened near Gellibrand Pile Light, Hobson's Bay, last night. Part of the crew of the Kakariki saved, remainder, five in number, missing.

London, Jan. 30.—The following cable has been received from the owners of the steamer Kakariki: Regret advise Kakariki sunk through collision with steamer CARADALE off Gellibrand Light, Port Phillip, last night. Three seamen, one fireman and assistant cooks missing, evidently drowned. Will advise later prospects of salvage.

KAKARIKI. London, Feb. 3.—The following cable has been received by the Union S.S. Company of New Zealand, London, from head office at Wellington, dated Feb. 3: Steamer Kakariki: Magistrate(s) inquiry opens Melbourne Feb. 4. Every indication impossible salvage vessel but will advise you definitely course next few days.

KAKARIKI. Melbourne, Feb. 2.—According to the local Press, the steamer Kakariki, which sank after collision with the steamer CARADALE last night near Gellibrand Pile Light, was making for Yarraville with a cargo of 700 tons of copper ore, timber and empty beer barrels from Strahan, Tasmania. The Kakariki is lying in about 36 ft. of water, a portion of her funnel, bridge and mast being above water. The light-keeper at the Gellibrand Pile Light states that heavy seas buffeted the wreck of the Kakariki last night, and the portion of the vessel above the water level appeared to be breaking up, and he could see wreckage and cargo drifting towards the shore at Middle Park. One large floating object was probably the bridge. Divers and the police have recovered the bodies of three out of the five men drowned when the Kakariki sank.

The principal nautical surveyor of the Commonwealth marine branch said yesterday that the Kakariki was lying in the fairway and was a potential danger to shipping. Her position is marked by a wreck buoy. If an attempt is not made to raise the Kakariki the wreck will be blown up to clear the fairway. The CARADALE'S plates were extensively damaged. Temporary repairs were completed in dry dock yesterday and the vessel will be floated out this morning. She will discharge her cargo to-day and will return to dry dock tomorrow for complete repairs. It is expected that she will be detained here for some days.

Date of Casualty 29th January 1937

Précis of particulars of Casualty

This vessel was reported to have sunk after collision with the s/s "Caradale" in Port Phillip Bay off Williamstown, on the 29th January.

She was stated to lying in about 36 ft. of water, with a portion of her funnel, bridge mast above water.

Heavy seas buffeted the wreck & the portion of vessel above water level appeared to be breaking up. Wreckage & cargo was observed to be drifting towards the shore at Middle Park.

The Melbourne Surveyors stated, in a letter dated 8th February that it was anticipated she would be a total loss.

The vessel is now reported as totally lost on Melbourne Rtn to for the quarter ending March 1937.

Suggested Record

Sunk after collision 1.37

Date of Committee

TUE 16 MAR 1937

Committee's Minute

Sunk after collision 1.37