

# REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c. 9136

No. 36460 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 24/36

Date of writing this report 6th April 1936

Vessel's Name *Steel S.S. "Wexfordian"* of *Wexford* Tons (Net) 352 1/2 (Gross) 809

Built at *Paisley* When 1912 - 12 Casualty notice sent to Owner 30/3/36 Owner's reply 1/4/36

Owner's Name *Wexford Steamships Co. Ltd. (J.J. Stafford, Mgr.)*

Address *Paul Quay, Wexford.*

Case previously before  
Classing Committee.

Date  
Last Minute

## Particulars of Classification.

+100A1 8.35  
SS (W) No 3-11.24  
SS (W) No 2-33  
+LMC  
MS 3.33  
BS 12.34

Date of Casualty 29th February 1936

Précis of particulars of Casualty

*This vessel was reported to have run ashore on Wexford Harbour Bar, on the 29th February, 1936, & was being pounded by mountainous seas.*

*Salvage operations were later undertaken but all efforts to refloat her failed.*

*The Liverpool & Glasgow Salvage Association's Officer reported on the 16th March that the vessel showed serious signs of straining; there was an imminent danger of her breaking amidships; he considered salvage to be impracticable, & apart from this, the cost of repairs would exceed her sound value.*

*In reply to a casualty notice, the Owners stated they tendered notice of abandonment to the Underwriters on the 10th March.*

*In reply to inquiry at Lloyd's per telephone today (6th April) it was stated that the vessel had been accepted by the Underwriters as a total loss & all claims settled.*

## SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

**WEXFORDIAN.**—Wexford, Feb. 29.—Steamer Wexfordian, Ayr for Wexford, cargo coal, after discharging part cargo at Rosslare, grounded south Wexford Bar, when proceeding to Wexford; expect will have to lighten before refloating.—Lloyd's Agent.

London, Feb. 29.—During a fierce north-easterly gale this morning steamer Wexfordian ran ashore on Wexford Harbour Bar with mountainous seas smashing over her. The Rosslare lifeboat reached the vessel. The gale was then worse. The Wexfordian left Rosslare about 8 o'clock this morning. Her position is about seven miles NE. of Rosslare Pier. She carries a crew of 13.

Early this evening the lifeboat returned to Rosslare Harbour and reported that the Wexfordian was in no immediate danger. The lifeboat crew put fresh supplies of provisions on board the Wexfordian. Later to-night the lifeboat put out again, with the intention of standing by the Wexfordian all night if necessary.

London, Mar. 1.—After 14 hours in a howling gale standing by the steamer Wexfordian, Rosslare Harbour motor lifeboat returned to her base early to-day. Later the crew took the lifeboat out again. Coxswain Wickham stated that there was no change in the position of the steamer and that she was being pounded heavily by the seas. Captain McGrath and his crew of 13 were still standing by their vessel. An effort to refloat her last night proved unsuccessful and another attempt will be made to-day. The north-easterly gale continued during the night.

**WEXFORDIAN.**—London, Mar. 2.—Steamer Wexfordian which stranded on a sandbank off the Wexford coast in a gale was still aground to-day. The crew of 14 are still on board, and despite a heavy sea they are at present in no danger.

**WEXFORDIAN.**—Rosslare Harbour, Mar. 2.—Steamer Wexfordian, ashore on Wexford Bar, seven miles north-east of Rosslare Lighthouse: Owing to the mountainous seas it has been impossible to approach the steamer and put a salvage crew on board. She is taking in no water, and a full head of steam is being maintained. Her stern is raised on the sandbank, so that at low tide her propeller is out of the water. She is somewhat sheltered from the tremendous breakers by a partially submerged sandbank outside her, and she is not now pounding. Anchors and salvage gear have arrived at Rosslare Harbour, and are being held in readiness to take to the stranded steamer the moment the storm abates.—"The Irish Times."

**WEXFORDIAN.**—Rosslare Harbour, Mar. 3.—With a moderation in the gale to-day, the Rosslare Harbour motor vessel Tern, laden with miscellaneous salvage equipment and a supply of fresh provisions, put out early this morning

to the assistance of the steamer Wexfordian. Despite a heavy swell, the Tern succeeded in getting alongside the steamer and the jettisoning of the vessel's coal cargo to lighten her was begun at high tide. Between 2 and 3 o'clock the vessel's propeller was seen to be revolving, but the vessel did not come off. If the weather holds, however, there is every hope that she will refloat, especially with the approach of the spring tides. The steamer is in an exposed position.—"The Irish Times."

Suggested Record *Wrecked 2.36.*

Date of Committee

TUE. 7 APR 1936

Committee's Minute

*wrecked 2.36*

**WEXFORDIAN.**—Rosslare, Mar. 4.—In an effort to save the vessel, a salvage crew are shovelling coal overboard from the steamer Wexfordian. Last night emergency workers were put on board and they worked all night.—“The Irish Times” Correspondent.

7/3/36

**WEXFORDIAN.**—Rosslare, Mar. 5.—This evening an unsuccessful attempt was made to refloat the steamer Wexfordian. To-day a fresh salvage crew went out from Rosslare Harbour and the shovelling overboard of the coal cargo continues unceasingly. A strong westerly wind made conditions dangerous. Captain McGrath and his thirteen men are still on board the vessel.—“The Irish Times” Correspondent.

9/3

**WEXFORDIAN.**—Rosslare, Mar. 6.—Attempts to refloat the steamer Wexfordian to-day were unsuccessful. The vessel moved about 15 ft. nearer to deeper water. Hopes of refloating her at high tide to-morrow are considered bright if the weather holds. Salvage work continued to-day.—“The Irish Times” Correspondent.

10/3

**WEXFORDIAN.**—London, Mar. 14.—In reply to inquiry with reference to the steamer Wexfordian, Lloyd's Agent at Wexford writes, under date of Mar. 13: At present, on high tides, the vessel is shifting round forward and is only held aft. From what I hear and believe, it would be easy to save the vessel during the next spring tides on Mar. 24, the tides then being good and at their highest, provided nothing unforeseen or extraordinary happens in the meantime.

16/3

**WEXFORDIAN.**—Wexford, Mar. 12.—The master of the British steamer Wexfordian reports: From Feb. 29 to Mar. 8 efforts were made at every tide to refloat the vessel. Her hull had been badly strained and she was making water in the hold and stokehold. The bottom had also been badly set up. On Mar. 8 both boilers failed and steam went off the engines. On the following evening Commander Kay, for the underwriters, came on board. After consulting with him we were both of the opinion that nothing further could be done and also mutually agreed that the steamer was liable to break in two at any moment. Accordingly at 7 p.m. on Mar. 9 the vessel was abandoned. During the operations approximately 270 tons of cargo was jettisoned.

14/3

—Liverpool, Mar. 16.—**Steamer Wexfordian:** The Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association state that their officer, who has returned from this case, reports the vessel was athwart the tide, which caused scour about her ends, leaving her bearing heavily amidships. She showed serious signs of strain, and the ballast tank was flooded, and there was three feet of water in the stokehold while the ballast line had been fractured. The crowns of all furnaces had collapsed, leaving the vessel without power for winches or pumps, and it is impossible to transfer portable boilers to supply steam for heaving owing to the shallowness of the water in her vicinity. For the same reason it is impracticable for a suitable tug to approach, and in any case tug would be unable to manoeuvre owing to the cross tidal currents in the very narrow navigable channel. He therefore considers salvage impracticable, and there is an imminent danger vessel will break amidships. Apart from this, the cost of repairs would exceed her sound value.



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Foundation

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Character Assigned