L. G. 13.1.37

RETAIN

**JOHANNA THORDEN.**—Kirkwall, Jan. 12.—Finnish steamer Johanna Thorden (? Finnish motor vessel Johanna Thorden) struck Pentland Skerries this morning. Ship's lifeboat landed South Ronaldsay with seven crew alive, two dead, reports others drowned and lifeboat with 25 persons missing. Longhope lifeboat searching coast for them.

——— Wick Wireless Station, Jan. 12.—Following received from British trawler Berkshire, GYSN, at 3 40 p.m., G.M.T.: British trawler Alsey was 65 miles S. of Duncansby at 1 p.m., now going through Pentland Firth, should be in position in about five hours.

Following received from Icelandic trawler Max Pemberton:—

At 4 4 p.m., G.M.T.: Ships scrutinise Pentland Firth, both south and north sides, met a lot of small wreck pieces but saw no boat.

At 4 21 p.m., G.M.T.; Steamer Bruarfoss received your broadcast and keeping lookout. Position of Bruarfoss off Duncansby Head.

Following received from Pentland Skerries lighthouse at 4 15 p.m., G.M.T.: Have looked all round and can see absolutely no trace of anything here. Only wreckage here is a ship's hatch about 10 ft. long washed ashore at high tide. Visibility five miles and keeping sharp look out for ship's boats but I hope not because there is a very heavy sea running on Skerries Reef.

Following received from Coastguard, Wick, at 5 25 p.m., G.M.T.: Following received from Coastguard, Kirkwall: Motor vessel Johanna Thorden, of Brando, Helsinki, Finland: Time of casualty between 4 and 5 a.m. Number of crew was 32 men, two women and two children. Thirteen got away in one boat but five drowned, the other eight picked up at east side of South Ronaldsay. Twenty-two men, two women and two children left ship in another boat and have not been seen or heard of since. Longhope lifeboat still searching. Search parties from Brough Ness and Durness are still searching vicinity.

Following received from Icelandic trawler Max Pemberton at 5 34 p.m., G.M.T.: Now at south end of Pentland Firth have been both east and west sides and seen no boats. Now leaving bound Grimsby; bad weather.

——— Longhope, Orkney, Jan. 12.—Longhope lifeboat located wreck on Tarf of Swona of Finnish motor vessel Johanna Thorden. Passed a large quantity of wreckage, found none of crew. One boat believed missing. Wreck submerged.

——— London, Jan. 12.—More than 20 persons are missing following the grounding to-day of the Finnish motor vessel Johanna Thorden, 3223 tons gross, which went ashore on the Little Skerry in the Pentland Firth between the North of Scotland and the Orkneys. Four bodies have been washed up on the shore at Ronaldsay. News of the disaster was received during the afternoon by coastguards at Wick. The vessel struck the Lowther Reef near the Pentland Skerries at 4 30 a.m. A southerly gale was blowing and the seas were high, and when the ship struck she broke in two and sank. The master sent off 22 men, two women and two children in one of the lifeboats and later he, along with the remaining 13 members of the crew, abandoned the ship as the after part of the vessel was sinking. It was shortly after eleven o'clock to-day that the lifeboat which the master was in was washed up on the shore on the east side of South Ronaldsay. The master had been drowned. Eight members of the crew of his lifeboat swam ashore. Longhope lifeboat searched for the other boat all day, but it was thought impossible for her to survive such heavy seas. In the master's boat were the second, third and fourth engineers, the wireless operator, and a number of seamen. The vessel's wireless was wrecked by the storm and she could not send out an S O S. The Johanna Thorden was returning from New York and had a crew of 38. Longhope lifeboat returned to its base, but was putting out again to continue the search for the missing boat.

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