

29.6.38.

"MARYAD".

The following is an extract from Captain Hocken's general reports dated the 28th. instant on his recent visit to Spain:-

In compliance with the instructions contained in your letter of the 3th. instant I left London on the 13th. inst. p.m. to inspect various damaged vessels for the purpose of surveying the damage any making any beneficial arrangements for the removal of the vessels if practicable, any such arrangements to be made with Contractors and signed by the Master or Owners' representative of the respective vessel.

I reached Alicante on the 19th. instant and found the "MARYAD" was lying at the entrance to the Harbour and was apparently aground aft, the wind being slightly on the port bow. She was still on fire aft, and from the appearance of the smoke, which was thick and black, it was reasonable to assume it came from the fuel oil bunkers.

The midship or bridge section of the vessel was completely demolished, and the side plating of the vessel from the bridge to the after and where the fire was raging was badly burned and buckled. The vessel is loaded with Petroleum, and fumes can be seen rising from the forward tanks. Needless to say, if the wind should change and the vessel is unable to swing to the wind, the sparks from the fire will ignite the fumes resulting in an explosion which will destroy the vessel. If the fire subsides, it will be quite possible to beach the vessel for the purpose of saving the cargo, providing facilities are available for its reception, but judging from the nature of the visible damage and the fact she has been burning for many days, there is every indication that the vessel will be a constructive total loss.

Before leaving Alicante, I was able to interview the acting British Consul at his home some 7 miles outside Alicante, where I also met the Lloyd's Agent, and discussed the general situation. I explained to the Consul that in my opinion the vessels were not a practical salvage job at the present time, but they were all worthy of salvage. I presented a letter of introduction to Lloyd's Agent, and as he spoke very little English the conversation had to be interpreted by the Consul.



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