

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

Wreck Book, p. 145/29
Name Steel P.P. "Baltabor" of London
Copenhagen When 1911 Casualty notice sent to Owner 7. 2. 30 Owner's reply 10. 2. 30
Name United Baltic Corporation Ltd
Address 158 Fenchurch St. London, E.C. 3

Date 26th. December, 1929.
Particulars of Casualty
This steamer went ashore south of Nargen Island on the 26th. December, 1929; all compartments full sea level, hull reported strained, decks opening up; stern frame broken. She was floated on 28th. January, but filled again and settled in her old position.

In reply to a special casualty letter the Owners state that the Salvage Contractors have definitely decided to postpone further operations until April or May.

31st. March, 1930.

The vessel was floated on the 28th. March, and towed to Tallinn, where she is to be dry docked.

In accordance with standing instructions the case is again submitted to the Committee with a view to the record of "Stranded 12.29" being altered to "Stranded 12.29 - Refloated"

Date of writing this report 12th February 1930

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

BALTABOR. Tallinn, Dec. 26. British steamer Baltabor, London, for Tallinn, ashore south of Nargen Island. Salvage steamer has gone to her assistance.

Tallinn, Dec. 26. British steamer Baltabor ashore in a bad position on the southwest shore of Nargen Island on stony bottom. Blowing hard with heavy sea from south, ship bumping heavily and leaking in engine space. Salvage steamer at stranding place, contract made to save vessel on the conditions of Lloyd's Form of Salvage Agreement. Salvage operations cannot be commenced until weather moderates. Cargo consists of 60 tons general goods.

BALTABOR. London, Dec. 27. The following cable has been received from the Baltic Salvage Association, dated Tallinn, Dec. 26: Steamer Baltabor grounded early this morning South Point Nargen Island. Rocky bottom, position dangerous, engine room leaking. Salvage steamer Meteor at stranding place, further assistance on way. Lloyd's contract signed.

London, Dec. 27. The following cable dated Dec. 27 has been received from the Tallinn Office of the United Baltic Corporation: Steamer Baltabor; Hold No. 2 sprung a leak during the night. All Riga cargo under water. Salvage operations not yet commenced. Severity of gale renders assistance impossible.

Tallinn, Dec. 27. British steamer Baltabor leaking in No. 2 hold. Two only passengers landed safely.

Tallinn, Dec. 27. British steamer Baltabor. Position of the vessel unchanged. After held flooded in order to prevent bumping. Weather unfavourable.

BALTABOR. Tallinn, Dec. 28. Steamer Baltabor. Stranded broadside on to beach, listed seaward. Weather too rough to do anything, salvage operations cannot be commenced until weather moderates. Thirty tons of Riga cargo in No. 2 hold damaged by sea water. Salvage Officer present. Salvage entirely dependent on the weather. Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR. London, Dec. 30. The following cable has been received by the owners of the steamer Baltabor, dated Dec. 29: Salvage operations on steamer Baltabor commenced last night. Portable pumps erected on board, divers examining bottom, lighter gone out today to take cargo out. Reval (Tallinn) cargo apparently dry.

Tallinn, Dec. 29. Steamer Baltabor. Weather has changed for the better. Salvage operations commenced this morning. Two lighters alongside taking out cargo, salvage pumps fitted, diver at work. Depth of water on shore side 8 ft., seaward 14 ft. Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

London, Dec. 30. A cable received by the United Baltic Corporation, dated Dec. 30, states: All Tallinn cargo discharged into lighter. Lighter arrived Tallinn 5 a.m. today. Particulars damage later. Baltabor driven 70 yards further on to beach. Attempt salvage impossible until diver's survey held which so far impossible owing to bad weather.

Tallinn, Dec. 30. Steamer Baltabor. Weather changed for the worse last night, salvage operations suspended, divers cannot work on account of bad weather. Divers' inspection still outstanding, prospects of floating uncertain before divers' report obtained. Thirty tons of Tallinn cargo discharged into lighters, landed and warehoused. Port boiler able to work, starboard boiler under water. Two motor pumps and one steam pump have been put on board. Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

Record/
Committee

FRI. 14 FEB 1930

e's Minute

Stranded 12.29

dr. 14/2/30

FRI. 1 APR 1930

Alter record of 'Stranded 12.29' to 'Stranded 12.29 - Refloated'

Stranded 12.29 - Refloated
Register
Foundation

W587-0072(2/2)

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BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Dec. 31.—Steamer Baltabor: Wind south preventing salvage operations. Thirty-five bales cotton salvaged without apparent damage.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—London, Jan. 1.—The members of the steamer Baltabor have received the following cable from their Tallinn office, dated Dec. 31: Arrangements made landing Baltabor mail earliest opportunity. Heavy sea, steamer pitching heavily, listed 20 deg. No. 1 hold 4 ft. water.

BALTABOR.—London, Jan. 6.—The members of the steamer Baltabor have received the following cable from Tallinn, dated Jan. 4: Master and crew temporarily abandoned ship. Vessel listed 45 deg., all compartments flooded, all boilers awash. Master and crew aboard ship first chance.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 4.—Steamer Baltabor: Twenty tons of Riga cargo caught in here by salvors, half damaged sea water. Salvage operations suspended owing to S.W. storm. Ship bumped heavily, list increasing. With present state of the weather position more serious. Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 4.—Steamer Baltabor: Listed 35 deg. Boiler and engine-room full of water. Crew landed Nargen.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 5.—Steamer Baltabor: Bad weather continues, not able to visit steamer to-day. Salvors report list increased now 45 deg., much damage to deck houses, all compartments to sea level when crew left.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 6.—Steamer Baltabor: During last night's gale steamer drove over reef and now lies listing east five degrees starboard list, under mile from shore, draught 17 feet forward, after end submerged, poop deck awash. During lull in gale boarded vessel to-day and found extensive damage deck houses, fittings, bridge deck, two boats gone, saloon fittings missing out after doors accommodation, hatches washed away from after hold, fine space No. 2 hold full to sea level, in feet of water No. 1 hold. Salvage reports rudder stern post gone, impossible to examine to-day owing to sea. Position distinctly bad, vessel surrounded by reefs. Salvors uncertain continuing operations, must await weather to enable them try discover passage between reefs, unless found fearless to attempt to float steamer. Considerable movement to-day, after ending deeper. Weather forecast bad, engineers' remainder of crew return England on company's vessel this week. Salvors report only about 20 tons of Riga cargo remains on board, about 20 tons in water here discharging to-morrow.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—London, Jan. 7.—The following cable has been received by the members of the steamer Baltabor from their Tallinn office, dated Jan. 6: Boarded Baltabor this morning, and found Nos. 2 and 3 holds also engine-room stokehold flooded to sea level. Draught 17 ft. forward, submerged aft. Fittings washing over, hull strained, decks opening up, frame broken.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 8.—Steamer Baltabor: Tallinn cargo nearly undamaged except four cases of gramophones, all part cotton bales being surveyed to-day. Riga salvaged cargo all wet except 200 bags of glue. Motor car not saved. Writing report to-day. Disposing of warehouse facilities. All necessary means being recondition damaged goods if commendable after survey.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 8.—Steamer Baltabor: Position unchanged, bad weather continues. Salvors unable to approach steamer. Anxious to recover cargo, two motor pumps submerged engine space, one steam pump forward, estimate 26 tons Riga cargo remains on board, including motor car. Survey Tallinn cargo now proceeding. Slight damage to cases marked "KL" containing gramophones. Riga cargo now discharged in lighter estimated 20 tons all damaged. Now obtaining Customs authority for survey. Hope commence reconditioning to-day. Good facilities here deal with cotton goods also other interests.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 9.—Steamer Baltabor: Steamer Baltabor is leaving Saturday (Jan. 11) for Riga. Think it probable to re-ship all landed Riga cargo to steamer destination, arriving there to-day. Negotiations with Riga consuls and their instructions would be here later. Surveyors do not see additional deterioration by present pitching. Wire urgent approval. Two hundred bags gluepowder, 43 empty keels, 6 cases wines spirits, 12 packages of bars undamaged, J T leather only bales landed damaged.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 10.—Steamer Baltabor: Position unchanged. Salvors having opportunity to resume operations, wind continues. Salvors agree to movement of salvaged cargo, reloading commenced.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 12.—Steamer Baltabor: Whole salvaged Riga cargo shipped by steamer Baltabor for Riga, departed last night.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 13.—Steamer Baltabor: Position unchanged. Salvage steamer unable approach vessel owing to fresh south-west wind.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 14.—Steamer Baltabor: Weather improved. Third salvage steamer with salvage officer on board gone stranding place. Salvage operations commenced.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 15.—Steamer Baltabor: Your Special Officer reports by wireless from stranding place: Channel found through reefs, anchors laid out. Steamer has settled down forward, No. 1 hold full sea level, water on starboard side forward deck. Divers closed after end bridge space, and good pumping trial engine-room and No. 2 hold, no impression made. Unable make divers examination starboard side owing freshening southerly wind choppy sea. Steamer embedded eight feet in sand. Nothing possible until change weather. Daylight to-day strong S.S.W. wind, sea breaking over vessel.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 16.—Steamer Baltabor: Bad weather continues. No prospect useful salvage operations until northerly winds. Pumping trial Tuesday (Jan. 14) proves nothing. Necessary close openings whole upper deck, bulkheads 'tween deck not watertight abaft No. 1. Salvors will continue when opportunity arises. Difficulties necessarily increase. Steamer working deeper in sand making operations more costly. Have dispensed with ship's engineer.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 19.—Steamer Baltabor: Position unchanged, no additional damage from late gale. Salvors made good progress since yesterday, platforms made ready for closing after hatches, divers have closed all other openings upper deck. Freshening south-west wind to-day, work suspended.—Salvage Association's Special Officer and Lloyd's Agent.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 21.—Steamer Baltabor: South-west winds, operations suspended since Saturday (Jan. 19). Prospects change weather to-morrow.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 19.—Steamer Baltabor: The weather improved on the morning of Jan. 17, the wind went into the north and the sea went down rapidly. The gale from N.W. did no further injury to the steamer, the reef astern of her broke the sea. The salvors worked with great energy from 11 a.m. to 4 a.m. the following day then the wind backed again to the S.W. and all operations had to be suspended. The platforms for closing the No. 3 hatch and the entrance to the second-class accommodation had been completed but it was not possible to put them in position. The divers had closed all other openings in the upper deck and around the quarters and another four hours' fine weather would have made the vessel ready for pumping up. She lies so deep in the sand no damage can yet be found apart from the rudder and rudder post which are both gone the former at the coupling belts the latter in the usual place just below the arch, more than half of the propeller is in the sand. A fresh S.S.W. wind is still blowing and at the moment there is no appearance of a change. With a few days of northerly winds I see no reason why the vessel should not be floated unless the bottom damage is exceptionally heavy. The salvors have plenty of pumping power and several divers and good equipment generally and the man in charge is experienced and energetic. He is more hopeful now as she withstood the late gale, the damage she has sustained is great apart from what may be found on the bottom. All the accommodation fore and aft apart from the master's is gone and the two forward holds are insulated which is a big item added to the loss of rudder and stern frame.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 23.—Steamer Baltabor: Unsettled weather, much sea. Salvage operations impracticable.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 26.—Steamer Baltabor: Your special officer reports from stranding place platforms secured, all openings upper deck closed, satisfactory pumping trial to-day. Owing intricate channel absolutely necessary wait calm day. Prospects refloating good.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 27.—Steamer Baltabor: Strong south-west wind, operations suspended.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 29.—Steamer Baltabor: Your Special Officer reports by wireless this morning: Floated last night, thirty degrees starboard list, fresh wind shifted from east south, imprudent attempt move steamer. Forced to withdraw pumps at four o'clock morning; steamer now filling and settling on old bed. Bunker coal Riga cargo lying starboard.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 30.—Steamer Baltabor: Salvors have decided wait settled weather conditions northerly wind before resuming operations. Necessary have sixty hours fine weather enable them raise tighten transport steamer this harbour. Should severe winter conditions intervene, only alternative wait until April.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Jan. 31.—Steamer Baltabor: East wind, severe frost. Contractors expect similar conditions continue. Fear operations cannot be resumed before middle April.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Feb. 1.—Steamer Baltabor: Contractors have definitely decided to postpone further operations until spring. Recovery of cargo impracticable. Severe weather, holds frozen.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Feb. 17.—Steamer Baltabor: The position of the vessel is reported not to have changed since your officer left, the weather after a short period of frost having become mild again and no ice at all having formed in the Gulf of Finland except in its eastern part some 30 miles off Cronstadt to the west, the navigation to Leningrad being kept open all the time by the aid of icebreakers. During the short stormy weather with severe frosts the hull of the Baltabor will more or less have been covered by ice, but this will not materially alter the general position in any way. If only the conditions of the weather will allow it may be presumed that the salvors will not wait until April before resuming their operations, i.e. if the weather remains mild and the bay free of ice as up to the present.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Mar. 13.—Steamer Baltabor: Salvage steamer landed remaining bulk of cargo for Riga, including motor cars, except few packages. General position of the vessel unchanged. Salvage operations cannot be commenced until weather moderates.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Mar. 28.—Steamer Baltabor: Weather favourable for operations. Salvors resumed operations which are progressing favourably. Water in No. 2 hold and after hold under control. Divers at work fore-hold, engine-room. Vessel still listing 25 degrees. If favourable weather continues prospects of floating good.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Mar. 28.—Steamer Baltabor floated, now being towed in.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Mar. 28.—Steamer Baltabor brought in here. Recommend immediate drydocking. Dry dock available.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Apr. 3.—Steamer Baltabor docking to-morrow morning. Vessel upright and tight. Rudder and stern frame gone. Passenger accommodation washed out. Decks and hull above water do not appear deflected or damaged.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Apr. 5.—Steamer Baltabor late drying in dock. Damage serious. All bottom up four to nine inches from forepeak bulkhead to afterpeak bulkhead and from bilge to bilge. Total 83 plates new, seven off and on. Certain all floors, centre girder and intercostals damaged. Going in tanks to-day. Vessel was only floating on tank top. Stern frame broken up on inner lower quarter, boss and stern tube set over to port and all rivets out of boss and for 5 ft. above. Impossible vessel proceed to sea under her own power except very costly temporary repairs. Cleaning mud, sand and draining to complete survey and to be in readiness to make tight for undocking. To make tight to float on bottom means about three belted patches and cementing fore and aft.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, Apr. 30.—Steamer Baltabor: Work going slowly. Expect test bilges early next week, undock latter end.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

BALTABOR.—Tallinn, May 13.—Steamer Baltabor undocked, berthed lay up harbour.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.



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