

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

7828

No. 65967 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 3/29

Date of writing this report 4th February 1929

Vessel's Name *Hiel Twin S.S. "Baltara"* of *London*

Tons { Net 1357 Gross 2379

Built at *Belfast* When *1909*

Casualty notice sent to Owner *21-1-29* Owner's reply

Owner's Name *United Baltic Corp. Ltd.*

Address *158 Fenchurch Street, E.C.3*

Case previously before
Classing Committee.

Date
Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

100A1 55N35-24
with 562 55N1-27
12-28 12-27
110yds 55N12-28

Date of Casualty *11th January 1929*

Notes provided 3-28-1929

Précis of particulars of Casualty

This steamer stranded near Schiewenhorst, Gulf of Danzig, on 11th January, and it was subsequently reported that she had broken in two, and had been abandoned as a total loss.

A casualty notice was sent to the Owners on 21st January, but no reply has yet been received.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

BALTARA.—Danzig, Jan. 11. — British steamer Baltara, Libau for Danzig, ashore in the neighbourhood of Hela, but will probably get off without assistance.
Danzig, Jan. 12. — British steamer Baltara still ashore. Salvage agreement arranged on the basis of "no cure no pay". Tug(s) failed to tow vessel off.

2-2-1929

BALTARA.—London, Jan. 12. — The owners of the steamer Baltara have received a message from Danzig as follows: Baltara lying east entrance Weichsel River N.W. 1 1/2 miles from shore, draught forehead 5 ft., aft 10 ft., heavy starboard 25 degrees list, wind northerly, strong. N.W. gale advised by Observatory therefore decided go alongside save passengers and crew. Master considered position great danger, starboard ports all broken and under water. Steamer may break up at any time. Wireless Danzig President of Police owing to immediate danger ship must be left under his guard but ship and cargo to be kept at our disposal, crew to return when safe. All passengers and part crew saved our tug. Master and rest of crew taken by salvage tug, all souls safely landed Danzig.

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Danzig, Jan. 14. — Steamer Baltara ashore Schiewenhorst, 25 degrees starboard list. Tug(s) failed to tow vessel off. Passengers and crew brought ashore yesterday, but bad weather hinders operations. Weather to-day slightly (improvement). Further attempts will be made to get her off as soon as possible. Understand approximately 50 tons cargo on board. Sea pounding steamer, hull-eyes damaged. Lloyd's Agents.

Danzig, Jan. 14. — British steamer Baltara. Blowing a gale, with snowstorm. Ship tilting. In a critical position.

BALTARA.—Danzig, Jan. 14. — Efforts to refloat the steamer Baltara, owned by the United Baltic Corporation, and carrying 43 passengers and a crew of 40, which went ashore last Friday (Jan. 11) about 3000 yards from Schiewenhorst at the mouth of the Vistula, while on her way from Libau to Gdynia, have been unsuccessful owing to the heavy snowstorm which has been raging. The vessel is considered a total loss. Passengers and crew have been brought here. It can be seen quite plainly that the back of the Baltara is broken amidships, and her forepart is completely submerged. — Reuter.

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Danzig, Jan. 14. — Steamer Baltara lies aground sand Schiewenhorst, off mouth Weichsel. Since Friday night weather very bad, gale, snow storm. Efforts made tugs "no cure no pay" unsuccessful. Operations suspended due weather. Steamer pounding heavily and driving, bulgyes (bilges) broken, making water, position critical, last reported 25 deg. starboard list, now shifted port list. Inspection tug sent this morning not yet returned. Master and crew brought ashore Sunday (Jan. 13.) Suction dredgers if needed possibly available. Will telegraph after return inspection tug. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

Danzig, Jan. 14. — Steamer Baltara: Inspection tug returned, reports position appears hopeless. Large crack visible neighbourhood engine-room, water washing over fore and aft, very strong wind N.N.W. Salvage Association.

London, Jan. 15. — The owners of the steamer Baltara have received the following cable from Danzig: Baltara appears to be breaking up, position apparently hopeless. Still blowing north-west gale with tremendous seas.

Record

Wrecked 1-29

Date of Committee

TUE 5 FEB 1929

Committee's Minute

Wrecked 1-29
in 1929



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Lloyd's Register
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BALTARA.—Warsaw, Jan. 15.—Steamer Baltara, which went ashore at the mouth of the Vistula, yesterday broke in two. The ship had been abandoned as a total loss.—Reuter.

Danzig, Jan. 15.—Steamer Baltara: Weather still very bad. Extended fracture, showing distinct signs breaking up.—Salvage Association.

BALTARA.—Danzig, Jan. 16.—Steamer Baltara: Consider total loss. Parted between engines and boilers approximately 50 ft. separating two portions, 40 deg. list starboard, sunk in sand main deck under water low side. Lloyd's Open Firm signed with Weichsel, who propose endeavour save all possible under same contract. Endeavouring obtain offers for vessel as she lies but prospects poor as vessel sinking in sand.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

BALTARA.—Danzig, Jan. 19.—Steamer Baltara: Operations still suspended owing weather conditions.—Salvage Association.

BALTARA.—Warsaw, Jan. 22.—The Maritime Court of Danzig, which has been considering the cause of the wreck of the British steamer Baltara at the mouth of the Vistula on Jan. 11, found yesterday that the cause of the grounding of the ship was the strong current and the fog prevailing at the time. At the same time the Court considered that the master of the ship was not entirely free from blame in that he did not, in spite of the fog, carry out the necessary soundings. Blame was also ascribed to the builders of the vessel for not having furnished the ship with certain requisite instruments.—Reuter.

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