

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

W 603-0140
95

No. 44036 in R. B. Wreck Book, B. 103/34 Date of writing this report 21st January 1935 1935

Vessel's Name Steel S.S. "City of Cambridge" of Glasgow Tons Net 4559
Gross 4658

Built at Belfast When 1921 - 2 Casualty notice sent to Owner 4/1/35 Owner's reply

Owner's Name City Line, Ltd

Address 7th Bathwell Street Glasgow

Case previously before Date
Classing Committee. Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

+100A1
334
filled for oil fuel 221
SP above 750

Date of Casualty 6th October 1934

Briefs of particulars of Casualty

This vessel stranded on a reef at Pratas Island, 180 miles from Hong Kong, on the 6th October, 1934.

She was reported to be lying on the top of the reef, practically high & dry, with only 6ft of water alongside; at low water propellers completely out of water; bottom holed & buckled; frames badly buckled on starboard side.

A salvage tug which arrived at the reef on the 12th left on the 16th October without operating owing to the bad weather conditions.

A salvage outfit left Shanghai for the scene of the wreck on the 4th & arrived on the 19th December.

It was later reported that, as a result of a fight between two gangs of looters, the vessel had been gutted.

Lloyd's Agent at Swatow confirmed, on the 28th December that she had been completely destroyed by fire.

A casualty notice was sent to the Owners on the 4th January, 1935, but no reply was received.

In reply to inquiry the Society's Glasgow office forward a letter received from the Owners replying to the casualty notice in which it is stated that the vessel is a total loss, & has been abandoned to the Underwriters.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.—Hongkong, Oct. 6. Steamship City of Cambridge, United States line, on route via Manila, reported to be ashore and is detained at Pratas Island. Master reports there is possibility of salvage, and moderate. Salvage tug has been sent to reef. Salvage contract 2000 dollars per day, to 10 dollars minimum. Salvage tug is to be in possession of vessel. H.M.S. Suffolk is to be in possession of vessel. Position of vessel is very slow.

Hongkong, Oct. 6. Steamship City of Cambridge, stranded on the Pratas Reef, 180 miles from Hongkong at 3.30 this morning, during a gale. The City of Cambridge is reported to be high and fast on the reef and leaking. Exchange Telegraph London.

London, Oct. 4. The Admiralty has received the following message dispatched by the Commodore, Hongkong, at 9.59 a.m.: "The steamer City of Cambridge, late south of Pratas Reef in daylight, position owing to a typhoon. H.M.S. Suffolk proceeding to assist."

London, Oct. 7. The Admiralty to-day states H.M.S. Suffolk had received a wireless message from H.M.S. Suffolk saying that she had arrived at Pratas Reef and had anchored off the South West Horn. The reef is crescent shaped, and the Suffolk had sent boats to the surface of the reef to ascertain the state of the steamer City of Cambridge.

London, Oct. 7. The Admiralty have received the following messages:

From H.M.S. Suffolk: Am close up to steamer City of Cambridge, which is high on reef in approximate position 127 deg. 19 miles from Pratas Light. Wind by 2.25 moderate gale, sea beating heavily on her starboard side. Weather, blue sky with clouds. The master of the steamer City of Cambridge, says that the vessel is on beach side, but is very short of water. The vessel is very smooth, do not appear to be damaged. All salvage work, report has been received. Will keep in touch with you by wireless. Salvage vessel due here to-day.

From H.M.S. Suffolk: Late 1.7.35. H.M.S. Suffolk, Oct. 7. The vessel is high on reef. The vessel is very short of water. The vessel is very smooth, do not appear to be damaged. All salvage work, report has been received. Will keep in touch with you by wireless. Salvage vessel due here to-day.

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Suggested Record Wrecked 10/34
Date of Committee TUE. 22 JAN 1935

Committee's Minute Wrecked 10/34



W603-0140 1/2

Is a Certificate registered #100, to be used in Lloyd's Register of Shipping and Machinery precisely as in the Register Book.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE. — Hongkong, Oct. 7.—Steamer City of Cambridge: Master reports vessel's bottom on fore and aft, impossible to sound holds owing to heavy sea spraying over. Damage to bottom increasing, condition not so satisfactory. Contract cannot be made on the "no cure no pay" principle. Tug put back through stress of weather last night, now proceeding. Typhoon lat. 19 N., long. 114 E., moving west.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

London, Oct. 8.—The Hongkong Agents of the owners of the steamer City of Cambridge have received the following message from the master, dated noon, Oct. 8: Vessel practically high and dry on top of reef, only 6 ft. water alongside. H.M.S. Suffolk sent two officers yesterday (Oct. 7) to report situation and came near enough to form an opinion of ship. Salvage quite improbable in the circumstances and on advice from the cruiser to take advantage of suitable weather and take off crew we are abandoning ship.

The Owners' Agents also advise that tug is still waiting on account of bad weather, but expects to sail this evening (Oct. 8).

Hongkong, Oct. 8.—Steamer City of Cambridge:—Master reports: Heavy sea; vessel pounding, on even keel practically high and dry, 6 ft. of water alongside. Master states in opinion of officers of H.M.S. Suffolk little prospect of salvage, they recommend crew be taken off while weather favourable. He is abandoning.

Owners' agents have cabled master suggesting do not abandon pending further instructions from owners unless loss of life involved. Soundings had been taken yesterday, holds tight. Have no later information. On account of bad weather tug still here, expects to sail to-night.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

London, Oct. 8.—The owners of the steamer City of Cambridge have received the following from the Admiralty: H.M.S. Suffolk reports six officers, three apprentices and 55 lascars are now on board. The master and five officers and 15 lascars are remaining in the City of Cambridge until orders are received from owners for abandoning ship. Hongkong advises these orders will arrive to-night or tomorrow morning, when it is proposed to get off remainder and return to Hongkong.

The City of Cambridge was proceeding at 12 knots in heavy rain with big typhoon swell on the quarter, and has ridden hard upon the reef. At low tide the propellers are completely cut of water. The bottom is buckled with several large holes. Frames are badly buckled on starboard side, and ship is still being heavily bumped and vibration is heavy, but steam at low pressure is still able to be kept and pumps worked. The engine-room is leaking. Salvage of ship is quite impossible, also salvage of the cargo. Even in calm weather owing to constant swell nothing could approach on sea side. On lagoon side only boats drawing about 2 ft. could work. To-day the crew leaving ship in calm weather had several times to get out and haul boat over coral reef, which is about two miles wide, to reach motor boat.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.—Hongkong, Oct. 9.—The remaining members of the crew of the British steamer City of Cambridge have been rescued and are now on their way here.—Reuter.

Hongkong, Oct. 9.—Steamer City of Cambridge: Further message from H.M.S. Suffolk states will return here to-day. Surveyor Brayfield on board Talkoo tug still detained by bad weather, returning to port to-day. (Later.) In the opinion of Brayfield impossible for salvage party board vessel in prevailing weather. Owners' agent has requested officer of meteorological station, Pratas, to take possession of vessel on behalf of the owners. Will confer with master of City of Cambridge, who is expected to arrive to-morrow.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE. — Hongkong, Oct. 10.—Steamer City of Cambridge: Master reports all double bottom tanks holed, cargo spaces apparently not leaking, but engine-room leaking slightly; vessel on top of reef in 3 ft. of water forward, 12 aft and 9 to 10 amidships each side, head bearing 45 degrees true. Ship's officers of H.M.S. Suffolk consider salvage highly improbable, but Brayfield and Talkoo of opinion, in view of moderation of weather, some possibility of salvaging vessel provided weather holds and bulk cargo jettisoned. They recommend that tug proceed to investigate which have agreed to under existing contract but towage to Hongkong extra if incurred. We have the right to recall tug at any time, and as minimum hire extends until to-morrow afternoon have arranged to dispatch to-morrow morning. Master states Japanese fishermen preparing to board City of Cambridge immediately after departure. Pratas Meteorological Officer has declined to assume charge.—Lloyd's Agent and Owners' Agents per Salvage Association.

9/10/34

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE. — Hongkong, Oct. 15.—Steamer City of Cambridge: Tug arrived at reef p.m. Friday (Oct. 12). Tug to-day reports weather is not favourable, so far has been unable to board wreck, and it is proposed if not successful to-night or early to-morrow morning to return to Hongkong.—Lloyd's Agents and Owners' Agents per Salvage Association.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE. — Hongkong, Oct. 16.—Steamer City of Cambridge: Tug sailed to-day from Pratas but owing to mountainous sea cannot make Hongkong. Proceeding Hainan Island.—Lloyd's Agents and Owners per Salvage Association.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.—Hongkong, Oct. 17.—Captain Reginald E. Teague, the master of the steamer City of Cambridge, which is aground on the Pratas Reef, was to-day exonerated by a Court of Inquiry.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.—Hongkong, Oct. 22.—Steamer City of Cambridge: Surveyor returned yesterday (Oct. 21), reports ship salvage impossible at present on account of prevailing monsoon and prospect of success after change of monsoon very remote. Cargo salvage impossible, although possibly feasible lagoon side if rafts and lighters available and moderate weather, but not available as Pratas waste island. Some looting done by fishermen. Present position of ship higher on reef than on Oct. 9.—Lloyd's Agents and Owners' Agents per Salvage Association.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE. — Hongkong, Dec. 4.—Steamer City of Cambridge: (Salvage) outfit left Shanghai at noon to-day.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.—Hongkong, Dec. 21.—Steamer City of Cambridge: Salvage vessel arrived Swatow Dec. 11, left Dec. 18, delayed by weather, and arrived Pratas Dec. 19. No news yet.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.—Hongkong, Dec. 26.—The company which was awarded the salvage contract for the British cargo steamer City of Cambridge, which ran aground on Pratas Island, reports that the vessel has been gutted by fire and the whole cargo destroyed. It is stated that the fire broke out some days ago as the result of a fight between two gangs of looters. The first gang was driven out of the vessel by Japanese and Chinese fishermen, and set the cargo alight in retaliation. The fact that the bulk of the cargo has been either looted or destroyed by fire is confirmed by the agents.—Reuter.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE. — Hongkong, Dec. 28.—Steamer City of Cambridge: Lloyd's Agents at Swatow telegraph as follows: Master of (salvage vessel) Argonaut confirms complete destruction by fire, possibility of salvage shell nil. Meteorological Station telegraphs as follows: Cannot confirm with certainty, not having boarded, vessel 10 miles away.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Dec. 27.)

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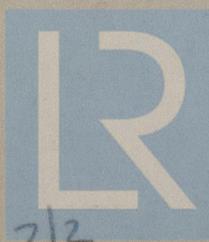
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