

## REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &amp;c.

No. 15600 in R. B.

Wreck Book, p.

106/31

Date of writing this report

16th December

1931

Vessel's Name Steel Quad. S. M. Y. "Bermuda"

of Hamilton, Bermuda

Tons

Net 11381  
Gross 19086

Belfast

When

1931

MONTH

12

Casualty notice sent to Owner

at

12:31

Owner's reply

at

15/12/31

Name Bermuda West Indies S.S. Co. Ltd.

Address

Hamilton, Bermuda.

Date

19th November 1931

Committee.

Last Minute

## Particulars of Classification.

+100RA  
with freeboard  
5/31  
+LMC 11/27  
+LMC (M)/11-29  
+LMC RMC 531

Casualty

Particulars of Casualty

While undergoing repairs at Belfast this vessel caught fire on 19th November, and it was reported that she appeared to have been completely destroyed.

In reply to a casualty notice Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co. to state that the final position has not yet been determined, and they will therefore be glad if the question of expunging her name from the Register Book can be postponed for the present.

20th January 1932

Messrs. Furness Withy & Co. now refer the Society to the Salvage Association, who state, in reply to a telephone enquiry, that they will be glad if the Committee will again defer action for the present as the case is not yet settled. They state, however, that the case has been settled between Furness, Withy & Co. and the Underwriters as a Constructive Writ has, and this is confirmed by Lloyd's, (per enquiry 22-Jan.)

## SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

BERMUDA. Belfast, Nov. 20. The motor vessel Bermuda, undergoing repairs at Workman, Clark & Co.'s shipyard, took fire yesterday at 9.30 p.m. All assistance possible was rendered but the vessel burned all night and is still burning.

Belfast, Nov. 20. Motor vessel Bermuda: Fire broke out at about 9.30 last night and vessel has been ablaze from bridge to after end since 11.30. Fire beyond control and is still burning as I telegraph at three this morning. Salvage Association's Surveyor.

Belfast, Nov. 20. The fire on board the motor vessel Bermuda made very rapid headway and at midnight the entire length of the vessel was ablaze. Nothing could be saved, and the workmen lost their coats and tools. The engine-room was flooded and vessel settled in the mud with a list. It will probably be impossible to rebuild the vessel as the damage is so great; it is estimated at over one million pounds. Three firemen were injured and sent to hospital. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Nov. 20. Fire occurred last night at Belfast in the motor vessel Bermuda, which was damaged by fire at Bermuda last June, and was subsequently taken to Belfast for repairs. The fire broke out at 9.30, and at midnight the vessel was ablaze from stern to stern. Repairs to the Bermuda were almost completed, and she was due to leave early in the New Year. The entire Belfast Brigade was engaged in fighting the fire. At 1 a.m. the Bermuda was burning more fiercely than ever, and a series of explosions hampered the firemen. Nothing is known yet of the origin of the outbreak. At 1.30 a.m. flames were shooting from every part. Lack of water handicapped the firemen. The Authorities thought of pushing the vessel out into the river, but so fierce were the flames and so frequent the explosions that it was found to be impossible. Thousands of workmen helped the firemen, but still the flames gained headway. At 2 a.m. the vessel was gradually heeling over.

Belfast, Nov. 20. Motor vessel Bermuda on bottom in upright position with accommodation, holds and engine-room flooded to about 2 ft. above "E" deck amidships. Fire now under control but still smouldering. Accommodation gutted out. Decks buckled above "E" deck so far as can be seen. Shell sides on both sides vessel aft of No. 2 hold badly buckled above "E" deck. Salvage Association's Surveyor.

London, Nov. 20. Nothing but a blackened and battered hull full of twisted girders and other debris remained this morning of the motor vessel Bermuda. At 5 o'clock this morning the fire continued to burn fiercely, and the ship was heeling over. Nothing of the super-structure remained, the funnels, masts and bridge having fallen in. The outbreak was discovered when the night shift went on duty. Smoke was seen issuing from E deck. The alarm was raised and three hundred workmen were ordered ashore. The Belfast fire brigade was called, but it was found to be impossible to get at the seat of the fire owing to the dense smoke and flames. Firemen experienced difficulty in getting an adequate supply of water, but with the help of hundreds of workmen, worked hard to cope with the outbreak. It was low tide at the time, and several members of brigade waded knee deep in the mud to direct the hoses. There were several explosions caused by acetylene drums bursting, and the explosions were heard in all parts of Belfast. Efforts to sink the vessel were unsuccessful, as it was found impossible to reach the sea-cocks, with an attempt to tow the liner from the wharf had to be abandoned, as, owing to the intensity of the heat, the tugs could not get hawsers on board.

Record

Committee

Committee's Minute

L. J. J.

Sec. 1, 1931

FRI 18 DEC 1931

Damaged by fire 11/31 - Now in port

FRI, 22 JAN 1932

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Damaged by fire 11/31 - Now in port

Lloyd's Register Foundation



11/21/11

Belfast, Nov. 20. — The appearance of the motor vessel Bermuda to-day suggests that she has been completely destroyed. Water was still being pumped into the vessel at noon and no examination can be made to-day. The sea cocks were opened at 11 a.m. and the vessel settled in the mud. All the decks have been destroyed and the explosion of oxygen and acetylene cylinders must have damaged the machinery extensively. The vessel has a list to port and tugs are standing by to-day. A few weeks ago the vessel was hauled across the river from the Alexandra Wharf to the North Yard dolphins and after the fire last month on board the new Nelson liner building at Queen's Island the firm's fire patrol was strengthened by a patrol from the City Fire Brigade, which was on duty last night. So rapid had the progress made by the builders and the sub-contractors been that they were hopeful of giving delivery on Dec. 23, the balance of work remaining being chiefly in the passenger department where the public rooms and state-rooms were approaching completion. All was going normally till 9.30 p.m. when the night shift had just started; some of the men were actually going on board when the alarm was raised. Mr. Wm. McClure, an electrician, stated that he was working late on board to finish a job, when he heard a shout of "Fire." It had broken out in the engineers' quarters off the working passage on E deck, one of the lowest of seven decks. When the firemen arrived they could not get at the seat of the fire owing to the smoke. The fire travelled from E deck aft. — LLOYD'S LIST Correspondent.

28/11

**BERMUDA.**—London, Nov. 20.—At 10.30 this evening the liner Bermuda was still burning. Earlier, members of Belfast Fire Brigade, who had been on duty for 20 hours, returned to their stations; their places were taken by others. The Bermuda is now a hull full of twisted metal.

Belfast, Nov. 20.—Motor vessel Bermuda: The fire was entirely subdued this afternoon, but only a very casual examination could be made to-day, and I regret to advise you that the damage to the shell and steel decks is considerably greater than in the case of the fire at Hamilton, Bermuda.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

Belfast, Nov. 21.—Despite the fact that the sea-cocks were opened on Friday (Nov. 20) and the Bermuda allowed to sink to the river bed at the wharf, small fires continued during Saturday. These were very minor affairs, and were speedily dealt with by the fire brigade. All the engines were withdrawn during the evening and only one section of men left on the alert. At high tide the vessel is well flooded.—LLOYD'S LIST Correspondent.

15/12

**BERMUDA.**—Belfast, Dec. 14.—If all goes well, the motor vessel Bermuda will be drydocked in the Thompson Dock about Friday or Saturday next (Dec. 18-19). Great care has to be taken that the vessel will not capsize or break her back, so that the process of salvage has been somewhat slow. On Saturday (Dec. 12) the engine-room and the various compartments were pumped out one by one, the result being carefully noted in each case. The vessel was then re-flooded and will be raised probably within the next 24 hours. It is not known fully to what extent the hull has been damaged. The machinery can be salvaged, but as to the hull, it is taken for granted that it will be broken up.—LLOYD'S LIST Correspondent.

21/12

**BERMUDA.**—Belfast, Dec. 30.—Motor vessel Bermuda was successfully docked in Thompson Graving Dock, Belfast, this afternoon. The tugs Stronghold, John Coulson and Audacious carried out the operation of handling the vessel across the river, and everything passed off successfully. Divers of Liverpool Salvage Association and Belfast Harbour staff went down before the dock was pumped clear.—LLOYD'S LIST Correspondent.

4/1/11

**BERMUDA.**—Belfast, Dec. 31.—Surveyors with representatives of the various interests concerned made an inspection of the hull and machinery of the motor vessel Bermuda, in the Thompson Graving Dock to-day. The result of the inspection has not been disclosed, and no information is available as to whether or not the vessel will be declared a total loss or will be declared capable of being repaired. The hull damage is such that it is doubtful whether the vessel could be repaired, but the machinery damage is largely caused by water, and not by fire.—LLOYD'S LIST Correspondent.



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