

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 71362 in R. B.

Wreck Book, p. 132/52

Date of writing this report

28th December

1922

Vessel's Name

Steel S.S. "Rio Preto"

of London

Built at

W. Hartlepool

When

1901

YEAR.

MONTH.

Casualty notice sent to Owner

21.12.22

Owner's reply

22.12.22

Owner's Name

Samuel Lewis

Address

Rohesay Chambers, Cardiff Docks

Case previously before

Date

Particulars of Classification.

Classing Committee.

Last Minute

HVOB 11.14
SMA 19
SMA 19
4.21 4.24 22

Date of Casualty

18th December 1922

Précis of particulars of Casualty

This vessel went ashore off Pointe de St. Quentin on 18th December. On 20th Dec. extensive bottom damaged was reported; machinery, stokehold spaces structure badly set up and slight buckling shell plating amidships, also bridge deck plating fractured entire breadth of vessel in way stokehold, and main deck buckled slightly in way No. 3 hold. Engine room and stokehold bulkheads badly buckled. Contract made 'no cure no pay'. On 22nd December it was stated that vessel was broken in way of No. 3 hold, and would probably separate next high water.

In reply to a special casualty letter the Owner states that the position is getting worse, and the Captain has wired that the vessel has broken on port side from top to bottom, and on starboard side from top through one strake below sheer strake.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

RIO PRETO.—North Foreland Wireless Station, Dec. 18.—Following intercepted from steamer Rio Preto at 4 12 a.m.:—British steamer Rio Preto ashore off Pointe de St. Quentin; send assistance immediately; approximate position lat. 50 18 N., long. 1 31 E.—Jones, master.

North Foreland Wireless Station, Dec. 18.—Following from steamer Rio Preto to Boulogne Radio at 5 5 a.m.: Require assistance, steamer badly ashore; 9 ft. water alongside at low water and buckling badly.—Jones, master.

North Foreland Wireless Station, Dec. 18.—Following from steamer Rio Preto to Boulogne Radio at 5 44 a.m.: We are sending up signal rockets; we are all ready to take to the boats. Tug Zwarte Zee proceeding from Dover to assist. (Later.) Following from steamer Rio Preto to Boulogne Radio at 6 27 a.m.: Captain's opinion tug no use as ship's back already broken and engines totally disabled. Further reports no casualties.

Boulogne, Dec. 18.—British steamer Rio Preto, cargo manganese ore, went ashore to-day six miles northward of St. Valery-sur-Somme; lying on a sandy bottom. Tug has been sent from here. We are proceeding to the spot.—Lloyd's Agents.

RIO PRETO.—Cayeux, Dec. 19.—Steamer Rio Preto, of London, ashore Pointe St. Quentin, five miles N. eight E. of Station.

Boulogne, Dec. 19.—Steamer Rio Preto: Situation unchanged. Vessel 500 metres from shore, heading south, sandy bottom. Master considers insufficient services tugs present. Vessel appears to have suffered little but would have heavy damage engines. Favourable tides until Dec. 21. We have sought probable contractors.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

RIO PRETO.—Boulogne, Dec. 20.—Steamer Rio Preto: Lying upright, sand bottom, head southward, laden six thousand four hundred tons manganese ore. Position exposed from S.W. to N. Extensive bottom damage. Machinery, stokehold spaces structure badly set up and slight buckling shell plating amidships, also bridge deck plating fractured entire breadth of vessel in way stokehold, and main deck buckled slightly in way No. 3 hold. Rudder gone. Engine-room and stokehold bulkheads badly buckled. Leakage in all compartments due started plate landings. Arranging contract "no cure no pay." Work commences to-day. Propose jettison cargo lighten vessel. No suitable tide for 15 days. Consider reasonable prospects salvage, weather chief factor.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

RIO PRETO.—Boulogne, Dec. 21.—Steamer Rio Preto: Heavy seas swept over steamer last night tide, causing extensive damage bridge deck superstructure, starboard bulkheads stove inboard, hatch covers washed away, holds filled; fracture across bridge deck opened out, but condition hull appears unchanged. Present weather conditions seriously interfere operations. Steamer unapproachable except dead low water.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

RIO PRETO.—Boulogne, Dec. 21.—Steamer Rio Preto: Weakness developing in way No. 3 hold where deck fractured across vessel and shell fractured fourth strake below sheer. Sea continues heavy.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

Boulogne, Dec. 22.—Steamer Rio Preto: Vessel now broken in way No. 3 hold, sections will probably separate next high water. Advisable arrange stripping contract promptly in view weather conditions. North-west gale prevails.—Salvage Association's Special Officer.

Suggested Record

Date of Committee

FRI. 29 DEC. 1922

Committee's Minute

Stranded 12.22

to 29.12.22



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