

Shipping
Gazette 22.11.10

Copenhagen, Nov. 21, 11 52 a.m.—Danish steamer Boscia reports by letter to owners from Algiers, Nov. 13:—Latitude 44 N, longitude 9 W, on Nov. 7, strong gale, heavy sea, passed a steamer with funnel painted black, white ring, two masts, with a list to port; sank almost immediately. Observed boat, black, painted brown rail, drifting. Crew supposed drowned. Proceeded after searching in vain.

AN OCEAN MYSTERY.

WHERE IS THE ABHONA?

In yesterday's *Shipping Gazette* appeared a telegram from Copenhagen, to the effect that the owners of the Danish steamer Boscia had received from the master of that vessel an ominous message in regard to the loss of a steamer, with, it is feared, all on board. The master of the Boscia says that on Nov. 7, when in 44 N., 9 W., he passed a two-masted steamer, with a list to port which vessel he saw founder. The steamer in distress had a black funnel, with a white ring. A black boat, with a brown sail, was observed drifting. A strong gale and a heavy sea was running at the time. The Boscia proceeded, after making a search in the hope of picking up any survivors.

The receipt of such a message naturally created a good deal of alarm, and the question arose as to the identity of the foundered ship. Inquiries since made give strength to the fear that the lost vessel may be the new liner Abhona, which was launched on the Clyde early in September for the British India Steam Navigation Company. This vessel, which is understood to be capable of steaming 20 knots, was due at Port Said several days ago. The Abhona arrived at Plymouth from the Clyde on the evening of Nov. 4, and she left next day for Rangoon. It will thus be seen that quite possibly she could have been in the position named on Nov. 7. The funnels of British India steamers are painted black with two shallow white rings, so that, though the known facts do not as yet justify the assertion that the Abhona has gone to the bottom, there is unfortunately reason for grave anxiety.

So far as can be gathered, the Abhona carried no passengers. She carried a crew of 90, of whom only 13 are believed to be whites. She sailed under the command of Captain T. B. Tilling, a well-known British India shipmaster. In all the circumstances any news of the Abhona will be most anxiously awaited. A twin-screw vessel, she is one of a number of steamers of varying type ordered for her owners' Indian coastal service. She is 403 feet in length, 50 feet in breadth, and 33 feet in depth. The propelling machinery consists of two sets of quadruple-expansion engines, with two double-ended and four single-ended boilers.

On inquiry at the offices of the British India Company this afternoon it was stated that no news respecting the Abhona had been received.

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THE OVERDUE ABHONA.

On inquiry at the offices of the British India Steam Navigation Company this afternoon it was learned that no information is to hand concerning the new steamship Abhona. She is now considerably overdue at Port Said, and there seems reason to believe that she has met with disaster in its worst form.

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