

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 76517 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 79/40

Date of writing this report 19

Vessel's Name *S.S. Haxby*of *West Hartlepool*Tons { Gross 5207
Net 3222Built at *West Hartlepool* When 1929 5

MONTH

Casualty notice sent to Owner

Owner's reply

Owner's Name *Ropner Shipping Co. Ltd.*Address *Mercantile Chambers, Mainforth Terrace, West Hartlepool.*Case previously before
Classing Committee.Date
Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

+100 A.I. *RLMC 8.37*

1,40

B.S. 9.39.

S.S. Bkn. N° 237 T.S. 7.39 CL

Date of Casualty *Thursday June Quarter (Wk ending 14/4/40).*

Précis of particulars of Casualty *Left the Clyde on the 8th April for U.S.A., and as she had not been heard of since, closing entries were made at Lloyd's on the 28th ult.*

Since then it has transpired that this vessel had been sunk by an enemy raider and her crew was rescued when the motor ship "TROPIC SEA" was intercepted by a British Warship on the 3rd inst.

Now included in the Admiralty total for the week ended 14th April, 1940.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

CL 5/6, 4/7, 10/7, 29/8,
5/9 and 7/9

RAIDER'S PRIZE SHIP SCUTTLED

Stopped by British
Submarine

CREW OF "HAXBY" RESCUED

R.A.F. Pick up Norwegians

The Admiralty issued the following communique last evening:—

A British submarine has rescued the captain and crew of a British merchant ship who were being taken under guard to Germany for internment. H.M. submarine *Truant* (Lieut.-Commander H. A. V. Haggard, R.N.) was on patrol off Cape Finisterre when a strange ship was sighted. The submarine came to the surface and closed to investigate, ordering the ship to stop. The ship proved to be the 5781-ton Norwegian ship *Tropic Sea*. This ship had been captured by an enemy raider some time previously. After having been kept in company with the raider for some days, she was being sailed for Germany with a German prize crew in charge. She had on board the captain and crew of 23 of the British steamship *Haxby* (5207 tons), which had been sunk by the enemy raider, her own Norwegian crew, and had a cargo of wheat.

When H.M.S. *Truant* ordered the *Tropic Sea* to stop, the ship was scuttled by the German prize crew by means of explosive charges which were kept ready in position. The German prize crew and the British and Norwegian prisoners took to the boats. H.M.S. *Truant* took on board the 24 British seamen and the Norwegian captain of the *Tropic Sea* and his wife. Being unable to accommodate any more survivors, the submarine left the remainder of the Norwegian crew and the German prize crew in the boats. These were not then overcrowded and the sea was a flat calm. H.M.S. *Truant*, moreover, reported that the men were being left in boats. Flying boats of the Royal Air Force were accordingly sent to rescue those left in the boats, and have brought one boatload of Norwegians to England. Having regard to the weather conditions, it is probable that the other boats have reached land.

The British steamer *Haxby* was a vessel of 5207 tons gross, owned by Sir R. Ropner & Co., Ltd. She was built in 1929. The *Tropic Sea*, owned by Mr. A. Ostberg, of Oslo, was a motorship of 5781 tons gross, built in 1920.

THE LOSS OF THE "HAXBY"

From Our Own Correspondent

SUNDERLAND, Saturday. The master of the steamer *Haxby*, which was sunk in the Atlantic by a German raider, and the crew of which was rescued from a German prize ship by the British submarine *Truant*, is a Sunderland man, Captain Cornelius Arundell, aged 49. His wife and family had heard nothing of him since the vessel left a British port on Apr. 6. The *Haxby* had been missing since Apr. 17. Mrs. Arundell refused to give up hope, even though the Board of Trade advised here to take out death certificates. She felt certain her husband was still alive, and she kept their silver wedding anniversary in June. Captain Arundell's son tuned in to the news broadcast just in time to hear that the *Haxby's* crew had been rescued.

Suggested Record ☒

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

OMITTED FROM R.B.

TUE. 24 SEP 1940

OMITTED FROM R.B.