

WRECK SECTION

502

10471

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 76798 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 178/40 Date of writing this report 19

Vessel's Name S.S. Jervis Bay (4 RMC), of London Tons Gross 14164 Net 8547

Built at Barrow When 1922 9 Casualty notice sent to Owner 4 Owner's reply 4

Owner's Name Aberdeen & Commercial Line Ltd (G. Thompson & Co. Ltd, Mgrs),

Address 88, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

CL 14/11/15/11.

Case previously before Classing Committee. Date Last Minute

| Particulars of Classification.   |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| + 100 A1.                        | + LMC              |
| Shelter deck with freeboard 9.39 | + Lloyd's RMC 9.39 |
| S.S. Lon. No. 3-1034             | BS 11.38           |
| SS Lon. No. 1-38                 | MS 3.38            |
|                                  | P 5.37             |
|                                  | T.S. 3.39          |
|                                  | CL                 |

Fitted for oil fuel 9.22 FP above 150°F.

Date of Casualty 5th November, 1940.

Précis of particulars of Casualty When protecting a convoy this vessel

was sunk by a raider in the Atlantic on the 5th November, 1940.

MM Box 985

CAPT. FEGEN'S GALLANT ACTION

LL 18/11

Posthumous Award of V.C.

Captain E. S. Fegen, R.N., of the *Jervis Bay*, has been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallant action when the convoy his ship was protecting was attacked by a German warship. The official announcement giving details of the award reads:

"The King has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Victoria Cross to the late Commander (acting Captain) Edward Stephen Fogarty Fegen, Royal Navy, for valour in challenging hopeless odds and giving his life to save the many ships it was his duty to protect.

"Captain Fegen, in his Majesty's armed merchant cruiser *Jervis Bay*, was escorting 38 merchantmen on Nov. 5, 1940. On sighting a powerful German warship he at once drew out from the convoy and made straight for the enemy. He brought his ship between the raider and her prey, so that the merchant ships were able to scatter. Outraged, crippled at once, in flames and hit by heavy salvos, for nearly an hour *H.M.S. Jervis Bay* held the enemy's fire. So she went down; but of the 38 merchantmen at least 33 were saved.

ATTACKED CONVOY

Six More Vessels Safe

An Admiralty communique issued on Wednesday night states that six more ships of the convoy which was attacked by an enemy raider on Nov. 5 have reached port safely. With the 24 vessels already named, this makes 30 vessels safe out of the convoy of 38 vessels. The six vessels now reported safe are the *St. Gobain*, *Sturholm*, *Cetus*, *Trefusis*, *Puck* and *Sovac*.

The following additional communique has also been issued by the Admiralty:

Further details have now been received of the gallant action of *H.M.S. Jervis Bay* (Captain E. S. Fegen, R.N.) which enabled such a large proportion of a convoy to escape when attacked by a powerful enemy raider on Nov. 5. As soon as the convoy was attacked by the raider, *H.M.S. Jervis Bay* steered for the enemy, while the merchant ships of the convoy were taking avoiding action under cover of smoke. *H.M.S. Jervis Bay* continued to steer towards the raider, although she was completely outranged by the much heavier armament of the enemy. She thus drew the enemy fire away from the ships in convoy. *H.M.S. Jervis Bay* was heavily hit, very early in the action. Although partly out of control and seriously on fire *H.M.S. Jervis Bay* continued to hold the enemy fire while ships of the convoy were making good their escape. *H.M.S. Jervis Bay* was continually hit by the enemy gunfire for nearly an hour, during which time she was engaging hotly in an attempt to divert the enemy gunfire from the convoy. She subsequently sank about three hours after the enemy was first sighted.

"High tribute to the gallant and determined action of *H.M.S. Jervis Bay* has been paid by the masters of ships in the convoy which have arrived safely in port. Sixty-five survivors of *H.M.S. Jervis Bay* have been landed in Canada. None of these are seriously injured. It is regretted that, having regard to the rapid deterioration of weather conditions, it must be considered unlikely that there are other survivors. The next of kin of casualties are being informed as soon as possible."

SURVIVORS' TRIBUTES

AN EAST CANADIAN PORT.

Thursday "It was the Navy's job and it was done," was the way Pay Sub-Lieutenant John Sargeant, one of the survivors of the *Jervis Bay*, summed up her epic battle in mid-Atlantic with a German pocket-battleship in defence of a convoy. The German raider remained at "extreme range," he declared in an interview, staying outside the range of the *Jervis Bay's* guns. He did not believe that the British ship scored a hit. Stoker George Crowson, another survivor, said of the Swedish ship which rescued them: "By Jove, that Swede was a Godsend." Able-Seaman Henry Land, a London "cabby" in peace time, stated that the *Jervis Bay* was "more or less an inferno fore and aft," and the German fire deadly accurate. -Reuter.

Suggested Record X

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

OMITTED FROM R.B.

TUE. 31 DEC 1940

OMITTED FROM R.B.



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