

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 69867 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 10/40

Date of writing this report 19

Vessel's Name S.S. Twin Is M. S. Arandora Star (RMC) of London

Tons { Gross 15501
Net 9096

Built at Birkenhead When 1927 5 Casualty notice sent to Owner ☒ Owner's reply ☒

Owner's Name Frederick Leyland & Co. Ltd.

Address 51, James Street, Liverpool, 2

Case previously before ☐ Date ☐
Classing Committee. ☐ Last Minute ☐

Particulars of Classification.

+ 100 A. I. with freeboard 3,40	+ LMC 12,38 B.S. 3,40.
52 No 3-12,38	T.S. 11,37 C.L.

Fixed for Oil Fuel 5,27 above
150°F.

Date of Casualty 2nd July 1940

Précis of particulars of Casualty Sunk by submarine off the coast of Ireland on the 2nd July, 1940.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

ARANDORA STAR.—London, July 3.—The German High Command communiqué states: A submarine has torpedoed the steamer Arandora Star.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

SUNK LINER CARRYING ENEMY INTERNEES

Many German and Italian Victims

About 1000 scantily clad survivors of the British liner Arandora Star, 15,501-ton gross, torpedoed by a German submarine when carrying 1500 German and Italian internees to Canada, were landed by a British ship at a Scottish port yesterday. British soldiers were on board acting as guards. The ship went down with many German and Italian victims. There was panic on board, and the rush seriously hampered the getting away of the lifeboats.

Casualties were suffered by members of the crew and the British troops. Two soldiers said that the ship was struck without warning. "We cursed the U-boat, but not so much as did the Germans and Italians, who were almost ferocious in their condemnation of this type of warfare," they said. "Such was the scramble that we had no opportunity of getting into the lifeboats." The soldiers added that the water around was strewn with wreckage and bodies.

The master and several of the ship's officers were standing on the bridge and decks, and several, it is feared, went down with the vessel. A British ship picked up many survivors. Some British soldiers bitterly commented on the conduct of the German prisoners, describing them as "big hulking brutes who tried to sweep aside the Italians and had to be forcibly restrained." Bitter hostility between the Germans and the Italians was apparent both on the liner and on the rescuing ship. Troops were constantly on guard to prevent blows being struck.

No estimate of the total casualties is yet possible, but the Italians, most of whom were traders in this country, appeared to have been the worst sufferers. When a lifeboat capsized a captured German on board summoned assistance from those in the water around it and succeeded in righting the boat. He then set about rescuing those in the water. The owners of the Arandora Star said that a fair proportion of the crew were saved.

MAN WHO SANK THE "ARANDORA STAR"

U-Boat Commander's Previous Exploit in Scapa Flow

The British liner Arandora Star, which was conveying German and Italian internees to Canada when she was sunk with heavy loss of life among the alien passengers, was torpedoed by a U-boat commanded by Kapitänleutnant Prien. It was Kapitänleutnant Prien who, in October last, penetrated Scapa Flow and sank the battleship Royal Oak. This was described by Mr. Churchill (then First Lord of the Admiralty) in the House of Commons on Oct. 17 as "a remarkable exploit of professional skill and daring."

Kapitänleutnant Prien appears in the intervening months to have yielded to the demands of the German High Command that merchant ships are to be sunk regardless of the dictates of International Law or humanity. Thus Kapitänleutnant Prien, in his report on his last cruise, which was broadcast from Zeesen in Hungarian at 17.00, July 7, said: "We got best results from firing at cargo boats." His report goes on to say: "We were returning when we met one more enemy vessel of 15,000 tons. . . . We had the pleasure of assisting at a short display of fireworks, and then old England became poorer by 15,000 tons."

This ship was the Arandora Star, and, by forsaking the practice of attacking military objectives for an attack on an unescorted passenger liner, Kapitänleutnant Prien sent 143 Germans and 470 Italians to their deaths. That so skilful a U-boat commander as Prien has been proved in the past should thus demean himself is but another instance of the growing inhumanity of German officers and men. This has been frequently noticed—with regret, but certainly not with alarm.

HOW "ARANDORA STAR" WAS SIGHTED

Sunderland Flying Boat to Rescue

The British liner Arandora Star, which was torpedoed when carrying 1500 German and Italian internees to Canada, was found sinking by a Sunderland flying boat of the Coastal Command, Royal Air Force. Her position was a considerable distance from the west coast of Scotland and to the north-west of Ireland. The captain of the aircraft saw scattered about on the water 13 lifeboats full of survivors as well as survivors on rafts and others clinging to floating debris. The crew of the Sunderland, circling low, immediately dropped first aid outfits, all the food they had on board, including their emergency rations, and all their cigarettes and tobacco, which they placed in waterproof bags and attached to life-jackets. Having seen the survivors pick these up, the aircraft went in search of assistance, found a destroyer, and guided her to the scene.

The Arandora Star was sighted at 11 a.m., and it was three hours later when the destroyer arrived and began to pick up the survivors. In this work the Sunderland assisted by indicating the position of small groups on rafts and others supporting themselves on wreckage, by dropping smoke flares and firing Very lights to indicate the positions. After an hour of rescue work, the destroyer signalled to the Sunderland: "They are mostly German internees." Another destroyer subsequently came on the scene and by just after 4 p.m. all the survivors had been picked up and the Sunderland went on its way.

Suggested Record ☒

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

OMITTED FROM R.B.

TUE. 3 SEP 1940

OMITTED FROM R.B.