

14120

# REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

WRECK SECTION

No. 610

No. 78344

in R.B.

Wreck Book, p. 87/54

Date of writing this report

2nd September,

19 54.

Name S.S. "SPANKER"

of Newcastle

Tons { Gross 1197  
Net 856

built at Sunderland

When 1936

MONTH. 7

Casualty notice sent to Owner 30.8.54.

Owner's reply 31.8.54.

Owners Granta Steam Shipping Co., Ltd.

Managers Witherington & Everett.

Address Exchange Buildings, Quayside, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

## Classification details

* 100A1	* LMC4,53
5,54	BS5,54
ssNwc.-4,53	
	ts 2,53 CL

of Casualty

8th August, 1954.

ails of Casualty

This ship has become a total loss after stranding across the north mole of Hook of Holland.

The Owners concur.

## SOURCE OF INFORMATION

**SPANKER.** — North Foreland Radio, Aug. 7. — Following received from Scheveningen Radio at 10.30 p.m., G.M.T.: Mayday, at 10.10 p.m., G.M.T., distress from British steamer Spanker (Swansea for Rotterdam) grounded at north pier, Hook of Holland, needs assistance.

North Foreland Radio, Aug. 8. — Following received from Scheveningen Radio at 11.4 p.m., G.M.T., on Aug. 7: Tug and lifeboat are now alongside steamer Spanker, no further assistance needed.

Hook of Holland, Aug. 8. — British steamer Spanker went hard aground in a storm on the north mole here shortly before midnight. A second tug has joined the tug Schelde and the lifeboat which were standing by. The Spanker later reported water in No. 4 hold and engine-room and said she was bumping heavily on the breakwater. Neither the lifeboat nor the tugs could get alongside as she was lying astride the mole. The mole is only a few feet above sea level at high tide, and in the present stormy weather heavy seas are breaking right across the stone structure where the vessel is pounding. — Reuter.

Hook of Holland, Aug. 8. — At daybreak six of the crew of the British steamer Spanker were hauled ashore by line and taken to the Hook of Holland by car. The remaining 12 of the crew, including the master, stayed on board to inspect the damage by daylight. There were no casualties. The Spanker is straddling the end of the breakwater at the harbour entrance. The wind at a dead calm after dawn and the danger that the Spanker would break her back lessened. Salvage men are to examine the hull today and see if she can be refloated. — Reuter.

Hook of Holland, Aug. 8. — Throughout the night the lifeboat Jan Lels and the tug Schelde stood by the steamer Spanker. After daybreak the lifeboat succeeded in taking 16 men on board who were brought to Hook of Holland. — British United Press.

Rotterdam, Aug. 8. — British steamer Spanker went aground on northern breakwater at entrance to the Nieuwe Waterweg on Aug. 7. Crew, with exception of master, taken off.

Hook of Holland, Aug. 8. — There is a hole in steamer Spanker amidships and water in all holds. — Reuter.

Hook of Holland, Aug. 8. — The crew of the steamer Spanker were taken to the Rotterdam Seamen's Home this morning while the master still stayed on board. The men left all their belongings on board. Shipping circles here said it would not be possible to tow the Spanker to a shallow place as the vessel is full of water. The engine-room is flooded to a depth of 3 ft. — Reuter.

**SPANKER.** — Hook of Holland, Aug. 8. — Captain J. Cleugh of the British steamer Spanker stayed on board alone after he had ordered all the rest of his crew of 18 to abandon ship to-day. Port authorities state the chances of pulling the vessel off the pier are slim. The Spanker stranded on the breakwater at about 10.15 p.m., G.M.T., yesterday, after Scheveningen Radio had sent out a navigational warning stating that the light on north pier, Hook of Holland, was extinguished. The first

radio warning was given at 9.25 p.m., G.M.T., a Scheveningen Radio official said to-day. The warning was repeated several times until it was cancelled shortly after 2 a.m., G.M.T., to-day, when the light had been relit. The chief of the Hook of Holland pilot service, together with salvage experts and port officers, went out to the stranded ship to-day. The Spanker was proceeding outwards, in ballast, after unloading a cargo of coal from Swansea in Rotterdam, when the grounding occurred. — Reuter. (See issue of Aug. 9.)

Hook of Holland, Aug. 9. — Captain Cleugh, master of the British steamer Spanker, was still on board the vessel this morning, although salvage experts have given up all hope of saving her. Tide waters rose and fell during the calm night, passing through holes in the ship's bottom, torn when the vessel was swept over the breakwater rocks by heavy waves. Salvage experts believe that the Spanker will sink immediately when towed loose. Efforts will be made to-day to persuade the master to come ashore. — Reuter.

Rotterdam, Aug. 9. — Steamer Spanker still aground and making water, no cargo on board. Prospects of salvage doubtful.

Suggested Record

WRECKED 8,54

Date of Committee

TUESDAY - 7 SEP 1954

Committee's Minute

Wrecked 8,54



**SPANKER.**—Hook of Holland, Aug. 9.  
The master of steamer Spanker, Capt. J. Cleugh, left the vessel to-night following weather reports predicting strong winds.—British United Press. (See issue of Aug. 10.)

Rotterdam, Aug. 10. —  
Steamer Spanker is lying hard and fast on rocks off north breakwater, Hook of Holland, heading N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. with eight deg. port list and exposed to weather from S. to N. over W. Shell plating badly buckled on port side in way of centre castle, "mainmast and machinery space and centre castle and mainmast on port side," after deck buckled and fractured, bottom and bilge plating crushed and broken over two-thirds length. Vessel tidal throughout. Wreck arrested by Rijkswaterstat, who instructed Van den Tak to lay out head cables to prevent weather driving vessel into fairway. Consider vessel a total loss. Representative now in attendance. Salvage Association's Surveyor.

LL11/8/54

**SPANKER.**—Hook of Holland, Aug. 11.  
—Salvage work on the wreck of the steamer Spanker will commence on Monday (Aug. 16).—Reuter. (See issue of Aug. 12.)

LL14/8/54

**SPANKER.**—Rotterdam, Aug. 13.—Salvage operations on the wreck of the steamer Spanker will be undertaken by Van den Tak, of Rotterdam. Work will begin on the afterpart. The operations are expected to be completed before the advent of high tides.—"Lloyd Anversois." (See issue of Aug. 14.)

LL18/8/54



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