

WRECK  
SECTION  
No. 6

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Wreck Report No. 14016

# REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 35519 (S) in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 30/54

Date of writing this report 8th April, 19 54

Ship's Name S.S. "LEROS" of Piraeus Tons { Gross 5576 Net 3444

Built at Wallsend When 1918 12 Casualty notice sent to Owner --- Owner's reply ---

Owners Aron Romanos

Managers ---

Address Odos Bouboulinas 5, Piraeus, Greece.

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## SOURCE OF INFORMATION

LEROS.—London, Jan. 4.—The following radio message has been received from the master of the tank steamer Leros (Tape for Karskar) timed 8.14 a.m. Jan. 4: Stranded in River Elbe two miles ESE. of Elbe Light-vessel; still strong gale. Awaiting high water.

Hamburg, Jan. 4.—Greek tank steamer Leros is stated to be aground near Elbe II Light-vessel. Tug proceeded to render assistance, which refused.

S. — Hamburg, Jan. 5. — Tank steamer Leros: Understandings made Lloyd's Form with Bungs Company in evening of Jan. 4. Portion stated to be serious, engine-room and stokehold reported full of water. Part of crew left vessel last night. Cuxhaven lifeboat, master and few still on board. Bungs' salvage inspectors on board examining position. Two tugs in locality. Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Jan. 5.)

Hamburg, Jan. 5. — Tank steamer Leros: Bungs Company now occupied in placing pumping equipment on board and divers searching for source of leak. Wind easterly, light. Tugs Goliath, Mowe and Danzig alongside. Question of lightening vessel still in abeyance. Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

LEROS.—Cuxhaven, Jan. 5. — To-night three vessels are alongside tank steamer Leros, using pumps to drain sea water from the flooded engine-room. Officers of the ships alongside the Leros said that if all went well the engine-room would be emptied by to-morrow and emergency repairs could be started. The master and five of his crew have stayed on board the vessel. Twenty-four members of the crew and their luggage were taken off yesterday by German tugs after the badly list vessel began to crack. The Leros, which is bound for Skelleftea with a cargo of 8000 tons of Russian oil, is under charter to a London firm. To-day, winds continued to ease, and the heavy pounding which began to crack plates yesterday halted. The Leros remains firmly aground on a mudbank. — British United Press. (See issue of Jan. 6.)

Hamburg, Jan. 6. — Tank steamer Leros: Present position is as follows: Salvors have placed three pumps on board and reduced water level in engine-room by about three metres. Understand water rising again with tide. Further measures arranged consist of placing further pumps on board in an endeavour to trace sources of leak, laying out heavy ground tackle, endeavour to raise steam on one boiler and attempt to refloat vessel with all available tugs at high water p.m. on Jan. 7. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

Cuxhaven, Jan. 6. — The master and five of the crew are still on board tank steamer Leros to-day. Assisted by three German rescue vessels standing by, the master and his men are pumping the water out of the cracked hull. At noon to-day the ship was still in a dangerous position, sea water flowing in as fast as it was pumped out. The master told the three German rescue ships which are working the water pumps that he hopes to be able to close the vessel's leaks by to-day this afternoon. — British United Press.

Cuxhaven, Jan. 5. — Tank steamer Leros is aground on Scharhorn in lat. 53° 59' N., long. 8° 23' E. — Hamburger Anzeiger. (See issue of Jan. 7.)

Hamburg, Jan. 7. — Tank steamer Leros: Efforts to refloat on last night's tide with five tugs failed. A further strong tug is now en route to locality for further trial this afternoon. Water in engine-room and stokehold still being fought with five pumps but source of leakage still not definitely established. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

Cuxhaven, Jan. 7. — Seven tugs to-day failed in their attempt to free the Greek tank steamer Leros, and there is a danger that the vessel, which already has cracked plates, may not stand another buffeting. Storm warnings have been posted, and winds have stiffened to 23 to 36 m.p.h. Another attempt to refloat the Leros will be made at the next high tide, 2 a.m. to-morrow. — British United Press.

## Classification details

100A1	LMC7,52
11,53	BS11,53
ssBom.-3,47(Dr.)	
ssTri.-7,52	ts N7,52 CL

Carrying oil fuel in bulk F.P. above 150°F.

Fitted for oil fuel 12,18 F.P. above 150°F.

Date of Casualty 4th January, 1954.

Details of Casualty

This ship stranded in River Elbe off Cuxhaven, was refloated and towed to Hamburg.

Survey revealed extensive damage, and she was sold to be broken up at Blyth where she has now arrived in tow.

Suggested Record DAMAGED BY STRANDING - TO BE BROKEN UP

Date of Committee

FRIDAY - 5 APR 1954

Committee's Minute

Damaged by stranding  
to be broken up



**LEROS.** — Hamburg, Jan. 7. — Tank steamer Leros: Attempted refloating with seven tugs at high water p.m. to-day proved unsuccessful but vessel turned four degrees. Leakages under control and now pumping bilges. Owing to too much swell, salvage craft unable to continue to lie alongside, but pumping operations continue and a further attempt to refloat will be made on morning tide on Friday (Jan. 8), when 2 ft. increase in water depth is forecast owing to northerly wind. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Jan. 8.)

Hamburg, Jan. 8. — Tank steamer Leros: Attempted refloating a.m. tide to-day failed owing to insufficient water as depth had not increased as forecast yesterday. Vessel turned, however, 7 deg. and general position not deteriorated. Tugs now scouring away sand with propellers. Leakages still under control. Endeavouring to empty water from boilers. Towing attempt to be made at every high water; weather good. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

**LEROS.** — Hamburg, Jan. 9. — Tank steamer Leros was refloated at 2.40 a.m. to-day with assistance of seven tugs and is being towed to Cuxhaven. (See issue of Jan. 9.)

Hamburg, Jan. 9. — Tank steamer Leros: Tow at present in vicinity of Elbe III Light-vessel. Understand vessel is making two centimetres of water per hour. Salvors state that owing to main pipelines and boiler armatures being broken vessel is unlikely to proceed to destination in present condition. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

**LEROS.** — Hamburg, Jan. 9. — Tank steamer Leros arrived at Cuxhaven at 1 p.m. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Jan. 11.)

**LEROS.** — Cuxhaven, Jan. 11. — Tank steamer Leros: Preliminary examination shows main shafting up, main steam pipes displaced and broken, stokehold bulkhead buckled, various pipes in engine-room broken, boiler displaced. Main engine unusable without major repair, involving discharge of cargo and drydocking. Vessel now drawing about 2 ft. more than permitted winter draught owing to water in engine-room, tunnel and large tunnel recess. Impossible to say definitely whether vessel can be made seaworthy for towage until water pumped out, engine-room cleaned for examination and pipelines examined, but think may be possible to temporarily repair afloat and to get one boiler and necessary piping in operation. Boiler essential as cargo heating coils necessary for discharge at Swedish ports. Owing to ice conditions in the Gulf of Bothnia, towage may now be difficult or inadvisable. Present advice is that no tank space is available in the River Elbe for storing cargo but exact position being ascertained. Understand that tank steamer Germaine, same owners, is now discharging at Gdansk, but charterers' position not known here. Might be possible to arrange transshipment. Chief engineer of Hamburg Tank Installation attending shortly to advise facilities for discharging or transshipment. Salvors now pumping water out of vessel and do not propose to recommend any action or repair until position better appreciated. — Lloyd's Agents and Salvage Association's Surveyor. (See issue of Jan. 12.)

**LEROS.** — Cuxhaven, Jan. 12. — Tank steamer Leros: Salvage tugs released vessel to-day. Engineer of Hamburg Tank Installation considers no difficulty in transshipping or discharging with shore steam to ship's pumps and heating coils. If cargo lines broken can supply independent pump to pump direct from tanks, and portable coils if own coils damaged. Vessel now leaking in No. 1 double bottom tank. No immediate importance but may raise difficulties in obtaining seaworthy certificate. — Lloyd's Agents and Salvage Association's Surveyor. (See issue of Jan. 13.)

**LEROS.** — Cuxhaven, Jan. 17. — Tank steamer Leros will leave here for Hamburg on Monday, Jan. 18, weather permitting, to tranship cargo. — Lloyd's Agents and Salvage Association's Surveyor. (See issue of Jan. 13.)

**LEROS.** — Hamburg, Jan. 19. — Tank steamer Leros berthed at Hamburg at 6.30 p.m. on Jan. 18 alongside tank steamer Germaine, now heating cargo. — Lloyd's Agents and Salvage Association's Surveyor. (See issue of Jan. 19.)

**LEROS.** — Hamburg, Jan. 22. — Tank steamer Leros: Cargo transshipment commenced at 6 p.m. on Jan. 21. Understand 1500 tons so far discharged. Discharge revealed fuel oil partly contaminated with sea water; endeavouring to separate. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Jan. 20.)

**LEROS.** — Hamburg, Jan. 26. — Tank steamer Leros: Cargo now transhipped with exception of approximately 80 tons, which own pump unable to discharge. Portable pump being obtained to complete, after which it is proposed to tank clean. Understand dry dock steamed at Hamburg Feb. 6-7. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Jan. 23.)

Hamburg, Jan. 26. — Tank steamer Leros: Owners have suggested possibility of drydocking at Rotterdam, subject to seaworthy certificate being granted, owing to better drydocking facilities for subsequent repairs. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

**OS.** — Hamburg, Jan. 30. — Tank steamer Leros: Owner's agents report that it is proposed to drydock vessel p.m. on Feb. 1 at Stulcken Yard. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Jan. 28.)

**LEROS.** — Hamburg, Feb. 2. — Tank steamer Leros: Now understand undocking p.m. Feb. 3. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Feb. 2.)

**LEROS.** — Hamburg, Feb. 4. — Tank steamer Leros: Dry dock survey completed yesterday but machinery spaces still heavily coated with fuel and ice. Cargo tanks not cleaned and contain some cargo. Internal survey cannot be completed without further cleaning. Bottom set up five inches over large area in way of engines and boilers. Eighty shell plates renew and heavy internal damage. Main engine, boilers, cargo pumps and all auxiliaries, with pipe lines, to lift ashore and replace after repair, with extensive removals in way. Crankshaft and thrust shaft to test in lathe and all shafting align. All electrical machinery and wiring in machinery spaces destroyed. — Lloyd's Agents and Salvage Association's Surveyor. (See issue of Feb. 3.)

**LEROS.** — Hamburg, Feb. 8. — Tank steamer Leros: Leakage in engine-room, which developed after undocking, proving very difficult to close. Divers have made attempts to trace leakage but unsuccessful owing to severe ice conditions. Three fractures in tank top traced and closed but leakage continues and tank top clearly severely damaged. Difficult to trace leakages owing to large quantities of congealed fuel oil, ice and sand, and considerable expenses being incurred for salvage craft and cleaning. Drydocking again not recommended at present owing to possibility of further strain and heavy expense incurred in careful shoring, cleaning and temporary repairs, also doubtful if dry dock obtainable for some time. Recommend proceeding trying to trace leaks for further short period, but if unsuccessful, suggest allowing engine-room to fill up, after taking due precautions, while position reviewed, and to await possible improvement in weather. — Lloyd's Agents and Salvage Association's Surveyor. (See issue of Feb. 5.)

**LEROS.** — Hamburg, Feb. 9. — Tank steamer Leros: Leakages in machinery space considerably reduced. Small electric pump obtained, which should control leakage. It is hoped to dismiss salvage craft to-day. — Lloyd's Agents and Salvage Association's Surveyor. (See issue of Feb. 9.)

**LEROS.** — Hamburg, Mar. 23. — Greek tank steamer Leros, which was towed to Hamburg in January after having been aground off Cuxhaven, has been sold to the United Kingdom to be broken up. — "Hamburger Anzeiger." (See issue of Feb. 10.)

**LEROS.** — Blyth, Apr. 2. — Tank steamer Leros arrived here on Apr. 1 in tow of tug Wotan. (See issue of Apr. 1.)

LL2/2/54

LL3/2/54

LL5/2/54

LL9/2/54

LL10/2/54

LL1/4/54

LL3/4/54

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