

WRECK
SECTION
No. 642

WRECK
SECTION

Wreck Report No. 15125

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 03976 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 95/59 Date of writing this report 5th August, 19 59.

Ship's Name s.s. "BERKEL" of Stockholm Tons { Gross 1583
Net 771

Built at Stockholm When 1946 11 Casualty notice sent to Owner 17.7.59. Owner's reply 27.7.59.

Owners Stockholms Rederi A/B Svea

Managers Eman. Högberg

Address 28, Skeppsbron, Stockholm 2, Sweden.

Classification details

✠ 100A1	✠ LMC 3,56
with freeboard	BS M2,58
9,58	sp 3,56
ssAar 9,56	
	ts 1,58 OG

of Casualty 27th May, 1959.

Is of Casualty

Caught fire in the Baltic Sea north of
Gotska Sandon, towed to Jarflotta, burnt out and
condemned.

The Owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

BERKEL. — Visby, May 27. — Swedish steamer Berkel, 771 tons net, on voyage from (Soderhamn and) Gefle for Rouen, cargo paperpulp, on fire in position lat. 58 40 N., long. 19 4 E. Salvage vessel Neptun under way.

Stockholm, May 27. — Swedish steamer Berkel, 1583 tons gross, cargo woodpulp, on fire north of Gotska Sandon, Baltic Sea, on May 27. Crew abandoned ship this morning. Fire spread quickly, following explosion. Vessel drifting, possibly in sinking condition.

Stockholm, May 27. — Steamer Berkel was abandoned this morning when fire swept the vessel after an explosion in the boiler-room. The crew of 24 left in lifeboats and were picked up by Danish motor vessel Tonna. Swedish salvage vessel Neptun reached the burning vessel about 9 a.m. and is towing her towards the mainland. The heat was so intense that nobody could get on board. The Berkel has a cargo of paperpulp, tar, wallboard and turpentine, and was on voyage from North Sweden to France when the explosion occurred about 2 a.m. — Reuter.

Stockholm, May 27. — Steamer Berkel is still on fire and is being towed to the port of Nynashamn, according to reports in Stockholm. The fire engulfed the superstructure with explosive force, and the Berkel was unable to use her radio. Spanish motor vessel Torres de Cuarte saw the burning ship and immediately warned other ships and Swedish radio coastal stations. A Dutch freighter and Danish motor vessel Tonna proceeded to the scene. According to radio reports, the Tonna picked up several members of the crew of the Berkel and later transferred them to a coastguard cutter. — British United Press.

BERKEL. — Gothenburg, May 28. — Salvage vessel Neptun, with Berkel, arrived at Dalarna at 8 p.m. yesterday. Fire-extinguishing operations had commenced at 7 p.m., when the vessel entered the archipelago. The Berkel has a list of 8 deg. to port. — "Goteborgs Handels- och Sjöfarts-Tidning." (See issue of May 28.)

BERKEL. — Helsingborg, May 30. — A report from Stockholm states that the crews of salvage vessels Neptun and Atlas were still fully occupied yesterday in extinguishing the fire on board steamer Berkel, which was grounded on a soft sandbank, after having been towed to Jarflotta, near Landsort, on Thursday (May 28). The Berkel has been partly filled with water and her afterpart is lying submerged. The fire was still burning yesterday morning in various places in the foreship and in the wallboard and paperpulp cargo in both forward holds. It was expected that the fire would be extinguished by evening. Subsequently, the vessel will be pumped dry again and taken to a nearby place in the archipelago for examination. — "Helsingborgs Dagblad." (See issue of June 2.)

Stockholm, June 2. — Steamer Berkel was towed to Jarflotta, in the Stockholm Archipelago. The fire extinguished but vessel still too hot therefore impossible to get on board and pump out water. The intention is to tow her to Stockholm for survey soon possible.

BERKEL. — Stockholm, June 3. — According to information from the Neptun Salvage Company, steamer Berkel has been towed to Jarflotta, near Landsort. The intention is to tow the vessel into Stockholm for survey and eventual repair, but it is not yet known when this will take place. It is feared, however, that the Berkel will be regarded as a total loss. (See issue of June 3.)



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"BURNT 5,59"

of Committee

FRIDAY 7 AUG 1959

FRIDAY 14 AUG 1959

Committee's Minute

Burnt 5.59

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