

# REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c

No. **71434** in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 21/62 Date of writing this report 14th March, 1962  
 Ship's Name m.s. "FOUNTAINS ABBEY" of Hull Tons Gross 11979 Net 470  
 Built at Aberdeen When 1954 10 Casualty notice sent to Owner 7.3.62. Owner's reply 8.3.62.  
 Owners Associated Humber Lines Ltd.  
 Managers ---  
 Address Alexandra Chambers, Mytongate, Hull.

WRECK SECTION  
 No. 679

### Classification details

+100A1	+LMC CS11,58
3,61	
ss 11,58	ts 3,60 OG

f Casualty 12th February, 1962.  
 of Casualty

This ship, which sustained extensive damage by fire, was towed into Amsterdam and declared a constructive total loss; subsequently she was sold to shipbreakers for breaking up in Belgium.

The owners concur.



**FOUNTAINS ABBEY.**—Humber Radio, Feb. 12.—Following received from motor vessel Fountains Abbey, M.S.G.T. (Hamburg for Hull and Goole):  
 At 9 2 p.m., G.M.T.: Have fire down below No. 1 hatch, lat. 53 48 N.  
 Rest of transmission jammed, vessel does not reply to call.  
 At 9 14 p.m., G.M.T.: Am on fire forward, position lat. 53 48 N., long. 2 E., fisherman standing by me.  
 Following received from British trawler John O'Heugh: Am near ship on fire, unable to contact him.  
 Following received from Fountains Abbey at 9 29 p.m., G.M.T.: Am abandoning ship and taking to boats.  
 Harwich.  
 Feb. 12. —Tug Seefalke left Harwich at 10 15 p.m. to assistance of motor vessel Fountains Abbey.  
 Humber Radio, Feb. 12.—Following received from trawler John O'Heugh:  
 At 10 18 p.m., G.M.T.: Have lifeboat alongside and am taking the men on board now, one injured in lifeboat. Am going to go alongside motor vessel Fountains Abbey to take the two remaining off there.  
 At 10 37 p.m., G.M.T.: All men have been picked up from the lifeboat except two jammed in lifeboat and suspected dead, am now proceeding to the Fountains Abbey to pick up two men remaining on board.  
 At 11 40 p.m., G.M.T.: John O'Heugh and trawler Boston Spitfire trying to get line on board Fountains Abbey to take off two remaining men. We have also four injured men from Fountains Abbey with injuries of broken back, split skull and broken arms.  
 Humber Radio, Feb. 13.  
 Following received from trawler John O'Heugh at 12 24 a.m., G.M.T.: Proceeding to Lowestoft with survivors from motor vessel Fountains Abbey with exception of two men still on board. Trawlers Woodlawn, Boston Spitfire and Wroxham Queer trying to get line on board Fountains Abbey. My estimated time of arrival Lowestoft 11 a.m. approximately.  
 Following received from trawler Roger Cormorant at 12 26 a.m., G.M.T.: Am now manoeuvring to get line on board Fountains Abbey.  
 Following received from trawler Teo at 1 8 a.m., G.M.T.: Now six vessels alongside Fountains Abbey. Two on board made no attempt to get line fired on ship. Line now broken.  
 Following received from John O'Heugh at 1 29 a.m., G.M.T.: Am still on fire. Two men abandoned and picked up by Boston Spitfire.  
 Following received from Boston Spitfire at 1 30 a.m., G.M.T.: Two men from Fountains Abbey now safely on board.  
 Following received from John O'Heugh at 1 43 a.m., G.M.T.: Assistance definitely required on Lowestoft.  
 Following received from tug Ribblesdale at 1 43 a.m., G.M.T.: Passing Spinnaker Light-vessel, proceeding to Fountains Abbey.  
 Following received from John O'Heugh at 2 33 a.m., G.M.T.: We have 18 survivors from Fountains Abbey on board.  
 Following received from German motor vessel Nobistor at 3 51 a.m., G.M.T.: We are searching in distress area but sometimes poor visibility, snow flurries.  
 Following received from John O'Heugh at 3 57 a.m., G.M.T.: Two men still missing from Fountains Abbey adrift in lifeboat.  
 Following received from British trawler Lucerne at 4 27 a.m., G.M.T.: Position of Fountains Abbey now lat. 53 46 N., long. 2 20 E.  
 Following received from Nobistor at 4 28 a.m., G.M.T.: Finished searching

LL14/2/62

P.T.O.

Record "DAMAGED BY FIRE 2,62 - TO BE BROKEN UP"

Committee

MONDAY 19 MAR 1962

Committee's Minute

Damaged by fire 2,62  
 To be broken up

NOTED FOR POSTAL



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002717-002724-0156

For lost ship, now proceeding on voyage. Following received from H.M. minesweeper Wolverton at 4 58 a.m., G.M.T.: Minesweepers Upton, Yarmton and Wolverton proceeding to casualty position, course 110 deg., speed 16 knots.

London, Feb. 13.—An official of the owners of motor vessel Fountains Abbey said that the vessel had been lost sight of in the gale. Three minesweepers were among ships searching for her and for two men in lifeboat. An aircraft is also searching the area. The trawler John O'Heugh reached Lowestoft by mid-morning with her 18 survivors.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

Lowestoft, Feb. 13.—Local trawler John O'Heugh arrived here this forenoon with 18 survivors of crew of motor vessel Fountains Abbey, five of whom are injured and detained in Lowestoft Hospital but non-critical. Trawler Boston Spitfire arrived early this afternoon with further two survivors. The 15 ft members have now left for their homes. Two of crew still missing.

Humber Radio, Feb. 13.—Motor vessel Fountains Abbey: Following received from German tug Seefalke, DDSR, at 2 8 p.m., G.M.T.: Pan (urgency signal), we just passed smoke buoy in position lat. 53 39 N., long. 2 35 E.

FOUNTAINS ABBEY.—Hull, Feb. 13.—Motor vessel Fountains Abbey, on passage from Hamburg to Hull, on fire and drifting in heavy northerly gales approximately 65 miles E. of Spurn Head. Owners state fire reported to have started forward p.m., Feb. 12. Vessel has been abandoned. 17 (? 18) crew landed by trawler Boston Spitfire, crew landed by trawler Boston Spitfire, all at Lowestoft. Two crew reported missing, last seen in lifeboat. Owners arranged for tug Rifleman to attend on Lloyd's Open Form. Tug is standing close by awaiting moderation of weather. Fire still blazing and impeding operations. Dutch tug also in vicinity standing by.—Salvage Association's Surveyor. (See issue of Feb. 14.)

Hull, Feb. 14.—Following received from tug Rifleman at 9 45 a.m., G.M.T.: Standing by motor vessel Fountains Abbey in NNW. gale in position 30 miles E. of Smith's Knoll. Nos. 1 and 2 holds blazing fiercely and No. 3 hold burning considerably.—United Towing Co., Ltd.

London, Feb. 14.—Following received from owners of motor vessel Fountains Abbey: Tug Rifleman, which is standing by, reports Fountains Abbey has drifted 56 miles and is now 30 miles E. of Smith's Knoll. Nos. 1 and 2 holds still burning fiercely and No. 3 hold also on fire. Vessel, which is red hot, is carrying general cargo, some of which is highly combustible.

The Hague, Feb. 14.—Ymuiden shipping circles said the Dutch tug Titan is still standing by motor vessel Fountains Abbey. German tug Seefalke and Dutch tug Holland, which had also been standing by, left to-day to proceed to assist Greek steamer Ayios Dimitris (which see).—Reuter.

Hull, Feb. 14.—Motor vessel Fountains Abbey: Owners of tug Rifleman report vessel still blazing and has drifted rapidly in NNW. gale with heavy seas and snow squalls. Present position indicates vessel has drifted approximately 60 miles from the Dutch coast off the Hook of Holland. Several other vessels and tugs are reported in the vicinity.—Salvage Association's Surveyors.

Humber Radio, Feb. 14.—Derelict motor vessel Fountains Abbey, abandoned and burning, was in position lat. 52 43 N., long. 3 8 E., at 10 a.m., G.M.T., Feb. 14.

London, Feb. 14.—Motor vessel Fountains Abbey: Tug Rifleman is being withdrawn. Vessel is ablaze from stem to stern and it is not considered possible to save vessel or cargo. Notice of abandonment is being tendered to underwriters.

FOUNTAINS ABBEY.—Ymuiden, Feb. 15.—Tug Titan put a riding crew of five men on board motor vessel Fountains Abbey at 6 10 a.m., G.M.T., to-day, and also connected at that time, together with tugs Simson and Stentor. The Fountains Abbey is still burning and is now being towed towards Ymuiden harbour.—N.V. Bureau Wijsmuller. (See issue of Feb. 15.)

London, Feb. 15.—Following received from the owners of motor vessel Fountains Abbey: Motor vessel Whitby Abbey, which diverted and passed the Fountains Abbey at 6 a.m. to-day, reports: Dutch tug Titan has line on board and is towing to Ymuiden. Fountains Abbey now smoking badly but fire appears to be out. She does not appear to be taking water and is apparently at the same draught.

Ymuiden, Feb. 15.—Three Dutch tugs were to-day towing the charred motor vessel Fountains Abbey stern-first towards Ymuiden, the tugs' owners said here. Early to-day, tugs Titan and Stentor put five men on board the abandoned ship and fastened a hawser. Helped by tug Simson, they are expected to reach Ymuiden within their tow some time this afternoon.—Reuter.

Antwerp, Feb. 15.—Motor vessel Fountains Abbey: Convoy with tug Titan about 31 miles off Ymuiden at 1 p.m. Wijsmuller's seeking permission for vessel to enter. Fire in engine-room now out. No. 3 hold only smouldering. Nos. 1 and 2 holds still on fire. Cause thought to be leaking oil pipe. Arrangements made to meet vessel on arrival.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

Ymuiden, Feb. 15.—Motor vessel Fountains Abbey towed into Ymuiden pierheads by salvage tugs Titan, Simson and Stentor; now berthing for examination and extinguishing fire.—N.V. Bureau Wijsmuller.

London, Feb. 15.—Two bodies picked up in a wrecked lifeboat in the North Sea by Norwegian steamer Rondo were the bodies of two men missing from motor vessel Fountains Abbey. The lifeboat was found about 60 miles from the mouth of the River Humber. A spokesman for the owners of motor vessel Fountains Abbey confirmed to-day that they were bosun James Cleary and motorman William Gilmartin, both of Goole. The spokesman added that the Fountains Abbey had been towed by three tugs to Ymuiden and would be inspected by the company's marine superintendent and superintendent marine engineer.

FOUNTAINS ABBEY.—Ymuiden, Feb. 15.—British motor vessel Fountains Abbey, still burning after catching fire on Monday night (Feb. 12), was towed into Ymuiden harbour by two Dutch tugs to-day. Experts said it would take until to-morrow to put the fire out. The ship had been carrying a cargo of eggs, butter, cheese, wool, paraffin, rags and chemicals. She was towed in by tugs Titan and Stentor and escorted by a third Dutch tug.—Reuter. (See issue of Feb. 16.)

Antwerp, Feb. 16.—Motor vessel Fountains Abbey: Our surveyor boarded vessel about 7 p.m., Feb. 15, in company of salvors, harbour-master and fire chief. Found fire still smouldering in all holds and salvors working to extinguish same with water. Cargo completely destroyed, accommodation completely gutted and deck house plating with internals buckled. Main and 'tween deck plating with beams and coamings all buckled. Side plating and internals buckled down to waterline. Engine-room gutted and partly flooded. Vessel cannot remain at Ymuiden after completion of extinguishing operations. Salvors intend to shift her to Amsterdam. No owners' representative had arrived at time of survey. At 11 p.m., owners' representative phoned and requested surveyor to attend on Feb. 16 when he is present. Surveyor does not consider the vessel to be worth repairing.—Salvage Association's Surveyors.

Amsterdam, Feb. 16.—Motor vessel Fountains Abbey towed into Amsterdam on Feb. 16.

Ymuiden, Feb. 16.—Motor vessel Fountains Abbey: Fire under control and vessel towed to Amsterdam by tugs Nestor, Hector and Assistent and now safely berthed at Java Quay. Lloyd's Standard Form of Salvage Agreement signed by Gebr. Scheuer, of Amsterdam, as agents for the Associated Humber Lines, Ltd.—N.V. Bureau Wijsmuller.

Antwerp, Feb. 16.—Motor vessel Fountains Abbey: Our surveyor again visited vessel in com-

pany with owners' representative. All fire and smouldering now extinguished and vessel tied at safe berth at Amsterdam. Salvors now discharged. Have examined vessel and machinery in more detail and consider only possible repair would be to crop below light loadline from collision bulkhead to afterpeak and renew structure, superstructure and machinery entirely. In relation to cargo, chemicals stowed at after end No. 3 hold still dry but sacks burnt, value probably negligible. In No. 2 hold three lengths of crankshafts probably distorted due to fire and falling from 'tween deck into hold, otherwise all cargo destroyed.—Salvage Association's Surveyors.

FOUNTAINS ABBEY.—Antwerp, Feb. 22.—Motor vessel Fountains Abbey: Our surveyor visited vessel to-day found same securely moored with man in constant attendance. Nos. 1 and 2 holds dry, engine-room 2 ft water in port bilge, No. 3 hold port top 1 ft. of water. Vessel listed approximately 3 deg., but in no danger. Vessel Association's Surveyors. (See issue of Feb. 17, also "Lifeboat Picked under "Weather and Navigation."

FOUNTAINS ABBEY.—Hull, Feb. 23.—The charred shell of motor vessel Fountains Abbey, moored at Rotterdam, is up for sale. The vessel probably be sold for scrap metal, cannot be repaired," said an Associated Humber Lines, Ltd., spokesman. "The Daily Mail," Hull. (See issue of Feb. 23.)



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