

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, BREAKING UP, ETC.

RETAIN

WRECK SECTION

No 7930

Ship's Name SS/MS "CORUCHE"
Casualty notice sent to Owners ---

Gross tons 154

Date of Build 12-1948

Owners' Reply ---

Owners Soc. Geral de Comercio, Industria e Transportes

Details of classification

+100A1	+LMC 11,60
with freeboard	
1,63	ts N3,62 CL
ss 11,60	

Details of casualty

This ship exploded and caught fire at Bissao; subsequently towed to Lisbon and sold for breaking up.

WRECK SECTION

No 7930

Date of casualty

29th January, 1963.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

22/1/63
CORUCHE. — Bissao, Jan. 30. — Motor vessel Coruche (from Lisbon) arrived at 5 p.m., Jan. 29, carrying 5,000 drums of fuel and general cargo. Fire broke out on board about 6.30 p.m. at commencement of discharge; fuel continues to burn. Presumed beached about two miles from Bissao harbour. According to information at 8 a.m. to-day, only two forward holds still on fire.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

Lisbon, Jan. 30. — Twenty dockworkers were injured, five of them seriously, when the Portuguese motor vessel Coruche caught fire last night at Bissao, the Portuguese Lusitania News Agency reported to-day. The fire was caused by the explosion of a petrol drum which fell when it was being unloaded. The vessel was removed from the port by a tug to prevent the danger of an explosion at the quay.—Reuter.

22/1/63
CORUCHE. — Bissao, Jan. 30. — Seventeen people were injured last night when fire broke out on motor vessel Coruche, carrying 5,000 barrels of high-octane petrol, at Bissao. About 3,000 barrels of petrol were saved. The master and the crew of 24 escaped unharmed. — British United Press. (See issue of Jan. 31.)

22/1/63
CORUCHE. — Bissao, Jan. 31. — Motor vessel Coruche, master Antonio Romao Barulho, left Lisbon on Jan. 22 with fuel oil and general cargo, and arrived at Bissao about 5 p.m. on Jan. 29. About 6.30 p.m., discharge of cargo was commenced and soon afterwards there was an explosion in No. 1 hold, followed by fire. As a result of the explosion 18 persons were injured, four of them seriously. Efforts to control the fire were unsuccessful and the authorities ordered the vessel to be moved from the quay. The Coruche proceeded to an offing by her own means, but as it was feared she might sink the vessel was abandoned. When the tide rose, the Coruche went adrift in position approximately two miles from the quay and at low tide was in position approximately three miles from the quay. Attempts to place cables on board were unsuccessful as the cables broke. At present, the two forward holds are still burning, the two after holds still being intact, but the Coruche continues to drift. The port of Bissao does not have equipment to fight a fire of this extent. (See issue of Feb. 1.)

22/2/63
CORUCHE. — Bissao, Feb. 9. — Motor vessel Coruche: Forward holds Nos. 1 and 2 still burning. No. 1 almost extinguished. After hold still unaffected. Plating in way of forward holds considerably weakened. Vessel still swinging at anchor about six miles from Bissao harbour.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association. (See issue of Feb. 6.)

22/2/63
CORUCHE. — Bissao, Feb. 12. — Motor vessel Coruche boarded Feb. 11. Fire extinct except slight smouldering in No. 2 hold. Vessel dragging temporary anchor in tidal currents and now about nine miles seaward of Bissao, in Rio Jeba. Fire damage very severe, whole of foredeck with hatches, bulwarks and deck erections collapsed and deck plates locally melted. All bulkheads, side shell and frames forward of bridge heavily buckled. Amidship accommodation, navigating bridge, boat deck and engine casing gutted and all associated steelwork and fittings destroyed. Engine-room locally burnt, electric wiring and switchboard badly damaged, but machinery intact. Engine-room forward bulkhead bodily distorted. Vessel undamaged abaft engine-room and No. 3 hold full of undamaged drums of petrol and jet fuel. All cargo in Nos. 1 and 2 holds destroyed and holds full of burnt-out petrol drums. Currently endeavouring to have vessel brought to Bissao but various problems involved. — Salvage Association's Special Officer. (See issue of Feb. 12.)

22/2/63
CORUCHE. — Bissao, Feb. 14. — Motor vessel Coruche towed up river by sister-ship motor vessel Ana Mafalda p.m., Feb. 13, and now anchored in Bissao Roads with own port anchor and six shackles of cable. Ana Mafalda delayed five hours by operation. Casualty listed 15 deg. to port but apparently not leaking. Owners endeavouring to arrange discharge of cargo, commencing damage survey to-day. — Salvage Association's Special Officer. (See issue of Feb. 14.)

22/2/63
CORUCHE. — Bissao, Feb. 16. — Motor vessel Coruche commenced jettisoning burnt drums from Nos. 1 and 2 holds and discharging into lighters from No. 3 hold on Feb. 15.—Salvage Association's Special Officer. (See issue of Feb. 16.)

22/2/63
CORUCHE.—Bissao, Feb. 22.—Motor vessel Coruche: Anticipate discharge completed to-day, survey and estimate completed Feb. 24. Propose returning Lisbon Feb. 26 with owners' representative for discussions with concerned. Meanwhile, casualty will remain at safe anchorage Bissao.—Salvage Association's Special Surveyor. (See issue of Feb. 19.)

22/2/63
CORUCHE. — Bissao, Feb. 27. — Motor vessel Coruche: Two hundred and five tons of steel renew, whole of amidships house, comprising two decks of accommodation and bridge, renew, forward winches, derricks and foremast renew, all fore-castle store-rooms renew, lifeboats, davits, emergency generator and all deck fittings renew, electric wiring renew throughout, including engine-room, and main and auxiliary machinery overhaul. —Salvage Association's Surveyor. (See issue of Feb. 25.)

22/2/63
CORUCHE. — Lisbon, May 14. — Portuguese motor vessel Coruche arrived here on May 13 in tow of Portuguese tug Praia da Adraga. (See issues of Jan. 31 and Feb. 28.)

WRECK SECTION No 7930

Suggested record "DAMAGED BY FIRE 1,63 - TO BE BROKEN UP"

Date of Committee

FRIDAY 26 JUL 1963

Minute

Damaged by fire 1,63