

Wreck Report No. 15935

WRECK SECTION No. 766

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REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 41515 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 166/61 Date of writing this report 1st November, 1961.

Ship's Name m.s. "STARCARRIER" ex "FERNLAND" of Bergen Tons { Gross 5564 Net 3140

Built at Sunderland When 1948 3 Casualty notice sent to Owner 18.10.61. Owner's reply ---

Owners A/S Star Carriers

Managers Per Waaler

Address Vagsalmening 14-22, Bergen, Norway.

Classification details

+100A1	+LMC CS5,60
with freeboard	BS A10,60
MT-vegetable oil	sp 1,56
4,61	
ss 5,60	ts 5,60 CL

Date of Casualty 29th September, 1961.

Details of Casualty

This ship caught fire while alongside berth at Diego Suarez and left quay for moorings. An explosion occurred which caused severe damage and she subsequently sank.

No reply has been received to a letter addressed to the owners on 18th October, 1961.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

STARCARRIER.—Diego Suarez, Sept. 30. —Norwegian motor vessel Starcarrier (Dunkirk for Tamatave), chartered by Nouvelle Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire de Navigation, caught fire in No. 2 hatch while alongside berth yesterday morning. Fire spreading rapidly and vessel proceeded mooring with French naval base fire-fighting equipment helping. With no hope of control, vessel changed mooring by 3 p.m. to approach shore. By 8 p.m., an explosion in No. 2 hatch caused severe damages. Nine crew members, six shore personnel and six men from French naval base lost their lives. Vessel was abandoned and burned until 9 a.m. to-day, when she sank, being a total loss, with about 6000 tons of cargo still on board. Master, second officer and one crew member in hospital, condition not critical.

Paris, Sept. 30. —French naval sources state that motor vessel Starcarrier was towed out of port yesterday morning by tug Pingouin because she was carrying a cargo of explosives. Navy firemen boarded her to fight the fire, but in the evening an explosion shattered the vessel's bows and she burned throughout the night.—Reuter.

London, Sept. 30. —A spokesman for the owners of motor vessel Starcarrier said that the vessel was carrying 10 tons of dynamite. Reports reaching Oslo said that the vessel sank in shallow water. The bridge is reported to be above the waterline. The Starcarrier had a crew of 29. Most of them are believed to have been on shore at the time of the explosion.—British United Press.

Paris, Sept. 30. —A spokesman for the charterers of motor vessel Starcarrier, which arrived at Diego Suarez on Sept. 27, said that the vessel carried general cargo, but he did not know what this included. He said the ship was carrying no military supplies. The Nouvelle Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire de Navigation later confirmed in Havre that 21 people had been killed in the explosion. It said the death toll might rise when fuller information was received from Madagascar. Unofficial reports said the dead were nine Norwegian members of the crew, six local dock workers, two firemen, and four seamen from the tug, which had remained with the ship when it was thought that the danger of explosion had lessened. (Later) A cable from Madagascar states that 27 people were killed and at least a dozen injured in the explosion.—British United Press.

STARCARRIER. —Tananarive, Oct. 16. —Lloyd's Agents at Tamatave reported on Oct. 3 that they visited Diego Suarez on Sept. 30 and flew over motor vessel Starcarrier, and found that only one mast and the funnel were above water, with a quantity of fuel oil around the vessel. It was stated the fire was discovered at 8 a.m. on Sept. 29, the municipal fire brigade was called and the vessel left the quay for moorings. Fire-fighting continued and the French naval base sent a fire tug (PINGOULN) alongside at 3 p.m. The fire appeared under control, but at 8 p.m. an explosion occurred and the tug was caught under the forward mast, and all her crew killed. The French Navy was attempting to refloat the tug on Oct. 3. A French landing craft assisted in getting survivors of the Starcarrier ashore. Apparently the vessel burned completely in Nos. 1 and 2 holds for about 24 hours, with fire spreading to No. 3 and the engine-rooms, and about 9 a.m. on Sept. 30 she sank very rapidly. It is considered that the hull is a total loss, as the Starcarrier certainly broke before sinking. (See issue of Oct. 2.)

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Suggested Record

"BURNT & SANK 9,61"

Date of Committee

FRIDAY -3 NOV 1961

Committee's Minute

Burnt & Sank 9.61

NOTED FOR POSTING



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