

WRECK SECTION

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Wreck Report No.

14202

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 782

No. 80842 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 129/54

Date of writing this report 27th January, 1955.

Ship's Name s.s. "TRAVELSTAR" of Monrovia Tons (Gross 7068 Net 4278)

Built at Vancouver, B.C. When 1943 10 Casualty notice sent to Owner 6.1.55. Owner's reply ---

Owners Compania Polyna Maritima, S.A.

Managers

Address 80, Broad Street, New York 4, U.S.A.

Classification details

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| 100A1         | LMC6,52    |
| 2,54          | BS2,54     |
| ssN.Os.-11,52 | sps1,52    |
|               | ts 2,54 CL |

Fitted for oil fuel 10,43 F.P. above 150°F.

Date of Casualty 16th October, 1954.

Details of Casualty

This ship stranded on a reef near Buckner Bay, Okinawa, with serious bottom damage. Fire broke out and delayed salvage operations, which were further handicapped by heavy pounding.

The ship is now reduced to a battered hulk, and operations have been abandoned.

No reply has been received to a letter addressed to the Owners on 6th January, 1955.

WRECK SECTION NO. 782

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

TRAVELSTAR.—Mojí, Oct. 15.—Steamer Travelstar (Yokohama for Tohram) reported aground at 12.1 a.m. to-day in lat. 26 8 N., long. 127 51 E.

Yokohama, Oct. 16.—Steamer Travelstar went aground at Okinawa in evening of Oct. 15.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

Singapore, Oct. 17.—Following message received by Singapore Radio: Distress signal intercepted from Hongkong Radio states that follow message received from R.C.A. Manila, S.O.S. steamer Travelstar at 5 p.m. G.M.T., Oct. 16, requires immediate assistance, has leak in holds and engine room, position latitude 26 8 N., longitude 127 41 E. Hongkong requests assistance from any ship or aircraft in vicinity.

Hongkong, Oct. 17.—Hongkong Radio has cancelled its message to ships and aircraft asking them to give all possible assistance to the steamer Travelstar; it reported that the Travelstar is in no apparent immediate danger.—Reuter.

Tokyo, Oct. 17.—Two United States rescue vessels reached the steamer Travelstar to-day. The vessel, which ran aground near Buckner Bay, Okinawa, has three compartments flooded.—British United Press.

TRAVELSTAR.—Mojí, Oct. 18.—Steamer Travelstar: Subsequent to grounding, fire broke out and vessel was abandoned at dawn to-day; all crew saved. (See issue of Oct. 18.)

Mojí, Oct. 18.—Steamer Travelstar, time chartered by Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, has 120 trucks on board. Underside from United States Navy: Oct. 17, 9 3 p.m. G.M.T.: Master reported forward engine-room and Nos. 2 and 3 holds flooding, moderate sea, vessel not pounding, no apparent immediate danger, Army tug standing by. Oct. 17, 5 40 a.m., G.M.T.: Army tug withdrawn, Mollers' tug Golden Cape standing by and willing to enter Open Form agreement. Oct. 17, 4 45 p.m., G.M.T.: Reported ship on fire at noon, assistance requested, Army provided fire-fighting craft. Oct. 17, 6 p.m., G.M.T.: Part crew, including one badly injured, taken off; fire reported abating. Oct. 17, 11 50 p.m., G.M.T.: Ship abandoned at dawn, local time, vessel burning badly. Suggest dispatch surveyor to investigate.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

TRAVELSTAR.—Hongkong, Oct. 19.—Steamer Travelstar: Mollers advise that master and their Okinawa representative signed Lloyd's Open Form on Oct. 18, also report that vessel caught fire in the night of Oct. 17-18. No information concerning extent of fire or grounding damage. Tug Golden Cape standing by, assisting to extinguish fire.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Oct. 19.)

Okinawa, Oct. 19.—Fire is still raging on board steamer Travelstar. The fire broke out on Sunday (Oct. 17), injuring several members of the crew, and the last man was taken off by helicopter yesterday. The United States Army, which has been helping to fight the fire, stated to-day that two holds have been completely gutted and lorries carried as deck cargo destroyed. So far, the fire has not spread to the forward part of the ship.—British United Press.

London, Oct. 20.—The following cable has been received from New York, dated Oct. 19: Steamer Travelstar, latest advices received: Fire confined to after end. Nos. 4 and 5 holds gutted, vehicles on deck of Nos. 4 and 5 gutted, also accommodation after. Salvage prospects good, master working with salvage operators. Unable to contact immediately. (See issue of Oct. 20.)

51  
OF  
78.  
6.15/10/54  
6.19/10/54  
6.20/10/54  
6.21/10/54  
P.T.O.

Suggested Record

"WRECKED 10,54"

Date of Committee

FRIDAY 28 JAN 1955

Committee's Minute

Wrecked 10,54



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**TRAVELSTAR.**—Hongkong, Oct. 21.—  
Steamer Travelstar: Mollers advise fire  
controlled at No. 3 hatch and half cargo  
saved; nature of cargo 126 6 x 6 G.M.C.  
trucks. Draught on going ashore 10 ft.  
forward, 18 ft. aft. Examination of  
bottom damage will be made when  
plates cool.—Lloyd's Agents per Sal-  
vage Association. (See issue of Oct. 21.)

LL23/10/54

**TRAVELSTAR.**—Okinawa, Oct. 23.—  
Steamer Travelstar: Boarded p.m., Oct.  
22, with salvors. Vessel heading 206  
deg. at north end of reef to south main  
entrance channel to Buckner Bay,  
position exposed, appears hard aground  
from No. 4 forward on hard coral, port  
list 6 deg., no movement apparent in  
heavy port quarterly swell. Vessel  
stranded at 12 7 a.m. on Oct. 16 on  
passage from Japan to Indo-China,  
cargo 126 military vehicles. Vessel on  
fire aft Oct. 17-18 and master signed  
salvage agreement on Lloyd's Open  
Form "no cure no pay" with Hong  
Kong Salvage & Towage Company,  
based Buckner Bay, and fire was extin-  
guished on Oct. 20. Except one officer  
all crew ashore. Water in all compart-  
ments except No. 1 hold but only No. 2  
presently tidal, possibly 80 per cent. of  
bottom badly damaged. Fire damage  
very serious and extensive, involving  
complete structure from No. 3 hold aft  
down to water level. Evidence indicates  
fire severe in engine-room and much  
machinery and boiler damage probable,  
not all presently visible. After cargo  
destroyed, forward cargo intact. Pros-  
pects of salvage reasonably good; work  
involves removal of sound cargo.  
Salvors have commenced to-day.  
Owners' representative expected at  
Okinawa on Oct. 23.—Salvage Associa-  
tion's Special Representative. (See  
issue of Oct. 23.)

LL26/10/54

**TRAVELSTAR.**—Okinawa, Oct. 25.—  
Steamer Travelstar: Attended Oct. 24  
with owners' representative. Vessel  
straining and moving considerably to  
heavy NE. swell. Representative of  
owner of cargo due Oct. 26; vehicles  
still intact on board 70. Salvors  
endeavouring to transport gear and men  
to vessel under great difficulties with  
view to laying out ground tackle. They  
now aim to hold vessel, tighten, and  
refloat on tank tops with vehicles  
undisturbed, and tow to and beach at  
Buckner Bay. Vessel moving violently  
to-day as swell increases. Consider  
grave risk of vessel breaking in any  
severe weather; forecast not encourag-  
ing.—Salvage Association's Special  
Representative. (See issue of Oct. 26.)

LL27/10/54

**TRAVELSTAR.**—Okinawa, Oct. 27.—  
Steamer Travelstar: Cargo representa-  
tive has arrived. Unable to board  
vessel for past 36 hours owing to heavy  
NE. swell. Salvage party still on board  
report by radio telephone no serious  
developments except engine-room now  
tidal. Heavy seas breaking on board  
port side to-day. Salvors have craft  
loaded with gear ready for first favour-  
able weather.—Salvage Association's  
Special Representative. (See issue of  
Oct. 27.)

LL28/10/54

**TRAVELSTAR.**—Okinawa, Oct. 29.—  
Steamer Travelstar: Weather improved;  
heavy anchor laid out on port quarter  
and salvors now endeavouring to lay a  
second. Managed to board to-day from  
small boat. Vessel's position on reef  
renders transfer of salvors' gear on board  
difficult. Port side has vertical buckle  
in way of fore end of No. 3 hold, frame  
No. 101, starboard side has two heavy  
vertical buckles in way of frames Nos.  
79 and 87. Vessel has moved ahead and  
is pounding. Sheerstrake deck stringers  
still intact. Rudder carrier broken  
which indicates probability of rudder,  
stern frame, damage.—Salvage Associa-  
tion's Special Representative. (See  
issue of Oct. 28.)

LL11/11/54

**TRAVELSTAR.**—Okinawa, Nov. 1.—  
Steamer Travelstar: Crew left Okinawa  
on Sunday, Oct. 31. Salvage delayed  
by recurrence of wind and swell. Work  
continues, as weather permits, building  
up gear on board. My opinion early  
salvage unlikely with continuing risk of  
hull breaking during typhoon and then  
monsoon seasons. Typhoon "Pamela"  
to-day reported to be south-east of  
Okinawa.—Salvage Association's Special  
Representative. (See issue of Nov. 1.)

LL3/11/54

**TRAVELSTAR.**—Okinawa, Nov. 3.—  
Steamer Travelstar: Owing to heavy  
seas salvors suspended operations on  
Oct. 31. Resumption improbable before  
typhoon "Pamela" has cleared, present  
distance 450 miles.—Salvage Associa-  
tion's Special Representative. (See issue  
of Nov. 3.)

LL4/11/54

**TRAVELSTAR.**—London, Jan. 19.—It is  
reported that salvage operations on  
steamer Travelstar have been abandoned  
and she is now virtually a battered hulk.  
(See issue of Nov. 4.)

LL20/1/55



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