

WRECK SECTION No. 756

Wreck Report No. 15973

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 32390 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 192/61 Date of writing this report 3rd January, 19 62.

Ship's Name m.s. "STIENTJE MENSINGA" of Delfzijl Tons { Gross 470 Net 194

Built at --- When 1943 --- Casualty notice sent to Owner 20.12.61. Owner's reply 21.12.61.

Owners A.L. Oosterhuis

Managers N.V. Scheepvaartbedrijf "Gruno"

Address 44, Westerdoksdijk, Amsterdam, Holland.

WRECK SECTION No. 756

Classification details

BS	MBS	1,61
1,61		
ss 5,58	ts p&s	12,60 OG

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

STIENTJE MENSINGA. — Land's End Radio, Dec. 4. — Following received from Valentia Radio:

At 4 55 a.m., G.M.T.: XXX (urgency signal), following received from motor vessel Stientje Mensinga, PHTG, at 4 19 a.m., G.M.T.: Ashore position east of Eagle Island, need some help.

At 5 22 a.m., G.M.T.: Following received from Stientje Mensinga via Oban Radio at 5 10 a.m., G.M.T.: Exact position three miles ENE. of Eagle Island.

— Limerick, Dec. 4. — Motor vessel Stientje Mensinga, now aground Eagle Island, left Foynes for Londonderry, in ballast, at 8 a.m. on Sunday (Dec. 3).

— Valentia Radio, Dec. 4.—Following received from Eagle Island Lighthouse:

At 7 19 a.m., G.M.T.: Motor vessel Stientje Mensinga now drifted off rocks on Eagle Island and anchored off Erris Head, anchor seems to be holding. Water in engine-room not rising as rapidly as heretofore. Very anxious for lifeboat to stand by.

At 9 50 a.m., G.M.T.: Stientje Mensinga now approximately one and a half miles north-east of Eagle Island. Wind force 6 to 7 (strong breeze to near gale), force 8 (gale) in squalls. Ship appears O.K. at the moment.

Following received from Oban Radio at 10 46 a.m., G.M.T.: Following received from Stientje Mensinga at 10 23 a.m., G.M.T.: Will you tell all stations we lost our starboard lifeboat and it is drifting in northerly direction with the wind.

Following received from Eagle Island Lighthouse at 11 18 a.m., G.M.T.: Following received from Stientje Mensinga at 11 15 a.m., G.M.T.: Water on starboard side is coming on deck. Crew is on afterpart of ship; plane flying overhead. Ship getting deeper and deeper. Request to know if helicopter available if required, will advise in one hour's time if abandoning ship.

Following received from Shannon Airport at 12 2 p.m., G.M.T.: Following received from aircraft MPY-111: Lat. 54 11 N., long. 10 3 W., ship listing 15 to 20 deg. to starboard. Ship requests helicopter, down by the head and stern; receiving distress signals by lamp. Sea moderate to rough, visibility 3 to 4.

— Land's End Radio, Dec. 4.—Following received from Valentia Radio at 1 28 p.m., G.M.T.: S O S, Dutch motor vessel Stientje Mensinga one and a half to two miles north-east of Eagle Island making water and listing 15 to 20 deg. to starboard. Aranmore lifeboat estimated time of arrival 3 p.m., G.M.T.; helicopter also proceeding.

— Valentia Radio, Dec. 4.—Following received from German motor vessel Maria Schulte at 1 31 p.m., G.M.T.: Am proceeding to motor vessel Stientje Mensinga, expect to arrive at 2 15 p.m., G.M.T. At 1 48 p.m., Maria Schulte six miles north-east of Eagle Island.

— Londonderry, Dec. 4.—Motor vessel Stientje Mensinga, on passage to Londonderry, in ballast, struck rocks in the vicinity of Eagle Island, west Co. Mayo. Master reported at noon to-day that ship was sinking and asked for helicopter to rescue crew of 10. Nearest lifeboat could not reach her until 5 p.m. to-day, which master considered would be too late. Royal Air Force dispatched a helicopter at 12 45 p.m., hoped to land crew at Broadhaven, Co. Mayo.

— London, Dec. 4. — A Royal Navy helicopter was sent from Londonderry this afternoon in answer to a distress call from the Dutch motor vessel Stientje Mensinga. Her master reported that she had a list of 15 to 20 deg. to starboard in heavy weather, with winds gusting to gale force. The Stientje Mensinga, which struck a submerged rock off Eagle Island, was in danger of sinking, with

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5/12/61

P.T.O.



ner engine-room flooded, and a half miles north-east of the island. The helicopter was sent to take off her crew and the Aranmore lifeboat was also on her way. A Shackleton aircraft has been circling the crippled vessel.

— Valentia Radio, Dec. 4. — Following received from Black Rock Lighthouse at 3 20 p.m., G.M.T.: Motor vessel Maria Schulte standing by, six men of motor vessel Stientje Mensinga taken ashore by helicopter; four or two men on board. May be able to take ship in tow; weather moderating.

— Land's End Radio, Dec. 4. — Following received from Valentia Radio at 3 47 p.m., G.M.T.: Reference distress Dutch motor vessel Stientje Mensinga, distress traffic ended 500 kcs. only.

— Valentia Radio, Dec. 4.—Following received from Black Rock Lighthouse:

At 4 20 p.m., G.M.T.: Motor vessel Maria Schulte trying to get wire on board motor vessel Stientje Mensinga. If successful, will try to tow to Sligo Bay. Lifeboat is half an hour away and will escort them. A trawler was there but has left.

Date of Casualty 4th December, 1961.

This ship stranded on rocks at Eagle Island, refloated but sank off Erris Head and has been declared a total loss.

The owners concur.

Suggested Record "STRANDED & SANK 12,61"

Date of Committee FRIDAY - 5 JAN 1962

Committee's Minute Stranded & sank 12.61



003513-003524-0103

15/12

NOTED FOR POSTING

STIENTJE MENSINGA.—Valentia Radio, Dec. 4.—Following received from Black Rock Lighthouse:

At 7 27 p.m., G.M.T.: Master of motor vessel MARIA SCHULTE (Hull for Sligo) reports boat missing with four of Dutch crew of motor vessel Stientje Mensinga and five of his own crew. Three other men overboard. Trawler Boston Britannia is one and a half hours away

and proceeding to search. Aranmore lifeboat also searching. Aircraft dropping flares at position.

At 9 50 p.m., G.M.T.: Master of MARIA SCHULTE now confirms only nine men missing, not 12 as previously reported. (See issue of Dec. 5.)

London, Dec. 4.

—Londonderry Naval Base stated that five German sailors from the motor vessel MARIA SCHULTE and four members of the crew of the motor vessel Stientje Mensinga were reported missing after a boat returning from the Dutch to the German vessel overturned and was swamped. The accident to the boat happened after the helicopter had broken off its services and the German vessel had got a line across to the Dutch vessel. A report received by the Admiralty in London said that the boat was thought to have been taken in tow by the German vessel, presumably because the high seas made it impracticable to hoist it on board. It was not clear whether the boat capsized or whether the tow-rope parted, the Admiralty said, but the boat was missing.

Valentia Radio,

Dec. 5. — Following received from Aranmore lifeboat at 12 16 a.m., G.M.T.: Calling off search for to-night and heading for Broadhaven to anchor.

Following received from Galway Bay lifeboat at 12 30 a.m., G.M.T.: Returning to station.

Following received from Operations Officer, Londonderry, at 1 4 a.m., G.M.T.: All aircraft have been withdrawn from search area until 8 a.m.

Following received from Eagle Island Lighthouse:

At 1 28 a.m., G.M.T.: Motor vessel MARIA SCHULTE, position six miles north-west of Eagle Island, making three knots in heavy weather, will remain in vicinity until morning to continue search.

At 8 40 a.m., G.M.T.: Following received from MARIA SCHULTE at 8 15 a.m., G.M.T.: Owing to strong NNW. wind and heavy seas the MARIA SCHULTE will not be able to work along the coast so she is proceeding to Sligo. Aircraft search at 8 15 a.m.

Land's End Radio,

Dec. 5. — Following received from Valentia Radio at 9 25 a.m., G.M.T.: XXX (urgency signal), a total of nine men missing from Dutch motor vessel Stientje Mensinga and German motor vessel MARIA SCHULTE in vicinity of position two miles north-east of Eagle Island. At 8 15 a.m., aircraft searching area.

Land's End

Radio, Dec. 5.—Motor vessel Stientje Mensinga: Following received from Valentia Radio at 12 36 p.m., G.M.T.: Following received from Eagle Island Lighthouse at 12 18 p.m., G.M.T.: Six bodies and German lifeboat picked up. Three men still missing.

London, Dec. 5.

—Dutch motor vessel Stientje Mensinga, which struck a submerged rock off Eagle Island, has sunk. Motor vessel MARIA SCHULTE, which had gone to her aid, was later reported to be on her way to Sligo. The bodies of four seamen were found to-day after a Royal Air Force Shackleton, searching through snow and fierce winds, had sighted an upturned boat. Three of the bodies recovered are believed to be from the MARIA SCHULTE. The search has now been abandoned.

Westport, Dec. 5. —

Dutch motor vessel Stientje Mensinga lost off Eagle Island, Co. Mayo; master and three men missing. Also missing five men from German motor vessel MARIA SCHULTE in rescue attempt; three bodies recovered.

STIENTJE MENSINGA.—Westport, Dec. 5.—According to a statement made by the chief engineer of motor vessel Stientje Mensinga, the vessel sank while seeking shelter in Broad Haven Bay and is lying midway between Eagle Island and Erris Head in 29 fathoms of water. (See issue of Dec. 6.)

STIENTJE MENSINGA. — Ballina,

Dec. 6. — According to a deposition made by the chief engineer, motor vessel Stientje Mensinga was proceeding at half speed on Dec. 4 in a gale-force north-east wind when she struck rocks about two miles north-east of Eagle Island and was holed near the bow and later near the stern, causing the engine-room to be flooded and the diesel engines and pumps to be put out of action. The rudder and starboard propeller and shaft were badly damaged. The vessel then drifted and anchored about one mile north-east of where she had struck. (See issues of Dec. 5 and 9.)

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