

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

WRECK SECTION No. 811A

Ship's Name SS/MS "POLURRIAN" Gross tons 339 Date of Build 7-1948
Casualty notice sent to Owners 17.4.63. Owners' Reply 23.4.63. Owners Bougainville Co., Ltd.

WRECK SECTION No. 811A

Details of classification

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| FPT +100A1 | +LMC 11,61 |
| - oil FP above 1500F. | |
| 11,61 | ts N11,61 OG |
| ss 11,61 | |
| Reclassified 11,61 | |

Details of casualty

This ship capsized and sank 25 miles W. of Buka Passage and has been declared a total loss. The owners concur.

RETAIN

Date of casualty 28th March, 1963.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

22/4/63
POLURRIAN.—Rabaul, Mar. 30.—Motor vessel Polurrian 18 hours overdue. No radio communication. Air-sea search in progress. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.
Rabaul, Mar. 30. — A plane from Rabaul searched without success to-day for missing British motor vessel Polurrian, 339 tons gross. The vessel, registered in Fiji and with a crew of 30, has been missing since Thursday (Mar. 28).

23/4/63
POLURRIAN.—London, Apr. 2.—The News and Information Bureau has received the following report from Radio Australia, dated Apr. 1: Motor vessel Polurrian suddenly listed and sank off the west coast of Bougainville last Thursday night (Mar. 28), four hours after sailing for Rabaul from Sohano, near Buka. Survivors said that an attempt was made to launch the lifeboats. The first officer, Mr. H. Hoehle, tried to reach the ship's radio to summon help, but the list became more pronounced and the ship rolled over and sank in 10 minutes. (See issue of Apr. 2.)

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22/4/63
POLURRIAN.—Rabaul, Apr. 1.—Motor vessel Polurrian confirmed sunk at approximately 10 miles west of Buka Passage. Survivors rescued approximately 20 miles south-west of Buka Passage. Search continues. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of Apr. 1).

Melbourne, Apr. 2.—Mr. Bruce Strange, manager of owners of motor vessel Polurrian, confirmed that at least 30 people are missing. Fifty-nine people, including officers and 25 native crew, are known to have been on board but more passengers may have boarded the vessel at many small isolated ports of call. — Reuter.

W/S 811A

Rabaul, Apr. 1.—A Norwegian vessel was heading for Rabaul to-day carrying a number of survivors from British motor vessel Polurrian, which sank four days ago. Marine Department sources said there might have been about 40 people, including three Europeans, on board the vessel. A message from a search aircraft in the area where the vessel went down on a voyage from Buka Island to Rabaul said a body had been sighted in an oil patch. Three smaller ships which first picked up the survivors transferred them to the Norwegian vessel. One of the rescue ships reported that the Polurrian sank in the night of Mar. 28, and that no lifeboats had managed to get away. A trawler carrying doctors and nurses was on the way to meet the Norwegian ship early to-day, and she was then to continue proceeding at speed for Rabaul. The search for other survivors will continue. In Port Moresby, the Papua-New Guinea Superintendent of Marine, Captain G. A. Hawley, said 29 survivors had been picked up, with possibly 11 still to be accounted for. He said the cause of the sinking would not be known until the survivors had been questioned. (Later) Norwegian motor vessel Slitan arrived here to-day with 29 survivors who spent 60 hours clinging to rafts and wreckage after British motor vessel Polurrian sank four days ago. During the ordeal, one woman saw her husband snatched by a shark and their two children die of exposure. All the survivors of the vessel were suffering from exhaustion, hunger and sunburn when they were taken on board the Slitan. The chief mate of the Polurrian said that the ship sank in the night of Mar. 28. Eleven people were missing, believed drowned. The body of the ship's master, Mr. Peter Fenwick, was recovered from the sea to-day.—Reuter.

Melbourne, Apr. 2.—Mr. Harry Hoehle, the only officer of motor vessel Polurrian known to have been saved, to-day gave evidence for two hours at an inquiry. He stated that both holds were full of copra and cocoa and that copra was stacked on deck when the Polurrian left the last plantation before sinking.—Reuter.

22/4/63
POLURRIAN.—Rabaul, Apr. 9.—According to witnesses at the coroner's inquest held here in respect of motor vessel Polurrian, she left Sohano at 5.30 p.m. on Mar. 28 for Rabaul with a full cargo, including a deck cargo of approximately 500 bags of copra and cocoa and some 44 gallon drums. There were approximately 1,500 bags of copra in each hold. No. 1 hold had been filled at Tenekau and No. 2 hold at Numa Numa. Passengers were on the forward deck clear of cargo. Two lifeboats were available. The vessel was in wireless communication with Rabaul at 6.15 p.m. the same evening, after which the radio was silent. Prior to sinking, the Polurrian developed a heavy list to starboard and the lifeboats could not be launched because of the heavy list. Survivors were picked up by the motor vessel Matarani. (See issues of Apr. 2 and 3.)

Rabaul, Apr. 2.—Motor vessel Polurrian: Coroner's inquest held to-day and adjourned, pending remaining survivors declared fit to attend. Vessel developed list to starboard and capsized approximately 25 miles west of Buka Passage. — Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

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Suggested record "CAPSIZED & SANK 3,63"

Date of Committee

FRIDAY - 3 MAY 1963

Minute

Cap sized & Sank 3.63

Noted for Header
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2021

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