

WRECK SECTION No. 602

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Wreck Report No. 14206

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 61367 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 152/54 Date of writing this report 27th January, 19 55

Ship's Name s.s. "GERDA TOFT" of Copenhagen Tons Gross 2928 Net 1656

Built at Pictou, N.S. When 1944 4 Casualty notice sent to Owner 10.1.55. Owner's reply 12.1.55.

Owners D/S Jutlandia A/S

Managers Jens Toft A/S

Address Ny Toldbodgade 5, Copenhagen, Denmark.

RETAIN

Classification details

* 100A1	* LMC
8,54	MS8,51
ssKel.-3,52	BS10,53
	ts 6,54 CL

Date of Casualty 23rd December, 1954.

Details of Casualty

This ship foundered in lat. 54 20N., long. 6 25E. through damage to hatches in heavy weather.

The Owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

GERDA TOFT. — Cullercoats Radio, Dec. 23.—Following received from Norddeich Radio at 2 19 p.m., G.M.T.: SOS, following received at 2 15 p.m., G.M.T., from steamer Gerda Toft (Casablanca for Szczecin): Position near P.6 light-buoy (lat. 54 17 N., long. 6 38 E.), No. 2 hatch damaged, assistance necessary.

Cullercoats Radio, Dec. 23.—Following received from Dutch motor vessel Alchiba at 2 31 p.m., G.M.T., addressed steamer Gerda Toft: My position near P.8 Buoy (lat. 54 16 N., long. 7 11 30 E.) course 298. Following received from Norddeich Radio:

At 2 36 p.m., G.M.T.: Motor vessel Karmas, position 10 miles east to north from P.6 Buoy, proceeding to Gerda Toft, speed one to two knots, bearings from Elbe-Weser Gonio 291.7 deg., class A, St. Peterodig Gonio 270.8 deg., class A, Norddeich Gonio 331.1 deg., class A, position by cross bearings lat. 54 20 N., long. 6 25 E. at 2 28 p.m., G.M.T.

At 3 10 p.m., G.M.T.: Following received from steamer Gerda Toft at 2 56 p.m., G.M.T.: Hatch No. 2 heavy damaged, filled with water, not possible to repair, quick assistance needed. Our bearing at 2 28 p.m., G.M.T., is lat. 54 20 N., long. 6 25 E.

At 3 22 p.m., G.M.T.: Following received from steamer Gerda Toft at 3 18 p.m., G.M.T.: Send quick help, leaving station.

Following received from Norddeich Radio at 4 p.m., G.M.T.: Following received from steamer Sariza: We are 22 miles from Gerda Toft, according to QTH (her stated position), and proceeding at about seven knots.

Cullercoats Radio, Dec. 23.—Following received at 4 29 p.m., G.M.T., addressed SOS. Motor tanker Rolf Billner, SDMT, about 16 miles east of steamer Gerda Toft, proceeding to position, speed 10 knots.

Gravenhage, Dec. 23.—The crew of the Danish steamer Gerda Toft took to a lifeboat to-day after sending out distress calls north of the Frisian Islands, radio messages here said.—Reuter.

Cullercoats Radio, Dec. 23.—Following received from Norddeich Radio:

At 4 48 p.m., G.M.T., addressed SOS: Following received from German steamer Duburg, DJSL, at 4 35 p.m., G.M.T., on 500 kcs.: Observed red rockets near P.5 lightbuoy (lat. 54 17 30 N., long. 6 12 15 E.) at 4 25 p.m., G.M.T. All ships in vicinity please keep sharp look-out and report to Norddeich Radio.

At 5 10 p.m., G.M.T., addressed SOS: Following received from British motor vessel Iberian Coast, GFD, at 4 50 p.m., G.M.T., on 2182 kcs.: Our position now lat. 54 17 5 N., long. 6 27 E., sighted red flares from a lifeboat. There were about 15 to 20 survivors in the lifeboat but it has now capsized, we are trying to find any survivors now. All ships in vicinity please keep sharp look-out.

Cullercoats Radio, Dec. 23.—Following received from Norddeich Radio at 5 43 p.m., G.M.T., addressed SOS: Following received from motor vessel Iberian Coast at 5 20 p.m., G.M.T.: We cannot find any survivors, we are now proceeding on our passage.

RETAIN

Suggested Record "FOUNDERED 12,54"

Date of Committee TUESDAY - 1 FEB 1955

Committee's Minute *Foundered 12 54*



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Committee's Minute TUESDAY - 1 FEB 1955

GERDA TOFT. — Cullercoats Radio, Dec. 23. — Following received from Swedish motor vessel Karmas at 4 47 p.m., G.M.T.: Position now lat. 54 20 N., long. 6 30 E. Saw red flares from lifeboat at 4 25 p.m., but flares disappeared and since then we have seen nothing.

Following received from Panamanian steamer Sariza at 6 14 p.m., G.M.T.: Will be in position of Gerda Toft at 8 p.m., G.M.T.

Following received from Swedish motor vessel Karmas at 8 47 p.m., G.M.T.: Have not seen any sign of wreck or survivors around last position of Gerda Toft. Now proceeding on passage.

Following received from Norddeich Radio:

At 9 38 p.m., G.M.T.: Following received from motor vessel Ardglen at 8 6 p.m., G.M.T.: Position at 8 p.m., G.M.T., lat. 55 5 N., long. 6 10 E., now about 50 miles NNE. of Gerda Toft, course 140 deg. Consider cannot assist Gerda Toft, proceeding on passage to Hamburg.

Following received from Sariza at 8 58 p.m., G.M.T.: Have seen nothing, now proceeding on passage.

At 10 21 p.m., G.M.T.: No further signals heard from Gerda Toft. No ship sighted anything. Presumably sunk. Ships passing position about lat. 54 35 N., long. 6 34 E., and position near P 6 buoy (lat. 54 17 N., long. 6 38 E.), please keep sharp look-out for survivors or wreckage. (See issue of Dec. 24.)

The Hague, Dec. 23. —Reports from Copenhagen state that steamer Gerda Toft had a crew of between 25 and 30.—Reuter.

LU 28/12/54

GERDA TOFT.—Cullercoats Radio, Dec. 29.—Following received from Blaavand Radio at 11 39 a.m., G.M.T.: Ships and craft in south-eastern part of North Sea are requested to keep look-out for possible members of crew and wreckage from Danish steamer Gerda Toft, OYHA, sunk in this area on Dec. 23. Possible information to a Danish coast station. (See issue of Dec. 28.)

LU 30/12/54



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