

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

RETAIN

15284

5269 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 100/22

Date of writing this report 23rd November 1922

Vessel's Name *Steel S.S. British General* of *London*

Tons { Net 4073
Gross 6985

Built at *Newcastle* When *1922* Casualty notice sent to Owner *16.11.22* Owner's reply *20.11.22*

Owner's Name *British Tanker Co. Ltd.*

Address *Salisbury House, London Wall, London E.C.4*

		Particulars of Classification.	
Previously before Committee.	Date	<i>110081</i>	<i>110082</i>
	Last Minute	<i>Carrying Petroleum in bulk</i>	
Casualty	<i>23rd October 1922</i>	<i>Set for vessel final 122.5 P. 1000000</i>	

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

BRITISH GENERAL.—Bombay, Oct. 23.—Wireless message yesterday stated British steamer British General, cargo crude oil, ashore in lat. 26 24 N., long. 56 26 E. Nos. 1 to 5 tanks holed; Nos. 6 to 10 free of water. H.M.S. Cyclamen and steamer Aras standing by. 1124/10

Bombay, Oct. 23.—British steamer British General. Later wireless message states position serious; engine necessary; pump-room full; afraid possible to tow off.

BRITISH GENERAL.—Busreh, Oct. 23.—British steamer British General reported to be ashore north of Kuh Mubarak at the entrance of the Persian Gulf. Telegram received states all tanks forward of pump room apparently holed. 25/10

London, Oct. 24.—Copies of cables received from Mohammerah, by the owners, dated respectively 4 25 p.m., Oct. 23, and 6 p.m., Oct. 23: (1) Steamer British General reports this morning flooded forward as far as aft bulkhead main pump room. Steamer abandoned temporarily; crew returned daylight. Aras, Cyclamen standing by, Herald left to-day take soundings and to enable Aras proceed; British Judge partly loaded proceed Henjam. British Emperor proceeding British General tomorrow morning with Captain Bailie, Mr. Richardson, chemist, labour and repair equipment (?) propose pumping cargo in British Emperor transferring clean cargo British Judge Henjam, balance transhipping to first inward bound tanker. If British General (could) then float (?) will proceed to Henjam; temporary repairs will be effected, thence proceed Bombay dry-dock. Position grounding ten miles south-west of Quoin Island, not Kuh Mubarak. Master advises five fathoms water alongside steamer British General at high water. (2) Cyclamen telegraphs position British General such by time salvage aft arrives vessel will be beyond salvage, express willingness to attempt salvage operations immediately provided give us free hand to without responsibility or liability. After conference Abadan decline offer and adhere to previous arrangements detailed in our previous message. British General telegraphs ship abandoned 1 p.m. after diver from Cyclamen examined ship's bottom and reported vessel on pinnacle rock which apparently penetrated 4 ft. in line amidships. Crew transferred steamer Aras. Actual position steamer British General 1 1/2 miles north Perforated rock (?) south-west rock position chartered doubtful (?) Lloyd's Agent (?) fully informed they have protested against abandonment ship. Telegraph immediately your approval action taken. 110

BRITISH GENERAL.—Busreh, Oct. 24.—Steamer British General ashore on rocks, position doubtful, on chart one and a half miles north of Perforated Rock and pinnacle; rock penetrated hull 4 ft. fore and aft line amidships. Abandoned by the crew but British Tanker Company dispatched tug Herald due scene accident (?) Oct. 24. British Emperor due Oct. 25 with a view to possibility salvage. Understand also Royal Navy Cyclamen offered to undertake salvage operations provided all liability responsibility damage herself accepted which conditions Tanker Company declined.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

Bombay, Oct. 25.—British steamer British General: H.M.S. Cyclamen yesterday attempted to tow vessel but failed; resuming to-day with assistance of company's tug. Crew transferred to steamer Aras.

London, Oct. 25.—Following cable has been received by the owners, dated Mohammerah, Oct. 24, 4 20 p.m.:—Following telegram has been received from steamer Aras: Read on steamer British General, fresh breeze, heavy list. H.M.S. Cyclamen connected (with) British General waiting tide; pump-room flooded, pipe line(s) broken. British Emperor will have to suck oil from tanks (?) tops. Aras will report after high water. Message ends. British Emperor left Abadan 9 a.m. to-day. Later telegram states H.M.S. Cyclamen made very good endeavour to tow but unfortunately unsuccessful.

Particulars of Casualty

This vessel stranded on the 23rd October 10 miles S.W. of Quoin Island, at the entrance of the Persian Gulf, and was refloated on 5th November.

In reply to a special casualty letter the owners state that "the vessel's bottom forward appears to be holed and generally set up. The forward tanks were flooded, also the pumproom, but all after tanks appear to be intact as well as the summer tanks." It seems quite impracticable to do any repairs until we get her in dry dock. They are of opinion that the vessel is safe to proceed to Bombay.

On 17th November the Salvage Association reported that it was necessary to hold survey with a view obtaining certificate of seaworthiness to proceed Bombay in present condition if escorted by the tug "Herald".

Repaired at Hull on 19th April 1923 by P. Roberts from April 1923 to December 1923. —OK.

Record

Committee

FRI. NOV. 24 1922

Committee's Minute

Deferred for repairs.

TUE. 10 APR. 1923

TUE. JAN. 15 1924

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Lloyd's Register Foundation

W346-0114

BRITISH GENERAL.—Busreh, Oct. 25.—
Steamer British General: Received from
owners' agents report from steamer
Aras: Reed, master of British General,
on board British General. Fresh breeze,
heavy list. H.M.S. Cyclamen connected
to British General, waiting tide. Pump-
room flooded, pipe lines broken. British
Emperor will have to suck oil from
tanks. Further reports state Cyclamen
attempted to tow vessel but failed.—
Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

BRITISH GENERAL.—Busreh, Oct. 27.—
Steamer British General: Message ap-
parently sent evening Oct. 26 from Cap-
tain Bailey reads: "Consultation held
this evening shows present position of
British General to be water borne at high
water but that two pinnacles of rock
inside No. 2 and No. 5 tanks. Lighten-
ing after end inadvisable under present
condition of ship as she is open to sea
from bows to No. 6 tank and may slip
into deep water if tipped or tap more
tanks. Cyclamen, British Emperor, Aras,
Herald, will attempt broadside tow high
water Oct. 27. On the spot agree this
is best." Lanbya, powerful tug, fitted
for towage sailed hence daylight to-day
towing river craft India; instructed her
signal British Emperor inquire whether
assistance required.—Lloyd's Agents per
Salvage Association.

BRITISH GENERAL.—London, Oct. 30.
—The following cable has been received
by the owners of the steamer British
General, dated Mohammerah, Oct. 29:
Captain Baillie telegraphed on the even-
ing of Oct. 28: "Broadside towage unsuc-
cessful, vessel has been examined by
diver, damage extensive pierced by rocks?
bow to tank(s) seven. We are lighten-
ing her and expect she will float at
spring tide if the weather continues fine.
We incur no risk whatever. We are
endeavouring to make arrangements for
jettison cargo? Have made arrange-
ments? Crews quarters Bandar
Abbas returning bar. Steamer Aras
sailed Oct. 27 p.m. Lighters are re-
quired chartering from Indian Marine
Iron barges." Shall we retain steamer
British Judge if necessary lighterage
British Grenadier, British Gunner.

BRITISH GENERAL.—Busreh, Oct. 30.—
Steamer British General: Understand
attempt tow off British General broad-
side so far unsuccessful, but continuing
efforts.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Asso-
ciation.

BRITISH GENERAL.—Busreh, Nov. 2.—
Following message received from steamer
British General: All cargo jettisoned
morning of Nov. 1. Has steam main
boilers. Stern anchor out. Should the
weather continue fine hopeful she will
float next spring tide.—Salvage Associa-
tion.

BRITISH GENERAL.—London, Nov. 6.
—Radio from master states:—Steamer
British General floated Sunday morning
(Nov. 5); proceeding Henjam.

London, Nov. 6.—
The Shipping Superintendent cables from
Mohammerah, Nov. 5:—Steamer British
General proceeded under own steam
under escort to Henjam; expect arrive
Nov. 6. Apparently leak is under
control.

BRITISH GENERAL.—Busreh, Nov. 6.—
Stricks Mohammerah advised morning of
Nov. 5 steamer British General floated
and proceeded under her own steam
under escort Henjam; expected to arrive
Nov. 6. Apparently leak is under control.
Later message states British General
anchored off Henjam on afternoon of
Nov. 5.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Asso-
ciation.

BRITISH GENERAL.—London, Nov. 13.
—Steamer British General: Received
message from Strick Scott: "Divers
report more favourably. Bottom badly
set up and broken on port side, large hole
water flowing in slowly underneath cof-
ferdam deep tank one. Ship is not strained
as far as we can see above the water
line. There is every reason to believe
that hole can be stopped by diver, if
successful steam pump will be at work
as soon as possible. Everything possible
being done to expedite, do not expect to
be ready to leave here before Nov. 25."
We will probably be asked to arrange
survey for the purpose of giving Certifi-
cate Seaworthiness.—Lloyd's Agents per
Salvage Association.

BRITISH GENERAL.—Busreh, Nov. 17.—
Steamer British General: Baillie (owners'
superintendent) telegraphed Strick Scotts
(owners' agent) as follows: General
opinion it is not necessary to drydock for
temporary repairs, unsafe for steamer
to proceed direct home. Our reason is
diver has not succeeded in stopping serious
leakage, pump room and main tanks as
advised are not under control yet. Centre
of buoyancy well maintained by the
assistance other watertight compartments,
draught 25 ft. can be maintained. She is
now discharging cargo available British
Emperor and will return about Nov. 22.
Necessary hold survey with a view to
obtain certificate of seaworthiness in order
to enable vessel to proceed Bombay safely
in her present condition if escorted by
tug Herald.—Salvage Association.

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