

"ARLINGTON COURT" REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

WRECK DAY Section 9695
No. 160 4

No. 20039 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 93/39

Date of writing this report 4th December, 1939

Vessel's Name Steel S.S. "Arlington Court" of London

Gross 4915
Net 2985

Built at Belfast When 1924 5 Casualty notice sent to Owner 1/12/39 Owner's reply 2/12/39

Owner's Name Court Line, Ltd. (Baldin & Philipps, Ltd. Mgrs.)

Address 1, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3.

Particulars of Classification.

100A1 F L MC
8,38 MS 536
SS No 3-5,36 BS 5,39
TSN 8,37CL

Case previously before
Classing Committee. Date
Last Minute

Date of Casualty 16th November, 1939.

Précis of particulars of Casualty This vessel is reported to have been sunk by submarine in the Atlantic on the 16th November, 1939.

The Owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

LOST OFF IRISH COAST

Twenty-two survivors of the British steamer Arlington Court, which had been on the Irish coast, were picked up yesterday. The chief engineer died in the ship's lifeboat. Eleven other members of the crew in another lifeboat are missing. The rescuing vessel made a fruitless search for the second boat before making for the coast, which she was expected to reach early to-day.

Times
21/11

Arlington Court (4,915 tons), sunk in the Atlantic. Twenty-two of the crew were picked up yesterday by the Dutch motor-vessel, the Algenib. The chief engineer died while in the ship's lifeboat before the rescuers arrived, and was buried at sea.

Eleven other members of the crew were off in a second boat, but became separated from their companions. Rescue vessels are seeking them.

D. Mail
21/11

NC 21/11

ARLINGTON COURT (4,951 tons), owned by Court Line, Ltd. Chief engineer died in ship's lifeboat, 11 of crew missing in another lifeboat, 22 survivors. Sank off Irish Coast.

Four Days In Open Boat

NC 22/11

EXHAUSTED survivors of a British steamer sunk by a U-boat in the Atlantic described yesterday their four-day struggle to keep an open boat afloat in mountainous seas.

Twenty-two men from the Arlington Court (4,915 tons) were landed at an Irish port by a Dutch motor vessel which picked them up after they had sailed 180 miles.

Eleven other members of the crew are missing.

BURIED AT SEA

The chief engineer, H. Pearson, aged about 60, died from exposure and was buried at sea.

Second Officer Boothby, of Leicester, said: "At no time did we receive any warning."

"Throughout the night we rowed continually to keep the boat's head to the wind and prevent being swamped."

"Our provisions consisted of sea biscuits, a few tins of condensed milk and bully beef and fresh water. Our daily ration was two biscuits and two dippers of water—about a glassful—together with milk on our biscuits and a small portion of beef."

WB No 160
SECTION 4

Suggested Record

SUNK-WAR LOSS. 11,39

Date of Committee

TUE 5 DEC 1939

Committee's Minute

Sunk - War Loss 11.39

LL 22/11

NC 25/11

ELEVEN MEN MISSING

Twenty-two survivors, including the master, Captain Charles Hurst, of the British steamer *Arlington Court*, of 4915 tons gross, which was sunk in the Atlantic on Thursday afternoon, were picked up by the Dutch motorship *Algenib*, after having been four days in an open boat. They were landed at an Eireann port yesterday. Eleven other members of the crew, in two other boats, are missing. The chief engineer, Mr. H. Pearson, died from exposure in the ship's boat.

Second Officer C. Boothby, in an interview, said that as he was talking to the wireless operator on Thursday afternoon and expressing the view that it would be almost impossible for a submarine to attack them in such a heavy sea, there was a terrific explosion which sent pieces of the hatch into the air. Their wireless was wrecked, preventing their sending out messages. The crew of 34 took to the boats. Twenty-three of them got in one, eight in another and three in a jolly boat. Before they got clear the lifeboat crashed against the side of the vessel and as a result leaked continuously, requiring constant baling. Ten minutes after they had taken to the boat the submarine, which they never saw, sent another torpedo into the *Arlington Court*, which sank half an hour later, bows first. Soon after that they lost sight of the other boats, but when they last saw it the jolly boat was attempting to reach the other lifeboat. They rowed all night to keep the boat afloat, because mountainous seas were running. There were several inches of water in the boat all the time, and a number of the occupants suffered from frost-bite. On Friday morning they hoisted sail and set a course for Land's End, over 300 miles away. They had covered about 180 when picked up by the *Algenib*. The chief engineer died on Sunday.

An unavailing search was made by the Dutch vessel for the other boats. The chances of finding the occupants alive are now regarded as remote unless they have already been picked up by a vessel which has not yet reported the fact. The chief officer and third engineer are among the missing.

The *Arlington Court*, which was owned by the Court Line, Ltd. (Haldin & Philipps, Ltd., managers), London, was built by Workman, Clark & Co., Ltd., Belfast, in 1929.

Times 22/11

ELEVEN MEN MISSING SURVIVORS FOUR DAYS IN AN OPEN BOAT

Twenty-two survivors from the London steamer *Arlington Court* (4,915 tons), which, as announced in our later editions yesterday, was sunk by a U-boat in the Atlantic, reached safety early yesterday, suffering from exposure and the effects of a struggle to keep their open boat afloat for four days. They were landed at a port in Eire by the Dutch motor-vessel *Algenib*.

Eleven members of the crew are missing. They were in other boats which have not been traced. Before the rescuing vessel reached the survivors the chief engineer, H. Pearson, died from exposure. Their ship was sunk by a submarine which they never saw. The first torpedo wrecked their wireless and prevented their sending any S.O.S. Ten minutes after they had taken to the boats another torpedo struck the ship, and she sank in half an hour. The vessel belonged to the Court Line, Limited.

Times 24/11

Seven of the 11 men reported missing from the steamer *Arlington Court* which was sunk some days ago, have been picked up by a British ship, it was announced last night. There is still no news of the other four men.

WEEK IN OPEN BOAT WITH HALF A CUP OF WATER A DAY

STORIES of ordeal at sea by survivors of two torpedoed ships are in the news today.

Six days in an open boat, with a daily water ration of half a cupful each, was the lot of seven additional survivors of the London steamer *Arlington Court* (4,915 tons) who reached a Kent port yesterday.

Their ship was torpedoed in the Atlantic on November 16, and they were landed yesterday from a Norwegian motor-vessel.

There is still no news of the remaining four men.

The seven men were all suffering more or less severely from frostbitten feet, but only two of them were detained in hospital.

They were J. Ward, the cook, and C. Winsor, galley boy, both of Cardiff.

The five others, who were given temporary shelter at an hotel, were G. Partridge, seaman, of Cardiff; G. Swenson, fireman, of Newport, Mon.; B. Gash, trimmer, of Cardiff; V. Corcoran, deck boy, of Cardiff, and M. Morrison, deck boy, of Stornoway.

SAW U-BOAT

One of the survivors said: "When we were miles from land the ship was hit by a torpedo."

"We had just got away in the boats when we saw a periscope circling round."

"The boat into which the seven of us—four only lads—had got away was nearly dragged under as the ship went down."

"I thought an SOS message had been sent out after the ship was struck, but the explosion must have wrecked the wireless cabin."

"We stayed in the vicinity for over 20 hours, but no ship came near."

SHIPS THAT PASSED

"Then we headed east, hoping to make land, for we had only two barrels of water, and one was no use because salt water had got into it."

"We had to ration it, and each of us had about half a cupful a day. We had plenty of biscuits and a little condensed milk."

"We sighted several ships, but had no means of attracting their attention, and saw them all disappear again."

"Early on the morning of the sixth day we were picked up by the Norwegian vessel."

There was a total crew of 34, and the four who are still missing got away from the ship in the jolly boat. The *Arlington Court* was owned by Court Lines, Ltd.

Times 25/11

SIX DAYS IN OPEN BOAT

Seven additional survivors of the London steamer *Arlington Court*, torpedoed in the Atlantic, were landed at a Kent port yesterday from a Norwegian motor-vessel which picked them up after they had drifted for six days in an open boat. Four men are still missing.



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