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REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 35989 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 7/1/39 Date of writing this report 27th November, 1939
Vessel's Name Steel S.S. "Vendia" of Copenhagen Tons {Gross 1150
Net 627
Built at Kiel When 1924 10 Casualty notice sent to Owner 10/10/39 Owner's reply 21/11/39
Owner's Name A/S Dampskibsselskabet D.F.K. (De forenede Kolumportører A/S, Mærsk)
Address Bolmens Kanal 5, Copenhagen.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

DANISH SHIP SUNK BY U-BOAT

11 OF CREW DROWNED

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT
COPENHAGEN, OCT. 1

The Danish steamer Vendia (1,150 tons) was sunk yesterday by a German submarine off The Scaw, the northernmost point of Denmark. Of the crew of 17 men, 11 were drowned.

The Svava, another Danish ship, arrived to-night at Copenhagen from Antwerp with the news that on Saturday afternoon they met east of The Scaw the Vendia, which was bound for England to fetch a cargo of coal. Suddenly there was an explosion in the Vendia amidships. The Vendia was broken in two, the stern half sinking in a few minutes, while the fore half was still floating.

The German submarine then signalled to the Svava to stop and ordered the captain to go on board the submarine, where the commander of the submarine told him that the Vendia was safe. The survivors from the Vendia say they did not notice the submarine before the warning shot. The submarine commander declared that he first signalled to the Vendia, but that as she failed to stop he fired a warning shot. The Vendia's survivors say there were only a few seconds between the warning and the sinking.

Denmark is to protest against the sinking by a German submarine of the steamer Vendia. Eleven of the crew were drowned.
The German Admiralty declare that the Vendia not only attempted to flee, but also tried to ram the German U-boat, "which is a warlike act in contravention of international rules."

The official German allegations, that the Vendia's captain first tried to escape and then tried to ram the U-boat, are categorically rejected. The statements of six rescued men make it absolutely clear that the U-boat approached the Vendia from behind, and that the Vendia and the U-boat then sailed in the same direction, which excludes the possibility that the Vendia, which was leading, could ram the U-boat.

At the official inquiry this afternoon the master of the Vendia, Captain Lund, stated that immediately after the U-boat was observed the first mate gave the order to stop, but almost at the same moment the submarine started shooting.

He added that to show that the ship had stopped the Vendia whistled twice, and, speaking in German, Captain Lund asked the U-boat, then only 150 yards away, if he should approach her. No answer was given, and the U-boat continued firing. The explosion after the final torpedo was terrible. The captain indignantly gave a description of how the U-boat, whose crew could clearly see where most of the crew had gathered on the deck of his ship, deliberately fired on that part, so that most of the men's lives were lost.

The captain later declared that when, after swimming round for some time, he was saved by the U-boat, one of the German officers said to him: "You were sailing with contraband," and when the captain answered that he was sailing in ballast the officer was very surprised. The captain declared that nobody on board the U-boat had mentioned the theory that the Vendia had tried to ram her, nor was it possible to mistake the ship's movements and believe she was trying to escape.

Previously before Assessing Committee.	Date	Particulars of Classification.	
	Last Minute		
		<u>F 100A1</u>	<u>ALME 3,37</u>
		<u>3,39</u>	<u>BS 4,39</u>
		<u>ss. No 3-4,37</u>	<u>TS 3,39CL</u>

Date of Casualty 30th September, 1939.

Details of particulars of Casualty This vessel is reported to have been sunk by submarine off Hantsholm, Denmark, on the 30th September, 1939.

The Owners now concur.

Suggested Record SUNK - WAR LOSS. 9.39
Date of Committee TUE. 28 NOV 1939
Committee's Minute Sunk - War Loss 9.39
Character Assigned 5339 Cargo this not 1st second