

# "ROTHESAY CASTLE"

## REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

WRECK BY  
No. 172 Section 2  
**9792**

16  
RS.

No. 32644 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 2/40 Date of writing this report 7<sup>th</sup> February 1940  
 Vessel's Name Steel S. Motorship Rothesay Castle of London (Gross 7016 Tons) (Net 4260)  
 Built at Belfast When 1935 5 Casualty notice sent to Owner 2/2/40 Owner's reply 2/2/40  
 Owner's Name Union-Castle Mail S.S. Co. Ltd.  
 Address 27 Fenchurch St. London E.C. 3.

RETAIN

Case previously before Classing Committee.		Particulars of Classification.	
Date	<u>x</u>	<u>100 A</u>	<u>L.M.C. CP 5-39</u>
Last Minute	<u>x</u>	<u>5-39</u>	<u>5-39</u>
		<u>55 Liv Mar 39</u>	<u>D.A.P. 12-38</u>
			<u>X.P.C. 4-38</u>

Date of Casualty 4<sup>th</sup> January 1940  
 Précis of particulars of Casualty This vessel stranded on the rocks at Sanaig Point, Isle of Islay and was badly damaged. On account of the heavy seas and swell and her exposed position salvage attempts were unsuccessful and she ultimately broke her back and settled aft being abandoned as a Total loss.  
The Owners concur in the record to be assigned.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

**LINER ON REEF**

**FEAR THAT SHE MAY BREAK BACK**

It was learned yesterday that the Union-Castle liner Rothesay Castle (7,016 tons) struck a reef on the West Coast of Scotland last Thursday and was damaged. There are fears that the liner may break her back.

The crew was transferred by a lifeboat, which answered signals for assistance, to a tug. The lifeboat stood by for nearly two days before the crew was taken off. The Rothesay Castle, it is understood, was on charter to the Anchor Line, of Glasgow. She is reported to be resting on a jagged reef. Twelve of the crew, including the captain, have remained on board. A hold is damaged, but the crew remaining aboard are not in any danger.

Times  
11/1/40

**Liner Aground May Be Total Loss**

News  
Chronicle  
11/1/40

IT was revealed yesterday that the Union-Castle Line's 7,000-ton Rothesay Castle ran aground on the coast of Islay, off the West of Scotland, last week-end.

It is feared that the Rothesay Castle, in spite of efforts now being made to salvage her, may be a total loss.

Her captain and 11 men are standing by the ship while a salvage attempt is being made, but with the pounding seas threatening to break her up on the jagged rocks they are ready at a moment's notice to leave in a salvage tug.

The liner struck a reef on the west coast of Scotland last Thursday night, and there are fears that she may break her back.

The crew was transferred to a tug by a lifeboat which answered signals for assistance. The lifeboat stood by for nearly two days before the crew was taken off.

**ELUDED GERMANS**

In the first month of the war the Rothesay Castle had an exciting voyage during which she successfully eluded attacks by German submarines.

Captain Samuel Drew was in command at the time. He has since died and at the inquest at Croydon last month a verdict was returned that he took his life while the balance of his mind was disturbed.

**Back Broken, Feared a Total Loss**

The Union-Castle Line motorship Rothesay Castle went ashore last week on rocks off Islay. The vessel has broken her back and it is feared that she will become a total loss. The vessel is still on the rocks and 12 of the crew, including the master, have remained on board. The Rothesay Castle is a vessel of 7016 tons net. She was built at Belfast in 1935 by Harland & Wolff, Ltd.

The Rothesay Castle, it is understood, was on charter to the Anchor Line. In the first month of the war she had an exciting voyage during which she successfully eluded attacks by German submarines. Captain Samuel Drew was in command at the time. He has since died and at the inquest at Croydon last month a verdict was returned that he took his life while the balance of his mind was disturbed.

LL 11/1/40

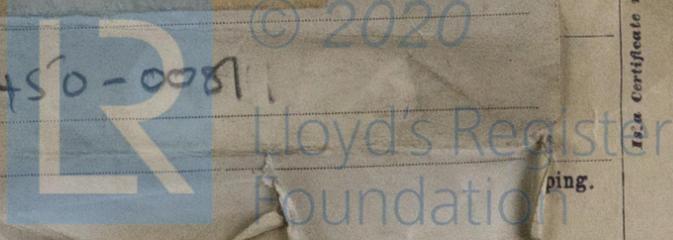
W.B. no. 173  
Section 2

Suggested Record Stranded & Sunk 1-40  
 Date of Committee TUE. 13 FEB 1940

Committee's Minute Stranded & Sunk 1-40  
1940

W45D-0081

W45D-0081



Insert Character of Ship and Machinery precisely as in the Register Book

also, or Certificate required. If so, to be sent to