

WRECK DAY
No. 153

9661

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 19402 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 65/39

Date of writing this report 30th October, 1939

Vessel's Name *Steel No. 1 "Alex van Opstal"* of *Antwerp* Tons {Gross 5965
Net 3447Built at *Nakskov* When 1937 9 Casualty notice sent to Owner 6/10/39 Owner's reply 17/10/39Owner's Name *Compagnie Maritime Belge (Lloyd Royal) Soc. Anon.*
(Agence Maritime Internationale, Ngrm.)Address *Hersey House, Quai de Rouen, Antwerp.*

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

Previously before
ing Committee. { Date
Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.	
+10091 with freeboard 4.39	+LMC9.37 +Hogd's RMC 8.39 for temp. 32°F.
OIL ENGINE	CL

of Casualty 15th September, 1939.

of particulars of Casualty This vessel is reported to have
been sunk either by a torpedo or mine near
Weymouth on the 15th September, 1939.

The Owners concur.

The Ministry of Information issued the following statement on Saturday:—"The Belgian steamer Alex van Opstal, 5,965 tons, was sunk late last night as the result of enemy action off the Shambles light-ship, near Weymouth, either from having been torpedoed, or, as her master believes, from the explosion of a mine. If his opinion is well founded, the mine must without doubt have been dropped by an enemy minelayer, as at no time have the British laid live mines anywhere near the spot where the Alex van Opstal sank.

"By either method of sinking the enemy has violated international law, as, if the cause of the sinking was a mine, the mine-field had not been notified, and, if a torpedo, the act was an infraction of the Submarine Protocol to which Germany had adhered."

Our Brussels Correspondent telegraphs:—

The news of the wreck of the Belgian cargo ship Alex van Opstal in the Channel has made a deep impression in Belgium, and particularly in Antwerp. She was a motor cargo ship of the latest type, and carried 4,500 tons of mixed merchandise. M. Marck, the Minister of Transport, has ordered an inquiry into the cause of the wreck.

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efficiently lubricated?

Suggested Record

Date of Committee

Committee's Minute

TUE 31 OCT 1939

Sunk

Sunk

W. H. Lloyd



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Lloyd's Register of Shipping
Foundation

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