

# REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 22958 in R. B.

Wreck Book, p. 23/34

Date of writing this report

17th May 1934

Vessel's Name *Steel S.P. "Canby"* of *West Hartlepool* Tons *Net 2676 Gross 4804*  
 Built at *Sunderland* When *1911* — *12* Casualty notice sent to Owner *15/5/34* Owner's reply *16/5/34*  
 Owner's Name *Ropner Shipping Co. Ltd.*  
 Address *Mercantile Chambers, Mainforth Terrace, W. Hartlepool*

Case previously before  
 Classing Committee.

Date  
 Last Minute

## Particulars of Classification.

*+100A1* *SS Rot N°3-1.25*  
*3.33* *SS Shl N°2-33*  
*+LMC 3.32*  
*BS 3.33*

Date of Casualty

*19th February 1934.*

Précis of particulars of Casualty

*This vessel stranded at Guion Island, Cape Breton, on the 19th February.*

*Salvage operations were undertaken but several attempts to refloat her were unsuccessful.*

*On the 20th March she was reported to have been driven further inshore with all holds tidal; stern frame bent; bridge deck rusing; plating aft buckled & fractured; & tunnel top plating in N°3 hold fractured.*

*In reply to a special casualty letter the Owners state that, owing to bad weather & ice conditions, it has not been possible for the Underwriters' representative to make a thorough & complete examination of the vessel. There is, however, evidence of very serious damage, so much so, that it would appear that the Underwriters' are unable to arrange for salvage on a "no cure no pay" basis.*

*The Owners add they anticipate that within a short time the Underwriters' will probably decide to abandon the vessel as a total loss.*

## SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

**CANBY.**—Canso, N.S. Wireless Station, Feb. 19.—At 6.25 a.m., G.M.T., steamer Canby reported aground Guion Island.

London, Feb. 19.—The following telegrams have been received from the owners of the steamer Canby, dated Feb. 19:—

Regret have received wireless message from Canby stating aground Guion Island. Canby now radios vessel fast forward, soundings show 2 ft. 6 in. at stem, 16 ft. abreast foremast, stern in deep water. Attempting to refloat by pumping out ballast forward. Extent of damage not ascertained; bottom rock.

North Sydney Wireless Station, Feb. 19.—At 2.15 a.m., E.S.T., British steamer Canby aground one mile east of Guion Island. Soundings show 2 ft. 6 in. at stem, 16 ft. abreast foremast, stern in deep water. Attempting refloat.

Halifax, Feb. 19.—Steamer Canby: Lloyd's Agents at North Sydney, C.B., report vessel ashore one mile east of Guion Island. Vessel is in ballast. Nos. 1 and 2 tanks leaking badly, extensively damaged forward. Drawing 2 ft. 6 in. forward, deep water at. Tug Cruiser attempting to refloat at noon. Am proceeding immediately on salvage steamer Foundation Franklin. Salvage Association's Surveyor.

North Sydney, C.B., Feb. 19.—Steamer Canby reported damaged badly, about the bows, tanks leaky, bottom damaged badly. Tug Cruiser attending. Salvage steamer Foundation Franklin leaving Halifax this afternoon with your surveyor.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association.

**CANBY.**—Halifax, Feb. 19.—Steamer Canby stranded on Guion Island, Cape Breton coast, to-day. The position is a very exposed one. Captain Wilson and his crew, numbering 32, all British, are standing by. The vessel was bound to Louisburg for coal from St. John, N.B.—Exchange Telegraph Company.

North Sydney, C.B., Feb. 19.—Steamer Canby bumping heavily. Tug failed to move vessel. Pumps ineffective, leaking in Nos. 1 and 2 ballast tanks.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association.

Halifax, Feb. 19.—Steamer Canby: Master reports attempt to refloat with assistance of tug to-day unsuccessful, no movement, fast forward and amidships, bumping heavily. Will require salvage equipment before refloating. Expect arrive with salvage steamer Foundation Franklin at noon on Tuesday (Feb. 20) depending on weather and ice conditions.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

London, Feb. 20.—The following telegram has been received from the owners of the steamer Canby:—Have received following cable from Canby: Attempt refloat made high water assisted by tug, no movement. Vessel remains fast forward and amidships bumping very heavily. Fear extensive damage to bottom, position serious if wind hauls to east. Have ordered assistance of salvage tug on "no cure no pay" basis. All hands safe.

**CANBY.**—Louisburg, Feb. 20.—Steamer Canby, in ballast, lying on rocky ledge bow on, on east side of Guion Island, heading N. 36 deg. W. magnetic. High water draught 6 feet forward, 15 aft, upright, afloat from midship aft, forepeak and Nos. 1 and 2 tanks unpumpable, all other compartments dry. Exposed north-east to west. Attempt to refloat to-day with assistance of salvage steamer Foundation Franklin unsuccessful. Owing approaching storm and heavily rafted incoming ice field Foundation Franklin proceeding Louisburg for shelter before diver's examination possible. Master, skeleton crew, and self remaining on board.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

(Continued over)

22nd May, 1934.

*The Owners now state, in a letter dated 18th May, that the Insurance Underwriters have acknowledged this vessel to be a total loss.*

d Record x

Date of Committee

FRI. 18 MAY 1934

Committee's Minute

*Deferred*

Character Assigned

*Deferred for*

WED

WED

WED. 23 MAY 1934

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Lloyd's Register  
 Foundation

WS94-01735



**CANBY.**—Quebec, Feb. 21.—Steamer Canby: Our surveyor at the vessel reports SW. gale, ice field closed on to land. Canby driven broadside to island, stern higher than bow. This afternoon westerly wind driving ice off shore. Salvage steamer Foundation Franklin unable cross Gabarus Bay. Icebreaker Mikula Selcaninovich proceeding to Canby. Exact condition of Canby unknown. Foundation Franklin will attempt to reach vessel at daylight.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

**CANBY.**—Louisburg, Feb. 22.—Steamer Canby: During SW. gale on Wednesday (Feb. 21) driven broadside to island. As no assistance immediately available owing to salvage steamer Foundation Franklin being icebound at Louisburg, obliged take to lifeboat and all skeleton crew and self landed at Gabarus Point and remained at Gabarus during night. Foundation Franklin left Louisburg on Thursday picking up crew at Gabarus and then proceeded to Canby. Found drawing at high water twelve feet six forward, twelve feet aft, five degrees port list, heading south 20 degrees west, Nos. 1, 2 and 4 holds and engine-room flooded, but probably pumpable. Unable make satisfactory diver's examination on account of swell. Weather and ice conditions permitting returning to vessel on Friday to ascertain definitely prospects of refloating.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

**CANBY.**—Louisburg, Feb. 23.—Steamer Canby: Boarded to-day. Diver reports resting across two rocky ledges 60 ft. wide way bridge front, 12 ft. wide way poop front, other parts unsupported. All bottom plating from cross bunker hatch forward badly set up also portion way after ledge. Propeller, rudder, stern frame, shell plating above line tank tops apparently undamaged. Owing to SE. gale and incoming ice field obliged to return to Louisburg. Consider vessel at present salvable but owing to bad weather and large heavy ice field continually moving in and off shore during next two months making time for salvage operations indeterminable and salvage steamer Foundation Franklin now only able to work a few hours every other day consider continuing contract guaranteeing expenses undesirable. Foundation Franklin will not entertain "no cure no pay" contract without guarantees.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

**CANBY.**—Louisburg, Feb. 24.—Steamer Canby: No communication with island. Salvage steamer Foundation Franklin unable to get within three miles of vessel to-day owing to latter being surrounded by icefield. Can hire tug at Louisburg to secure Canby when conditions improve. Anticipate present gales will further damage.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

**CANBY.**—Louisburg, Feb. 25.—Steamer Canby: Salvage steamer Foundation Franklin lay off vessel all to-day, unable to board owing to seas breaking alongside; zero weather. Condition and position apparently unaltered.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

**CANBY.**—Louisburg, Feb. 26.—Steamer Canby: North-east gale and snowstorm to-day, vessel surrounded by ice field.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

**CANBY.**—Louisburg, C.B., Feb. 27.—Steamer Canby: As operations suspended indefinitely and eventual refloating doubtful, I suggest that the crew, now at Louisburg, be repatriated.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

**CANBY.**—Louisburg, C.B., Feb. 27.—Steamer Canby: South-west gale to-day. Tug Foundation Franklin proceeding Halifax, reports seas breaking over decks, condition apparently unaltered. Repatriating crew to-morrow, retaining master and chief engineer.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

**CANBY.**—Louisburg, C.B., Mar. 1.—Steamer Canby: Boarded on Wednesday evening (Feb. 28) for first time possible for five days. Endeavouring run anchor but driven off by ice. Vessel's condition unaltered. Owing weather and ice working on wreck practically impossible. Suggest making contract with tug Cruiser to secure vessel when conditions permit allowing my return to Halifax and repatriation of master and chief engineer. Lighthouse keeper watching vessel.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

**CANBY.**—Louisburg, Mar. 6.—Steamer Canby unapproachable since Wednesday (Feb. 28) owing to heavy swell and dense fog.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

**CANBY.**—Louisburg, C.B., Mar. 8.—Steamer Canby: Best weather conditions since last boarding on Feb. 28 prevailed on Thursday (Mar. 8) when further attempt to board vessel was unsuccessful owing to swell. Condition and position apparently unaltered.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

**CANBY.**—London, Mar. 14.—The Salvage Association are advised that the master of the steamer Canby has cabled the following message to the owners from Louisburg: Revisited Canby to-day, unable to approach 50 yards account of heavy surf around vessel. Vessel driven further on rock broadside during easterly gale on Sunday (Mar. 11): now heading south-west, draught three feet forward, about ten feet aft, both decks damaged by sea, and ice covering stern frame and deck makes satisfactory examination impossible from boat.

**CANBY.**—Halifax, Mar. 14.—Steamer Canby: Master reports unable to board on Tuesday (Mar. 13). Vessel driven further inshore, heavily iced up. Port boatdeck carried away.—Salvage Association's Surveyors.

**CANBY.**—Halifax, Mar. 20.—Steamer Canby: Master reports boarded from motor boat Monday (Mar. 19), first time this month. Vessel further inshore, all holds now tidal, stern frame bent, bridge deck rising, plating aft buckled and fractured, tunnel top plating No. 3 hold fractured.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

London, Mar. 21.—The owners of the steamer Canby have received the following cable from the master, dated Louisburg, Mar. 20: Reboarded Canby Mar. 19, found signs of buckling on both sides abaft engine-room, fracture in gunwale bar at break of after well deck  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long, fracture in tunnel top foot long midway between mainmast and engine-room bulkhead. Stern frame bent and now resting on rocks. Vessel tidal fore and aft.—Salvage Association.

**CANBY.**—Halifax, Mar. 22.—Steamer Canby: Steamer Caribou reports Thursday (Mar. 22) icefield all way Port aux Basques to Sydney.—Salvage Association's Surveyors.

**CANBY.**—Halifax, Mar. 23.—Steamer Canby is probably still salvable but impossible to anticipate her condition when operations practicable, about 4-5 weeks' time.—Salvage Association's Surveyors.

**CANBY.**—Halifax, Apr. 7.—Steamer Canby: Tug Foundation Franklin reports vessel unapproachable, surrounded by heavy icefield.—Salvage Association's Surveyors.

**CANBY.**—Halifax, Apr. 27.—Steamer Canby: Master reports ice off coast, weather more favourable. Am proceeding to Louisburg.—Salvage Association's Surveyor.

**CANBY.**—London, May 2.—The Salvage Association have received the following telegram from the owners of the steamer Canby, dated West Hartlepool, May 1: Following message from master of Canby at Louisburg: Reboarded Canby to-day with Salvage Association's Surveyor. Vessel's condition practically unaltered since last visit. Expect salvage steamer Foundation Franklin here on Friday (May 4) in order Salvage Master inspect vessel's position.

Halifax, May 1.—Steamer Canby: Anticipate finally clear of ice. Boarded on Monday (Apr. 30), position practically the same as on Feb. 28. No evidence of breaking up, port side shell plating extensively slightly set in below top side tanks from stem to mainmast, web frames showing externally, also some indentations starboard bow, about 8 ft. of water on all tank tops high tide; stern frame bent, rudder set up, two lower strakes forehold after bulkhead badly buckled, tank tops in way set up, tunnel top seams No. 3 hold burst, no evidence of frost damage to main engine cylinders, all small portable gear and stores pilfered. Salvage steamer Foundation Franklin proceeding to wreck about Friday (May 4) to make full examination with a view to submitting salvage offer.—Salvage Association's Surveyors.