

WRECK BOX
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RETAIN

London, Oct. 16.—A telephonic report was received last night from the Liverpool Salvage Association that the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board had taken possession of the steamer Oklahoma and had instructed the Association to deal with the cargo as in previous cases. Exact information cannot yet be given as to the position, but, roughly, the vessel has collapsed in the way of No. 2 hatch consequent on the explosion and the damage will probably be serious. The Mersey Docks and Harbour Board is lowering the water level by 8 ft. to facilitate operations. The cargo in the forward holds, which are submerged, consisted of 1000 tons of nitrate and 1473 bales of cotton, 1192 tons of sugar and 243 tons of cotton cake, all of which will be damaged by fire and/or water. Probably the nitrate and the sugar will be completely dissolved, but the cotton is believed not to be badly damaged by fire. The cargo in Nos. 3 and 4 holds consisted of 1000 tons of nitrate, 1921 bales of cotton and 915 tons of sugar. A temporary bulkhead is being built in the tween decks to prevent the water flowing to the after-end of the vessel, but some damage by water has already been sustained by the cargo in No. 3 hold. Endeavours to discharge the cotton from No. 1 hold by means of the derrick barges were being commenced.—Salvage Association.

Liverpool, Oct. 16.—Steamer Oklahoma: The Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association report they are acting as agents to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board in and about the receiving and disposing of the cargo landed on this vessel. Cargo underwriters are requested to furnish that Association with marks and other particulars of their interests.

Liverpool, Oct. 16.—Steamer Oklahoma: After part of vessel intact, forward part shelter deck has fallen on to main deck, sides of vessel especially starboard side are very badly buckled also part engine-room and will require extensive patching before any change can be made in ship's position. Some cargo was discharged last night, particulars as to nature and quantity not yet to hand. Further report will be made after divers have made under-water examination as extent damage not yet fully known. Mersey Docks and Harbour Board are expediting salvage operations.

OKLAHOMA.—London, Oct. 17.—Divers yesterday found that the burnt out steamer Oklahoma, in Sandon Dock, Liverpool, had not broken her back as was originally thought but she is very badly buckled. It is hoped that she may be salvaged in one piece, though it will probably be a week before any attempt can be made to move her. The crew left last night for France.—"The Daily Telegraph."

OKLAHOMA.—Liverpool, Oct. 21.—Steamer Oklahoma: In order to facilitate operations it has been necessary to sink afterpart of vessel. Quantity of cargo had previously been discharged from this portion.

OKLAHOMA.—Liverpool, Oct. 23.—Steamer Oklahoma: In reply to inquiry regarding salvage operations, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board advise, under yesterday's date:—Divers have made more detailed examination in Nos. 2 and 3 holds where she collapsed, and further damage to her side plating, &c., been located, which consists of starboard side a bilge plate 2 ft. 8 in. clear of landings distance 20 ft., several other landings 6 to 8 in. open distance 4 to 8 ft., other plates badly buckled and open; port side several plates ship's side and landings of plates open, bottom tank tops are up 4 ft. broken and twisted also 20 ft. in fore and aft direction, many bottom rivets are out, bottom shell plating very badly buckled and holed, and bottom plates torn away from one another. Divers engaged patching sides. Necessary discharge cargo cotton, &c., from No. 1 hold otherwise weight in forward end would be too great to enable vessel to be floated. Eight divers are working.

OKLAHOMA.—Liverpool, Oct. 29.—French steamer Oklahoma: Mersey Docks and Harbour Board advises under yesterday's date the following further report from the Board's Marine Surveyor: Side shell plating: Work of patching sides of vessel now completed, being continued by divers in

order strengthen patch. Bottom shell plating and plate landings: Cementing over the wedging between landings of plates and fractured seams of plating been completed, the double bottoms wherever possible are being filled with cement, this should be completed by to-night. Discharge of cargo: Cargo has been discharged continuously from No. 1 hold to date, about 1100 bales have been discharged, about 350 still remain. Much difficulty experienced discharging this cargo by divers owing to loose cotton from burst bales and during last three days the discharge has averaged 80 bales per day. There are 240 tons of oilcake in this hold. It may be necessary to discharge portion of or all this cargo as bags have burst and the contents have become a semi-congealed mass which is likely to choke the pumps. Saltpetre water is still causing trouble to hands of divers, which has necessitated further reduction in the working hours.

OKLAHOMA.—Liverpool, Nov. 4.—Steamer Oklahoma: Pumping test was made yesterday. Fore and after parts of vessel were raised but amidships near fracture remained submerged; vessel commenced to take water quickly and is again submerged.

OKLAHOMA.—Liverpool, Nov. 5.—Steamer Oklahoma: The Mersey Docks and Harbour Board's attempt to float this vessel on an even keel over the week-end has failed, and we are now advised by the Board that they have decided to sever the afterpart from the forepart and are refloating the ends separately. We understand they first contemplate recovering the copper by diving.—Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Association per London Salvage Association.

OKLAHOMA.—Liverpool, Nov. 8.—The Mersey Docks & Harbour Board have to-day decided upon a different method of raising and removing the French steamer Oklahoma from the south side of the Sandon Dock. It has been decided to drain the dock and thereby expose the vessel for the purpose of patching her up sufficiently to enable her to be floated and thus removed. She will then be towed out of the refilled dock, taken across the river and probably beached at Tranmere. The explosions caused by the fire have wrought such serious havoc with the main structure of the steamer that it is questionable whether repair will be worth while. If it is found that she is beyond repair she will either be broken up or sold as she will lie after being patched up and towed from the dock across the river.—Lloyd's List Correspondent.

OKLAHOMA.—Liverpool, Nov. 14.—Steamer Oklahoma: Divers still engaged recovering copper. Anticipate that dock will be run dry p.m. tide Sunday, Nov. 17, when steps regarding removal of vessel will be considered. Caisson to be placed at dock entrance arrived on scene this morning.

OKLAHOMA.—Liverpool, Nov. 19.—Steamer Oklahoma: Sandon Dock nearly dry, vessel now in very little water. Vessel's sides buckled from funnel forward, damage now fully exposed. Salvors are cutting away damaged broken iron-work with acetylene burners, hoped that vessel may be removed whole. Pumps still engaged emptying dock.

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

Law Certificate required? If so, to be sent to



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Committee's Minute TUE 9 JUL 1929
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