

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 28920 in R.B. Wreck Book, p. 39/47

Date of writing this report 13th August, 1947

Vessel's Name *S. Tanker "Markay"* of *Wilmington, Del.* Tons (Gross 10342 Net 6087)Built at *Chester, Pa.* When 1942 9 Casualty notice sent to Owner 7.7.47 Owner's reply 26.7.47Owner's Name *Keystone Tankship Corporation*Address *1015, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa.*Case previously before
Classing Committee. { Date
Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

+100A1

+LMC942

BS11/45

TS 11,45 CL

W.T.B.

Carrying Petroleum in bulk
Fitted for oil fuel 942 F.P. above 150°.

Date of Casualty 22nd June, 1947

Précis of particulars of Casualty

An explosion occurred amidships on this tanker after she had completed loading butane at San Pedro, California, on the 22nd June, 1947.
Cause unknown.

The bow and stern remained above water, but the vessel was submerged amidships.

Considered irreparable and has been abandoned as a total loss.

The Owners concur.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

MARKAY.—Long Beach, Calif., June 22.—An explosion occurred to-day on tank steamer Markay at the Shell Oil Pier, on Mormon Island. It was reported later from Wilmington, Calif., that the explosion had wrecked the vessel, and that she was lying on her side. Flaming fuel spread across the channel to the shore. Flames were reported to have gutted the terminal of the American President Lines across the channel, and to be threatening the adjacent Matson Lines' terminal. The blast from the explosion partially lifted the roof of the Matson loading shed. Fireboats from Long Beach Harbour were aiding fireboats from Wilmington, Calif., to fight the fire. The Markay was loaded with butane.—Reuter.

LL 23.6.47

MARKAY.—San Francisco, June 22.—Serious explosion reported on American tank steamer Markay at Los Angeles, resulting in very serious damage to vessel and wharves, with several of crew missing. (See "Dock Area, San Pedro, California" under "Fires," also issue of June 23.)

" 24/6

MARKAY.—San Francisco, June 23.—Tank steamer Markay: Explosion occurred on morning of June 22 apparently amidships, stern and bow now out of water but vessel submerged in middle. No survey permitted until vessel gas freed and bodies recovered. Surveyor reports indications that vessel is a total loss, will examine engine-room as soon as possible to ascertain if salvage possible. Cause of casualty presently unknown. Damage to wharves in vicinity estimated by authorities possibly at \$2,000,000.—Lloyd's Agent per Salvage Association. (See issue of June 24.)

" 25/6

MARKAY.—San Francisco, June 24.—Tank steamer Markay: Our surveyor has been on board and states in his opinion vessel is a total loss. Engine-room and top of boiler badly burned, lower part standing in water; cost of salvage more than value of vessel.—Lloyd's Agents per Salvage Association. (See issue of June 25.)

" 26/6

London, June 25.—The following cable has been received to-day from Philadelphia: "Tank steamer Markay: Survey held to-day, underwriters' surveyors consider vessel irreparable. Los Angeles municipal authorities insist that she be removed immediately because of fire menace and demand that owners abandon her to United States Engineers to-morrow at latest."

DOCK AREA, SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA

San Francisco, June 22.—Serious explosion reported on American tank steamer MARKAY at Los Angeles, resulting in very serious damage to vessel and wharves.—Lloyd's Agent.

" 24/6

San Pedro, Calif., June 22.—Damage estimated to run into millions of dollars was caused by a waterfront fire which followed an explosion to-day on board tank steamer MARKAY, loaded with butane, in San Pedro harbour. The spread of the flames threatened large oil storage tanks on shore. With sheds and warehouses already ablaze, 25 fire brigades and harbour boats fought to keep the flames in check. Late this evening it was announced that the situation was definitely under control, and six vessels which had been towed outside the harbour returned to their anchorages.

(Later) Total damage of \$1,750,000 is now estimated to have been caused by the explosion on the tanker and the subsequent fire along the waterfront in San Pedro harbour. One of the six vessels towed out of harbour for safety was the British steamer Waitemata.—British United Press.

Wilmington, Calif., June 22.—Tank steamer MARKAY had just taken on board nearly 3,000,000 gallons of fuel when she blew up as a result of a triple explosion while at the loading dock early to-day. The explosion rocked the harbour and spread fire to several shore installations. The damage to property is estimated at more than \$10,000,000. The fire was brought under control after six hours.—Reuter.

Los Angeles, June 22.—As a result of the explosion on board the American tank steamer MARKAY the passenger and cargo liners of the American President Lines and the Matson Lines have been largely destroyed. The Matson Line cargo steamer Maunalei was saved after a long struggle by fireboats.—"The Daily Telegraph & Morning Post" Correspondent.

Suggested Record *Sunk in port by explosion 6.47*Date of Committee *FRI. 15 AUG 1947*

Committee's Minute

Sunk in port by explosion 6.47

© 2020

Lloyd's Register
Foundation