

Last Rpt. Gen. 11573

8076

WRECK BOX
No. 67

REPORT OF TOTAL LOSS, CASUALTY, &c.

No. 64534 in R. B. Wreck Book, p. 108730

Date of writing this report 12th January 1931

Vessel's Name *Steel S.S. "Artiglio"* of *Genoa* Tons { Net 117
Gross 224 }

Built at *Glasgow* When *1906* 3 Casualty notice sent to Owner *16.12.30* Owner's reply

Owner's Name *SORIMA, Soc. Anon. Ricuperi Marittimi*

Address *Palazzo Nuova Borsa 145, Genoa*

RETAIN

Case previously before
Classing Committee.

Date
Last Minute

Particulars of Classification.

<i>HOOR</i>	<i>SM 3 to 19</i>
<i>530</i>	<i>SM 2. 28</i>
	<i>2. 28 3. 28</i>
	<i>BS 530</i>

DUAL CLASS.

Date of Casualty *8th December 1930*

Précis of particulars of Casualty

This salvage vessel was engaged in blowing up a wreck in the Quiberon Channel on 8th December. The wreck carried several hundred tons of high explosives, which blew up when the depth charges were ignited, and the "Artiglio" although 200 yards away was blown to pieces and disappeared almost immediately.

A casualty notice was sent to the Owner on 16th December, but no reply has yet been received.

1000A

SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

ARTIGLIO.—Lorient, Dec. 8. — Salvage steamer Artiglio: Explosion yesterday at 2 p.m. close to Ile Houat in depth of 14 metres. Fourteen men missing, two dying out of the seven saved by the salvage steamer Rostro.

Lorient, Dec. 8.—The famous Italian salvage steamer Artiglio blew up yesterday afternoon. Fourteen of the crew are believed to have been killed. The news reached here in a belated and laconic telegram from Belle Ile. The disaster occurred near Ile Houat. Seven of the crew have been saved and are now in hospital in the town of Le Palais, in Belle Ile. Fishermen who picked up the survivors found two of the victims wearing diving kit. The commander of the Artiglio, M. Jacque Bertolotti, is among the dead.

The blowing up of the salvage steamer Artiglio was due to the ignition of several hundreds of tons of explosives on board the cargo steamer FLORENCE (?), upon which the divers were at work. Three divers entered the water yesterday afternoon to blow up the wreck, which was obstructing navigation in the Quiberon channel. The FLORENCE (?) carried a cargo of several hundred tons of high explosives and these blew up when the depth charges were ignited. The violence of the explosion was so tremendous that the Artiglio, which was moored 200 yards away, was blown to pieces and almost immediately disappeared. All the crew of the ill-fated vessel were Italians.

The survivors were taken to Belle Ile by the salvage steamer Rostro. Although they were suffering from shock they were not in a dangerous condition. The Artiglio was engaged in dealing with two ships, one of which, the FLORENCE (?), was sunk during the war.

A tug containing officials proceeded to the scene of the disaster off the Ile Houat this morning, as well as a French warship from Lorient with the Commander-in-Chief on board.

An inquiry has been opened into this terrible disaster. Those who witnessed the explosion said that the sea was thrown about 200 yards into the air.

ARTIGLIO.—Lorient, Dec. 8. — Steamer Artiglio: According to the latest information from Belle Ile, 12 and not 14 lives were lost. It was at first thought that 21 men were on board, but it is now ascertained that there were only 19. There were seven survivors and two bodies have been found. The rest went down with the ship. The two bodies were practically stripped of their clothing when picked up. They are those of the divers, Alberto Giovanni and Franceschi. The seven survivors, all injured, are in hospital at Belle Ile, and are making fairly satisfactory progress.

ARTIGLIO.—Lorient, Dec. 11.—An attempt is being made to raise the wreck of the Italian salvage steamer Artiglio, which was blown up near Belle Ile. The bodies of the 12 victims are believed to be trapped in the wreck. Reuter's Paris correspondent states that a French ship is to put out from Lorient this morning as the weather permits. It will attempt to raise the wreck. The position of the wreck is being investigated by the blowing up of depth charges.

ARTIGLIO.—Belle Ile, Dec. 12.—The salvage steamer Rostro took advantage of an improvement in the weather this morning to go to the place where the Artiglio was blown up. The diver went down to see whether there was a chance of raising the vessel or recovering bodies. The diver was unable to find the Artiglio in any recognisable shape, and came to the conclusion that she had broken up, and that her wreckage and that of the Florence H. were scattered and mixed together on the sea floor. He found detached masses of metal spread over a wide area. The water was not only still muddy from the explosion of Dec. 8, but full of rust from the Florence H., and it was impossible to see more than a few feet. As was expected, the conditions for diving were very dangerous. The diver became entangled once, and had some trouble in getting free. In these circumstances, Commandatore Quaglia ordered the Rostro to leave the wreck and return to Belle Ile. She will leave for Brest to-morrow or the next day, and, after placing the marking buoys over the sunken P. & O. liner EGYPT, will be laid up for the winter. A hydrographical survey vessel of the French Navy is expected to complete the examination of the scene of the disaster.—"The Times" Correspondent.

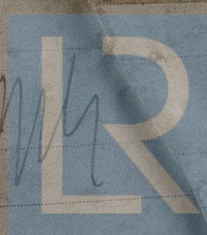
ARTIGLIO.—Lorient, Dec. 22.—A fourth body has been washed up here from the wreck of the Italian salvage steamer Artiglio.—Reuter.

Suggested Record / *Lost by Explosion 12.30*

Date of Committee **TUE. 13 JAN 1931**

Committee's Minute *Lost by Explosion 12.30*

pc 27/1/31



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