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COPY OF EXTRACT FROM LLOYD'S LIST
2nd December 1953.

HILDINA.- Wick Radio, Dec.1 - Following received from British motor trawler Vella:

At 8.22 a.m., G.M.T.: Mayday at 8.12 a.m. G.M.T., received from British motor trawler Gavina, MNXR, on 2042 kcs., that she was fast and turning over. No further details. Called two or three times but no reply, using last part of her call sign IR. My position NW. of Sule Skerry; Gavina's position last night WNW. of Muckle Flugga.

At 8.39 a.m., G.M.T.: Ship in distress is not Gavina, it is possibly Hildina, MNXX.

At 9.13 a.m., G.M.T.: We are now in 110 fathoms N. by W. of Sule Skerry, we are picking up carley float with a number of men on board and caught glimpse of lifeboat and proceeding; will confirm ship's name later.

At 9.22 a.m., G.M.T.: Confirm name of vessel motor trawler Hildina. Picked up survivors on carley float, proceeding to lifeboat.

At 9.29 a.m., G.M.T.: We have picked up lifeboat with one man, proceeding to search area for other survivors.

At 9.40 a.m., G.M.T.: We have picked up 10 survivors and now searching area. Crew say they saw ship go down and skipper and operator still on board; assuming 15 of crew, five still missing.

At 9.49 a.m., G.M.T.: Approximate position 50 miles N. by W. of Sule Skerry by bearing and depth of water.

At 10.16 a.m. G.M.T.: Nine survivors two dead, three went down with the ship, one still missing. Steam trawlers Monimia and Margaret Wicks still searching, we are proceeding to Stornoway for medical assistance. Wick Radio Dec.1 ----- Trawler Hildina: Following received from British trawler Monimia:

At 11.41 a.m. G.M.T.: We are continuing the search with trawler Margaret Wicks for about another hour. Have sighted wreckage but no further survivors seen yet.

At 12.47 p.m., G.M.T.: Found small boat and carley float in direction indicated by aircraft search.

At 1.37 p.m. G.M.T.: Now giving up search, nothing further to report.

Kirkwall, Dec.1 - Trawler Hildina reported foundered 50 miles N. by W. from Sule Skerry. Trawler Vella picked up 10 survivors and proceeding Stornoway.

Dec. 1953.

Stornoway, Dec.2 - Fleetwood trawler Vella arrived at Stornoway this morning, landing nine survivors and one body from trawler Hildina. (see of Dec.2).

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On the morning of 1st December while the s.t. "Hildina" with a crew of 15 was fishing in the North Sea, 50 miles from Orkney, her trawl became caught on the sea bed. The sea at the time was moderate with a moderate to heavy swell and a westerly wind. While attempts were being made to free the trawl the vessel took on a heavy sea to starboard which caused it to list badly. There had previously been trouble with the motor generator operating the winch but it had been repaired: the heavy listing, however, once more put the winch out of action and the Mate, J. Moran, and Bosun, E. Sumner, were unable to put it into reverse or to unship the clutches and let the warps run as instructed by the Skipper. They ~~then~~ asked the Skipper if they should chop the warps and, not hearing from him, they looked around for an axe with which to do so but could not find one. Water by this time was pouring through the starboard door leading to the accommodation and, although two of the deckhands, G.A. Hayes and J.A. Gardner, assisted by the Second Engineer J.H. Tranmer, attempted to shut it they were unable ~~to~~ owing to a possible warping of the door.

The Chief Engineer F. Heidstra and Greaser Bond were on duty in the Engine Room looking after the main engines and the telegraph, but water was pouring through the ventilator making their task almost impossible. They remained in the engine room until they received the signal to abandon ship and they had to leave by the port skylight as by then the engine room was flooded.

Two of the crew tried to launch the lifeboat but it overturned before launching. One of them, deckhand D. Atkinson, dived into the water and managed to hang on to the keel until rescued. Another, deckhand Benson, was drowned when he slipped through a lifebuoy. Others of the crew gathered on the port side and succeeded in launching the Carley Float which the sea overturned and the crew managed to cling to it. Second Engineer Tranmer got astride the float and pulled Greaser Acton across his knee and held on to the Cook until they were picked up. The Radio Officer Robertson remained at his post sending out distress signals. Three quarters-of-an-hour later ten out of fifteen of the crew were picked up by the s.t. "Velia" but unfortunately one, the Cook, died later. The Chief Engineer was unconscious. Two of the crew, Dell, a deckhand, and Greaser Bond, had lost their hold of the float and been carried away. The Skipper and Radio Officer went down with the ship.

The "Velia" stayed in the vicinity to search for any other survivors until two other trawlers "Monimia" and "Margaret Wicks" arrived and took over the search. The "Velia" then proceeded to Stornoway and landed those already rescued.

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