IW Observer 11 December 1875

WRECK OF A GERMAN EMIGRANT SHIP

The Dentschland, a German emigrant ship, from Breman to New York, grounded on the Kentish Knock on Monday morning during a gale from the north-east, this with snow. She was due at Southampton on Tuesday; 130 in crew, nearly 200 passengers. While the vessel was on the sand the sea broke over her in all directions, and the captain got life belts for everyone of the passengers and crew, and in the morning, thinking the ship was going to break up, ordered lifeboats to be lowered. Three seamen got into the first lifeboat, but she was twice capsized and the men thrown into the water. The boat ultimately righted, and the men got into her, but found themselves adrift. They tried to pull back to the ship, but were too weak to make headway against the heavy sea. Two of the men soon became helpless, and one died the same evening and another the next morning. The third survived and managed to run the boat on shore at Rochester, on Tuesday morning. The steam tug Liverpool went out from Harwich on Tuesday morning and went alongside, and rescued the captain, crew, passengers, men, women and children, to the number of about 150. The rescued were in a deplorable condition. Some had been in the rigging all night, and a number of dead bodies were seen on board. It is believed that the number of those drowned was about 50. The sad affair possesses a local interest, inasmuch as Mr Harvey, pilot, of Ryde, was on board at the time waiting to take charge of the vessel when she came within his district. He had nothing to do with piloting the vessel when the accident happened.

Researched by Jack Harvey and typed up by Janette Gregson