

# Tanker broke in two, sank or sinking, Mediterranean

STEPAN KOTCHERGANewsMarch 26, 2020 3:24 pm

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Post Views: 539

Product tanker LADY SANDRA was caught in rough seas and issued distress signal at around 2030 UTC Mar 25, reporting severe structural damages and hull about to break in two, E of Valetta Malta. Tanker broke in two, 3 crew found themselves in water after their life raft was ruptured. All 3 were rescued by Malta Armed Forces ship, and brought to Malta. Tanker or her aft half together with superstructure, was still afloat as of 0600 UTC Mar 26.

Absolutely unclear how this inland tanker got to sail in Mediterranean, and who allowed this river ship to navigate high seas, even if she was deployed for bunkering only. Crew include 2 Egyptians and 1 Romanian.

Inland product tanker LADY SANDRA, MMSI 232025973, length 90 meters, flag UK.

(From Vesselfinder.com The current position of **LADY SANDRA** is at East Mediterranean (coordinates 35.80856 N / 15.0464 E) reported 13 hours ago by AIS.

The vessel **LADY SANDRA** ( MMSI 232025973) is a Tanker and currently sailing under the flag of **United Kingdom**)

(From **myshiptracking.com** The current position of **LADY SANDRA** is in Mediterranean Sea - Eastern Basin with coordinates 35.92837° / 14.79196° as reported on **2020-03-25 13:17** by AIS. The vessel's current speed is 1.6 Knots and is heading at the port of **LA VALETTA**.)

## Inland Tanker Splits in Two in Off Malta

March 26, 2020 by Mike Schuler

Rescue crews in Malta rescued three seafarers after their vessel split in two in the western Mediterranean Sea on Wednesday.

The Armed Forces of Malta was alerted late Wednesday night that the 89-meter Lady Sandra, an inland tanker flagged in the UK, had split in two in rough weather.

Reporting indicates that the vessel departed Istanbul, Turkey on February 6 and no oil has spilled, indicating the ship was unladen at the time.

The Armed Forces of Malta dispatched a search and rescue vessel to the area leading to the rescue of three crew members, including two Egyptians and one Romanian.

Both halves of the vessel are believed to be still afloat.

# Rough seas break tanker in two, crew rescued by Armed Forces of Malta

UK-flagged Motor Tanker Lady Sandra suffered extensive damage in Malta's territorial waters and started taking in water and sinking

26 March 2020, 2:31pm  
by **Matthew Agius**

The crew of a tanker which broke in half in rough weather last night, were rescued from the sea by the Armed Forces of Malta.

The incident happened at 9:32pm when the rescue coordination centre (RCC) received a mayday call from UK-registered motor tanker Lady Sandra.

The Master informed the RCC that the tanker had suffered extensive damage and was taking in water and sinking. The AFM immediately deployed a search and rescue vessel and helicopter to the location of the shipwreck, some 13 nautical miles East-Northeast from Malta.

Once the AFM vessel Melita 1 arrived on location, the three crew members - two Egyptians and one Romanian - were found in the water after having abandoned ship. The life raft had also been ruptured.

The men were transferred on the AFM vessel and brought safely to Hay Wharf Base. Medical assistance was not required, and the Immigration Unit from the Malta Police Force were called in for further assistance.

The Master of Melita 1 said this was a different rescue than others. "We risked our lives, as there was a very big swell and strong winds. As we approached the life raft, we quickly transferred them on board our vessel. We thank God that everyone is safe."

The difficult rescue mission was the result of coordination between the AFM's Rescue Coordination Centre, the AFM assets, as well as other ships in the area.

The AFM headquarters publicly thanked all members of the force for "the dedication, commitment, and loyal service they provide to their country, particularly in such adverse situations with inherent high risks."



