

Section 1 SUMMARY

The EARL GRANVILLE is a British ro-ro vessel holding a Passenger and Safety Certificate for 862 persons. The vessel was operated and managed by Sealink UK Ltd at the time of this accident, and was carrying 707 passengers and about 170 vehicles from Portsmouth to Cherbourg.

The vessel struck a charted rock off the entrance to Cherbourg Harbour at about 0448 hrs on 19 August 1989, which was almost exactly the time of low water, with a spring tide. She did not strand, and was able to continue her passage into Cherbourg unaided. She was, however, very seriously damaged and spent several months undergoing repair. There were no injuries to personnel as a result of the accident.