

002252-002240-0028

"FOZ DO DOURO"

Captain Williamson, Chief Nautical Surveyor to Ministry of War Transport, consulted on 25/1/46 regarding the subject raised in the attached dated 19/1/46, from the Lisbon Surveyors.

Following questions put to Captain Williamson, and his replies thereto, summarize the results of this interview:-

Is this ship considered to be a full rigged sailing ship, fit for navigation under sail alone, as fitted with the sails shown on the original spar plan and calculated to total 32,200 sq. feet.

Most certainly yes. The sail area shown is very generous for a full rigged ship of the given dimensions.

If the royals and skysails are removed from the fore, main and mizzen masts and the spanker and staysails removed from the jigger mast, so that the total sail area is reduced to 25,000 sq. feet, would the ship still be considered fit for navigation under sail alone.

Definitely yes. The royals and skysails are intended to be used only in light airs and many ships were never provided with such sails. Their removal would not prejudice the fitness of the ship for navigation under sail alone although her speed would be reduced in light weather.

Removal of the jigger staysails also would not prejudice the fitness of the ship for navigation under sail alone as these sails were very rarely used because of their blanketing effect on the crossjack and mizzen topsails.

Removal of the spanker would probably ~~mean~~ entail a reduction in area of headsail to preserve the balance of the ship. Whilst the speed would be reduced in moderate weather the ship would still be considered to have ample canvas for navigation under sail alone.

Is it practicable to state the minimum area of sail which would render the ship fit for navigation without the use of engines? Is there any established rule recognised by the Ministry of War Transport for assessing such area.

There is no hard and fast rule recognised by the Ministry of War Transport and each case would be considered on its merits only when all the circumstances were known. The product $L \times B$ = minimum sail area, is regarded as a very rough approximation only.

IV. Q. What would be the approximate numbers required to max 25' 2"

(a) if fitted with 25,000 sq. feet of canvas and two engines not in continuous use at sea.

(b) if fitted with no canvas whatsoever and twin-screw in continuous use at sea.

A. On the British scale of manning the approximate

(a) 32-35 men including 2 engineers.

(b) 28-30 men including 4 engineers.

V Q. Is there any objection to the foregoing answers being quoted from Portuguese Authorities as an indication of British practice?

A. No objection whatsoever.



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