

The Secretary
London.

Ref. S

23 Howard Avenue

Liverpool 21

14 July 1949

RECEIVED

16 JUL 1949

ANSD.....

"LUCIA"

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of 12th inst regarding damage sustained by the above vessel.

This vessel an ex L.S.T. left U.S.A in ballast condition after being converted for the carrying of petroleum in bulk. and proceeded to Punta Cardon, Venezuela.

On arrival it was decided to fit a drain from the discharge line into the cargo tank immediately below, and a burner was used to cut a hole through the deck. An explosion occurred which caused considerable damage.

Several suggestions were made as to the cause of the explosion and I think that that put forward by Mr. Soffee, Engineer Superintendent of the Curacaoische Stoomboot Maats. is the most feasible and the accepted explanation.

The tank lid was closed during the burning and it is suggested that after the deck was pierced, gas was blown into the tank and this was ignited and caused the damage.

I am certain that the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, London could supply a copy of the findings at the enquiry carried out by Mr. Jongejans in Curacao when the vessel came to Curacao for repairs.

Yours very truly

R. B. Westbury



Lloyd's Register
Foundation

003838-003845-0246

msb212.1 M at berrington

Received from Mr. Sladden

15 July 1841

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Referred to Mr. Sladden.

Mr. Sladden

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