



"S"

# Lloyd's Register of Shipping,

17 Battery Place,

New York.



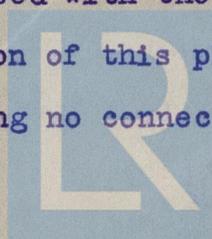
January 18th, 1932.

Dear Sir:-

I duly received your letters of the 2nd and 5th instant with their several enclosures relating to the case of the Steamer "ALABAMA", and in accordance with your instructions I have obtained from Mr. J. M. Buchanan and Mr. Geo. R. Richardson an explanation of their actions in this matter, and their letters are enclosed herewith.

In reviewing the correspondence on this case and from my conversation with the individuals involved, the action taken by our Surveyors in signing the statement relating to the condition of the deck seems to have been based on the fact that Mr. Silleman in his capacity as Owners' Surveyor was a party to the agreement signed. As Mr. Richardson states in his explanation, Mr. Silleman is well known in this Port as a capable and responsible Official of the Standard Shipping Co., and naturally our Surveyors would assume that he had full authority to act for the Owners.

In my discussions with all of the Surveyors involved in this case, I am impressed with the unanimity of their statements that when the condition of this plating was observed, the Captain dismissed it as having no connection to the damage.



Cont'd:

-2-

(This is apparently borne out by the list of damage which the Captain prepared at Philadelphia before the survey in dry dock, and I enclose for your information copy of official translation of this list which has been furnished to me by Mr. Thos. H. White, the Underwriters' Surveyor.

The list in your possession refers only to articles of equipment and stores, but the one now enclosed is more complete and includes all damage to hull and machinery (except the underwater damage later found in drydock).

In neither this statement nor in the copy of abstracts from the Master's and Chief Engineer's log, which were visaed by the Royal Italian Consul at Philadelphia last March, is there any mention of damage to the bridge deck plating.

I think it pertinent to say at this time that I have known Mr. White, the Underwriters' Surveyor, since my coming to the States, and he has a reputation for dealing fairly and considerately with Owners on any damage claims they may have. Mr. White states that had the Master of the "ALABAMA" put forward, either verbally or in his list of damage, any claim for repairs to the wavy deck plating, he would have had to consider it, and even if he disagreed with the Master, it would have been his duty to report to his Principals that such a claim had been made.

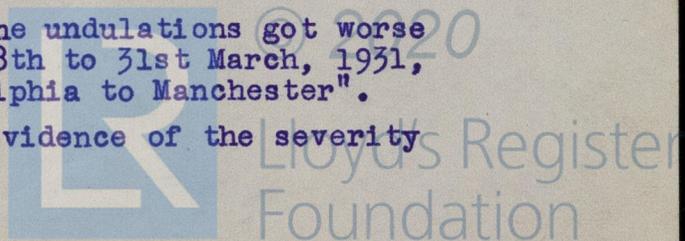
Referring now to the Master's Affidavit dated the 28th December last, there are some important facts recited there which, to my mind, have a serious bearing on this controversy:-

Paragraph b.

The Master's statement that "the undulations got worse following what happened from 28th to 31st March, 1931, during the voyage from Philadelphia to Manchester".

Paragraph g furnishes further evidence of the severity of the weather on this voyage.

W 305-0243(2/4)



Cont'd:

I submit that the damage to the weather decks detailed in Genoa Report No. 12044 dated August 18th was the result of the heavy weather encountered from the 28th to 31st March, 1931, or at the very least, the wavy condition of the deck plating was accentuated by that storm, so that while the undulations may have been unimportant in the opinion of the Surveyors here, they had become serious on arrival at Manchester. Therefore the Owners would appear to have a legitimate claim against the Underwriters on the basis of the later heavy weather.

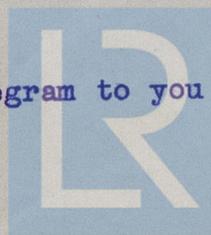
Incidentally I am told by Mr. White that another bilge plate was found cracked when the vessel was drydocked at Genoa. This was not existent when the vessel was surveyed on this side.

At the end of Paragraph 8 the Master declares "that, when unloaded, that is, at the arrival at New York, the undulations were not visible".

This declaration, in my opinion, is a mere difference of phraseology and does not really conflict with Mr. Richardson's statement that he noticed slight signs of waving of the deck, but considered them of no importance for reasons explained in his accompanying letter.

In conclusion, I may say that Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Richardson regret very much that they have placed the Society and themselves in such an awkward position with respect to this case, and state that their signing of the statement was done in good faith and with no intention of jeopardising the Owners' claim for damage.

I confirm my cablegram to you of the 16th instant reading as follows:-



© 2020

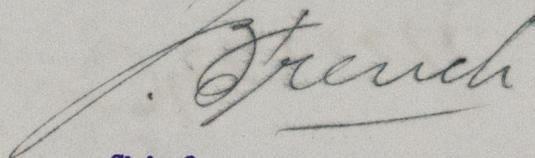
Lloyd's Register  
Foundation

Cont'd:

"ALABAMA HAVE INTERVIEWED BUCHANAN AND RICHARDSON WHO SIGNED STATEMENTS ON ASSUMPTION SILLEMAN CONSENTED AS OWNERS' REPRESENTATIVE AND WOULD INFORM AGENTS STOP ANSWERING ALL ENQUIRIES FULLY BY LETTER NEXT MAIL STOP IN CAPTAINS AFFIDAVIT ENCLOSED YOUR LETTER OF FIFTH IT IS DECLARED THAT VESSEL AGAIN ENCOUNTERED HEAVY WEATHER BETWEEN PHILADELPHIA AND MANCHESTER AND THAT UNDULATIONS GOT WORSE STOP FROM GENOA REPORT IT APPEARS THAT DAMAGE EXTENDED TO UPPER DECK AND BULWARKS NEITHER OF WHICH WERE AFFECTED AT NEW YORK STOP THEREFORE THINK IT PROBABLE DAMAGE CONSIDERABLY INCREASED DURING EASTERLY VOYAGE AND THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR PRESENT MISUNDERSTANDING".

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,



Chief Surveyor,  
U.S.A. & Canada.

The Secretary,  
LONDON.



© 2020

Lloyd's Register  
Foundation

For the Chief Surgeons

*[Handwritten initials]*

at.

29/1/32

For Mr Carey  
to make

LONDON.

The Secretary,

H. S. A. & Co. Ltd.  
Chief Engineer,

London (England).

I am, Dear Sir,

THIS WAS ACCIDENTAL FOR BREWERY NICKELDEKSLANDUNG.  
CONSIDERABLY INCREASED DURING EXHIBITION LOANER AND  
NEW YORK 2105. THEREFORE THINK I. BROWNE DRYAGE  
DECK AND PORTWALKS BRILLER OR WHICH WERE FLOATED BY  
CELEST VERBOD IN ABBERS THAT DRYAGE EXHIBIT TO OLBEN  
MACHESSEK AND THAT UNDULATIONS COL MORE 2105 BROW  
ENCODINGEN HEVAW MEVAKES BELMEEK BRITVETIHTIV AND  
ACOM TREMMER OF EILLE I. IS DECTIVED THAT AERSET AGAIN  
TELLES NEAL MWIT 2105 IN GYELVING VEIDVAIL ENCOEPED  
AGEALS 2105 VMSERTING VIT ENCOPIRES MPTX BY  
SEATED VS OMERS; VERRESEVALVIAE AND MODID INCOEM  
WHO SIGAREE STAVENREALS ON "SSAMILLION STITIVAM COM"  
"VIVAVNY HVAE INDEKATEIMED BACHVAVI AND NICHAVDSON



© 2020  
Lloyd's Register  
Foundation

cont'd