

s. s. "IRENE MARIA".  
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The Antwerp Surveyors report that at their recent examination of the starboard boiler of the above vessel serious cracking between the rivet holes of the centre and starboard combustion chamber wrapper plates was observed.

In their opinion this would appear to be a case of chemical cracking and with a view to ascertaining whether this is the case they have forwarded a sample of the boiler water used in the starboard boiler together with samples of the soda regularly used.

It appears that similar trouble was experienced with the port boiler a few years ago and a sample of the material removed from the wrapper plate of one of the combustion chambers has been sent for examination. (This sample had been retained by the Chief Engineer).

IT IS SUBMITTED Mr. W.E.Lewis, Special Surveyor for Steel at Glasgow, be advised of the circumstances and asked to make an examination of the samples which should be forwarded to him.

*S.D.*

15.11.37.

*Lr 16/11*



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W401-0190