

Mr. Mott Freeboard

Steel Screw Steamers Nos. 550 & 551 proposed to be built by Messrs. J. L. Thompson & Sons Ltd., with a view to class 100A1.

Plans of these vessels were approved in July last and further plans showing modified dimensions were approved in October.

A letter has now been received from the Sunderland Surveyors stating that the Builders desire increased draught and for this purpose they propose to increase the height of the raised quarter deck from 4 feet to 4.27' and also to stiffen the hatch coaming plates in the fore well as may be necessary to form a continuous trunk.

It is submitted the Surveyors be instructed to inform the Builders that if the raised quarter deck be increased in height to 4.27 feet as proposed the freeboards already intimated to them on the 13th instant could be reduced 1".

With regard to the proposal to strengthen the continuous hatchway sides in the forward well so as to be equivalent to a trunk side, it might be pointed out that in this case it will be necessary to fit a stringer plate about 18" x .50" (i.e. the thickness proposed for the side coamings) along the trunk top in way of the hatchways and to stiffen the sides and top of the trunk so as to be equivalent to the sides of a short bridge house. If this additional stiffening be provided the Summer freeboard could be reduced a further 2" in which case the freeboards would be as follows:-

Centre of disc to top of statutory deck line $1\frac{1}{2}$ "
above the steel upper deck at side - 1'-11"

Fresh water	$4\frac{1}{2}$ "
Indian Summer ...	$3\frac{1}{2}$ "
Winter	3"
Winter North Atlantic	$5\frac{1}{2}$ "

Detail plans of the trunks should be submitted for approval.

The Builders should be further informed that in order to obtain the above draught the frames will require to be of

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the following scantlings:-

Frames	in way of upper deck @ 30" apart	- 9 x 3 x .38" B.A.	} or equivalent
"	" " " @ 27" "	8½ x 3 x .44" B.A.	
"	" " " in way of panting region	10½ x 3½ x .54"	
"	" " raised quarter deck	10½ x 3½ x .44"	
"	" " peaks	6 x 3 x .32" B.A.	

Frames in boiler room and permanent bunkers increased .06" as per Rule.

The topside materials will not be affected.

If the present proposal is proceeded with plans embodying the latest modifications and amendments should be forwarded for approval.

The plans forwarded for reference should be returned.

30.10.23.