

WESTPORT SHIPPING COMPANY LIMITED

Shipowners, Brokers & Chartering Agents.

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LONDON, E.C.3.

OUR REF.

MGE/NWB

YOUR REF.

27th June, 1957

Messrs. Harvey Trinder & Van Ommeren Ltd.,
37/38, Fenchurch Street, E.C. 3

Dear Sirs,

s.s. "MARIANNE B" - Repairing and passing Survey at Hamburg
Loss of earnings and/or freight insurance - Policy No. 107204

We confirm telephone conversation with Mr. Wallis this morning in connection with our claim against Underwriters under the above-mentioned Policy.

After the "MARIANNE B" had discharged her cargo at Bremen we decided to send her to Hamburg (instead of Greenock) for heavy-weather damage repairs and Special Survey because it was of the utmost importance for future business that she should load at Rouen before 29th June.

On arrival at Messrs. Blohm & Voss' yard at Hamburg on 13th May a list of repairs was handed over to the repairers and they promised to complete all the work - including anticipated Survey work - by 14th June. A few days later, in accordance with Lloyd's Surveyor's advice, plates above the water-line were drilled, gauged and marked, and considered to be in reasonably good condition.

Some days later the ship was put into drydock for inspection and drilling. Lloyd's Surveyor, however, considered that the bottom was not sufficiently clean for inspection nor could he accept the method of drilling, gauging and re-plugging in his absence. The repairers decided, therefore, to undock the vessel next day and re-dock her a week later, when they could foresee more time for Lloyd's Surveyor to complete his inspection. We understand that a fortnight elapsed before the latter decided that a number of deck plates should be renewed. This, of course, was a great surprise to the repairers as they still considered they could finish by 14th June provided no unforeseen demands were made by Lloyd's Surveyors.

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Messrs. Harvey Trinder & Van Ommeren Ltd.

Frequent changes of engine-room Surveyors (of which we understand they were many) caused the repairers great confusion and they complained that one did not seem to know what another one wanted.

Later on again we were informed that some additional work was ordered both in the engine-room and on deck and Messrs. Blohm & Voss said they could not possibly complete the repairs before 20/24th June. However, we pressed them very hard to finish by 22nd June latest, to which they agreed and at our request they gave us a written guarantee to this effect. Nevertheless, as you are aware, still later they advised us that they could not complete by 22nd June owing to the extra work and that they required another 7 working days.

We ourselves are very upset over this delay, especially as Messrs. Blohm & Voss feel sure they could have completed the repairs in time if Lloyd's Surveyors had stated their requirements earlier instead of ordering additional work almost daily.

Yours faithfully,

For WESTPORT SHIPPING CO. LTD.

W. J. Forrest



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