

Received 2nd. January, 1912

Answered *ack 2/1/12*

Translation from
~~Extract from~~ letter dated 31st December 1911 received from

M. Emil Bereng~~ler~~ Ardrossan

Vessel's Name "COMMANDANT"

As I have been authorised by Mr. A. Achaque, shipowner at Algiers to enter into negotiations with a view to the purchase of the steamer "COMMANDANT" 273 register tons, built in 1905, and classed 100A1 in Dloyd's Register, at present in Dry Dock at Ardrossan, I beg to acquaint you with the following facts:-

Under the date of 19th. December last, I sent you a letter in which I pointed out the lamentable state in which I found the steamer "COMMANDANT". To-day I find myself again under the necessity of asking your enlightened assistance and to put myself under your high protection. The reason why I apply to your powerful assistance is as follows:-

On the port side of the steamer and on the third part of its length there exists below the floating line a plate completely deformed in consequence of ^{violent} shock. At a certain spot the plate projects on the inner frame. This deformation of the hull, not only takes away a great deal of the value of the vessel but has also the serious inconvenience of influencing the speed of the vessel, and this fact is theoretically proved.

Moreover, on the starboard side forward there are several rivets, the heads of which are completely corroded, and consequently do not fill any longer the countersink.

As there was hardly any head left on these rivets, they were simply "mated" (? caulked) and ~~to fill the empty spaces~~^{filled} with putty, this explains the fact why these rivets escaped the attention of your Surveyor who surveyed the hull.

I happily discovered the trick, and I beg to point it out to you in the hope that you will make every haste in having the said rivets renewed.

As soon as the vessel arrives at Algiers, she will be Dry Docked with a view to being inspected by the Commission of the French Government entrusted with their ^{reception} ~~inspection~~ of vessels.

It would be regrettable if this commission should make disconcerting remarks on the condition of the hull of the steamer "COMMANDANT". For these various reasons, I put myself under your high protection, and I expect good results therefrom.



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