

"GERONTAS"

This is a ship of all welded construction, with exception that the side shell frames and seams are riveted. On 9th March the recommendation was made that the deck should be strengthened by means of a girder 18' from the centre line. The Owners now write to say that this vessel, before she was taken over by them in February 1952, had been stiffened in the double bottom. The Owners consider that if additional stiffening to the deck was required it should have been done at that time. The following comments are made to the specific points raised by the Owner:-

1. The stiffening which has now been recommended to the deck of this ship results from experience gained by the Committee of the behaviour of all welded ships of the type since 1952, when the bottom of the "GERONTAS" was strengthened. At that time the Committee had no reason to think that further strengthening would be necessary.
2. The strengthening recommended for the deck is designed to fulfil a different function from that required in the bottom of the ship. The stiffening in the bottom of the ship was required to increase the resistance of the bottom against compression; that recommended for the deck is to provide a safeguard against the effects of tension on the deck.

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John

21st June, 1954.



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