

Telephone: Royal 3551 (6 lines)



2 DEC 1941

71, Fenchurch Street,
London, E.C. 3.

1st December, 1941.

Dear Bob,

The First Entry Report on the tanker "EMPIRE LAD" is being returned to you today. I have signed the report and a few minor corrections have been made.

I am afraid the Reports Department at Wokingham has been rather handicapped through the fact that the set of plans of the vessel as built do not appear to have been obtained from the builders, and Mr. Bell apparently did not correct up the original approved plans and show a number of scantling changes which were necessary during the construction of the vessel owing to the builders experiencing difficulties in obtaining the sizes and sections which were originally approved.

This is the explanation supplied to me by Mr. Bell and he assures me that although the report differs in certain respects from the original approved plans the sizes and scantlings as given by him are correct.

In regard to the length of the forecastle, he explained to me that the measurement was taken on the upper deck to the after side of the stem. As circular 1551 requires this measurement to be taken to the fore side of the stem I have amended the figure to 19.5.

With regard to the breadth over belting dimension, I expect this has been measured over the half round mouldings, but I have no means of checking this point as I have no plans here. *no record necessary*

Although it is unusual to cement cargo tanks, this is a practice adopted by the National Benzole Co. and appears to have been followed by the builders in the case of this vessel. *cem*

I was off ill for a few days when the report arrived in the London office and in order not to delay matters unduly Mr. Betts sent the report direct to Wokingham before I saw it. Some of the errors and omissions to which Wokingham has called attention would undoubtedly have been noticed if I had had an opportunity of seeing the report before you had it, but I think you will now find that it is in order.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

R.P. Hutchinson Esq.
Wokingham.

012542-012543-0008

Intercostal Plate...)

Lloyd's Register
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A. Clouston

spacing.....