

"WILLODALE".

On the 12th October, 1948, I attended at the Law Courts to hear delivered the Finding of the Court of Enquiry into the loss of the above ship.

The Finding was not unanimous.

The Wreck Commissioner, Mr. J.Naisby, K.C. and one of the Assessors, Mr. H.A.Lyndsay, gave as their opinion that the loss was due to a combination of causes, viz:-

1. An insufficient margin of stability.
2. Bad weather.
3. The tearing of the tarpaulins by the cargo either as it shifted or was jettisoned, and the consequent admission of water into the hull forward of amidships.
4. The error of judgment of the Master in continuing the voyage, due to his failure to appreciate the evidence of the ship's instability by her changes of list to port and starboard.

The Nautical Assessors, Cmdr. Sutton, R.D., R.N.R. and Capt. J.P.Thompson agreed with the above, but added a further cause, viz:-

5. Failure to properly secure the deck cargo in accordance with the Regulations.

The Nautical Assessors feel that the ends of the bights of wire rope, secured to the bulwark stays 20 feet apart were not efficient in securing pitwood in lengths of 4'6" to 9'0" and that efficient means were not provided for securing the uprights. These would have been more efficiently secured had the lower portion of the pitwood, viz: that between the hatchway coamings and the deck and the bulwarks been secured independently.

Nothing was said which could in any way reflect upon the Society's work in connection with the ship.

S.E.B.

12th October, 1948.

Noted by J.P.

Noted P.P.S.

ful



© 2020

Lloyd's Register
Foundation

W322-0103