

"WILLODALE"

Extracts from Lloyd's List.

This ship developed a leak in No. 2 hold on 4th April, 1947, during heavy weather when about 45 miles from the mouth of the Gironde. When the water broke out of the hold and flooded the engine-room the ship was listing badly. The cause of the list is not known, but it is thought it may have been due to cargo (pit props) shifting as a result of the storm. The crew attempted to cut away some of the cargo so as to remove the list (This presumably refers to deck cargo). The Master gave the order to abandon ship, and subsequently she sank in deep water.

It is thought that the Ministry's line of approach to the enquiry will be to suggest that the deck cargo shifted, damaging the bulwarks with consequent tearing of the stringer plate at the poort of the bulwark stays. The water which would enter No. 2 hold by this means then presumably flooded the stockhold through the watertight door openings.

Consequently it is felt that the questions which will be addressed to Mr. McCallum will concern in particular the condition of the bulwarks, bulwark stays and stronger plate, the condition of the W.T. doors in the stockhold bulkhead and that of the hatchways and hatches. The Ministry has reason to believe that the hatch wedges were driven in from aft and not from forward, and they would like confirmation regarding this.

7th September, 1948.

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*from 1941 the same  
correspondence with owner.*



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Foundation