

Mr. Turnbull phoned from Newcastle at 1.15 p.m. to say that the "EMPIRE NESS" is at present at that port. She was built at Lithgows, and is No. 90955 in the Supplement. (No. 950)

It is desired to carry heavy machinery from the Tyne to Glasgow, but it is impossible to load this as there is a heavy beam right through the middle of the after hatch.

The proposal is to cut this beam for the purpose of this particular voyage, and Mr. Turnbull would like to be advised by telephone as soon as possible this afternoon whether this is in order.

*HB*  
13.5.41.

Mr. Turnbull was informed by 'phone that this vessel is one of a group of typical colliers with long, wide hatchways, ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> in November last, the Ministry of Shipping decided, might be utilised in the North Atlantic trade, and that body, after consultation with Mr. Butterwick, A.D.M.S.R.(H), decided that in view of the large openings additional transverse strengthening should be provided by fitting a strong beam at approximately the middle of each hatchway. The beam which Mr. Turnbull referred to ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> one of these, and is additional to the Society's requirements, and no exception can therefore be taken to the proposal set forth above.

As this additional strengthening was fitted at the Ministry's request, it might be well, however, if their Representative's consent was obtained.

13.5.41.