

The steamer "STONEGATE", owned by Messrs. Turnbull, Scott & Co., was reported sunk by the pocket battleship 'Deutschland' in the North Atlantic on the 5th ultimo.

In reply to the usual enquiry as to whether they had any objection to a record of "Sunk" being made against the vessel's name in the Register Book, the Owners state that they have no objection provided it is made clear that she was sunk by enemy action.

It will be remembered that the 'posting' of war losses was before this Committee on the 26th ultimo, when it was reported that the Admiralty did not wish the original record of "Sunk - War Loss" to be made in the Register Book, and it was then decided to alter this record to "Sunk".

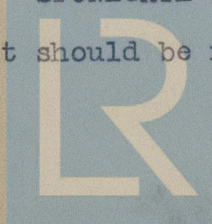
The Minutes on this point of the meeting of the Press and Censorship Bureau, recently held in connection with the publication of ship news, read as follows:-

"That any publications giving details of losses
"of ships by enemy action should not include details
"of the manner of the loss or the locality in which
"it occurred nor should the date be given other than
"by reference to the month;"

but it is a matter of interpretation as to whether the details of the manner of the loss refers to the description "War Loss", or to any more detailed description, such as, "Sunk by Submarine", or by Aircraft or by Mine.

It is observed that "Lloyd's List" continue to publish a List of merchant shipping reported lost as a result of hostilities since the commencement of the war, in which also they give the month of the loss.

The Owners of the "STONEGATE" have been interviewed and are most anxious that it should be made clear beyond all



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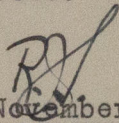
W443-0228 1/2

"STONEGATE".

-2-

possible doubt, that the sinking in this case was not the result of a normal marine casualty.

The case received the consideration of the Classing Committee on Tuesday, the 7th instant, when it was decided to refer the matter to the General Committee.


9th November, 1939.

General Committee

Thursday, 9th November, 1939.



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W443-0228 2/2