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Ad. 1270

Private & Confidential

THE RUTLAND

29, De Vere Gardens,
Kensington, W. 8.

Tel. Wes. 5045.

16th May, 1938.

LLOYD'S,
Shipping Insurance Dept.,
London.

Dear Sirs,

With reference to the disappearance of the "ANGLO AUSTRALIAN", commented on in tonight's issue of the "Evening Standard", the following occurrence, on a ship crossing the same region of the Atlantic at that time, may have some bearing on the subject.

On the night of Sunday, 13th March, the s.v. "PORT JACKSON" - on which I was travelling from New Zealand as Surgeon - encountered an unexpected heavy swell from the S.W., and at about 11.30 p.m. a fair amount of damage to crockery and moveable furniture, etc., was caused by two particularly large swells or waves at a few minutes' interval - which rolled the ship over to an acute angle. I admit the effect of the second was undoubtedly enhanced by a temporary stoppage of the engines, however next day, though rough and certainly not "like a mill-pond", there were no such waves. One wonders whether they were not of volcanic (or tidal) origin as they were unaccompanied by a gale.

I cannot give our position at the time of the above occurrence, but the ship's charted position at noon of the 13th was 32.19 N, 46.55 W., and that at noon of the 14th was 36.10 N, ~~46.55~~ W., and it has occurred to me that the "ANGLO AUSTRALIAN", which was apparently not so

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heavily laden, might have encountered such waves abeam on the 14th or 15th as they travelled outwards and have overturned - like the hypothetical fate of the "WARATAH".

The "PORT JACKSON" is now in New Zealand waters again, and I believe the Master, Capt. Haytor, has been appointed to a position in New York, but I think the above facts could be confirmed by Mr. J. R. Roper, Managing-Director of the Port Line, who was a passenger on this trip. Of course, as one not accustomed to sea-travel, I might be accused of exaggerating the size of the sea, but I can assure you that all the other passengers were extremely alarmed at this incident at such an hour, and that the Officers did not entirely disregard it. The force of the swell may be gauged by the fact that chest of drawers were emptied of their contents and all the lounge and saloon furniture piled to one end (eastern or (?) port side) of these rooms.
* western

Hoping this may be of some use,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) B. Wyn Irwin.

M.S., D.P.H.

P.S. This is not for publication in any newspaper, etc.

* Word unintelligible.



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