

(No. 5972.)

“FORT STUART.”

FINDING and Order of a Naval Court, held at the British Consulate at Lourenço Marques, on the 25th day of October, 1899, to investigate the circumstances attending the abandonment of the British Sailing Ship “FORT STUART.”

The “Fort Stuart” was a sailing vessel, square rigged, of 2,312 tons registered tonnage, official number 99,373, built at Sunderland in 1892, and belonging to the Port of Liverpool.

It appears from the evidence given before this Court, that she sailed from Middlesboro’ on or about the 27th July, bound for Calcutta, with a cargo of salt, and a crew of thirty-one hands all told, and no passengers.

All went well until the 1st October, when the ship sprang a leak, and all possible measures were taken to keep her afloat, in spite of which the depth of water in the hold continued to increase till the ship became unmanageable and unseaworthy, and was abandoned without loss of life.

The Court, having regard to the circumstances above stated, finds as follows:—

“That the master, J. H. Vanstone, was not in fault in the loss and abandonment of the British barque ‘Fort Stuart.’

“That the Court sees no ground for blaming the conduct of the master in abandoning the ship at the time he did on the 4th October, and that the crew appear to have conducted themselves properly and used their utmost exertions to save the said ship.”

The expenses of this Court, fixed at £4 2s., are approved.

Dated at the British Consulate, Lourenço Marques, this twenty-fifth day of October, 1899.

(L.S.) A. CARNEGIE ROSS,
H.B.M.’s Consul, and President of
Naval Court.

A. B. HUGHES,
H.M.S. “Philomel,” Lieutenant, Royal
Navy, at Lourenço Marques.

G. E. BARKER,
Master of the British Merchant
Ship “Clan Galbraith.”

*(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on
the 5th day of January, 1900.)*