

(No. 6357.)

"AHMADI" (S.S.)

AND

"ALEXANDER III" (S.S.)

DECISION of the Naval Court, summoned at the British Consulate, Jeddah, on 12-15th March, 1902, to inquire into the causes of the collision between the s.s. "AHMADI," No 95,237, of the Port of Bombay, of tonnage gross 2518⁷⁴/₁₀₀, and net 1640⁴⁰/₁₀₀, belonging to the Bombay and Persia Steam Navigation Company, built in 1888 at Newcastle, by Robert Stephenson & Sons, and the s.s. "ALEXANDER III," of Marseilles, of tonnage gross 3123, and net 1829, belonging to Messrs. E. Caillol-Durillard, built in 1882 by W. Denny & Bros., of Dunbar, is that:—

The accident was caused by the improper position of the "Alexander III," which, if not actually right in the fairway, was bordering upon it, combined with the weather, at the time being a strong southerly gale with dust storm, which rendered it difficult for any ship to judge of distance available.

When the collision appeared inevitable, the master of the "Ahmadi," who had entered the inner gateway with due precaution, acted in a seamanlike manner and did all in his power to prevent it.

The Court note that on September 9th, 1885, the s.s. "Nepthis," anchored in a similar position, was collided with by s.s. "Redewater," entering slowly in fine weather.

On that occasion, in the next few days two or more ships were able to pass the "Nepthis" at their peril, but protested, whilst one ship, entering in fine weather on September 13th, was forced to anchor a long way to the southward to its inconvenience and loss.

In view of the state of the weather, we consider it impossible for the s.s. "Ahmadi" to have acted similarly.

Taking all these points into consideration, the Court exonerate the master of the "Ahmadi."

The Court further note that the present position of the wreck is dangerous to navigation, and recommend that she be removed by the proper authority.

Lastly, the Court make suggestion that the attention of the Turkish Government be directed to the necessity of a properly qualified berthing master being appointed at Jeddah to perform duty during the season of the arrival of pilgrims.

(Signed) G. P. DEVEY, H.B.M. Consul.

(Signed) S. MOHD. HUSSAIN, B. Vice-Consul.

(Signed) W. HILL, Master of s.s. "Minieh."

(Signed) ROBERT TATCHELL, Master of s.s. "Ronja."

(Signed) J. T. FARRIER, Master of s.s. "Mahallan."

Saturday, 15th March, 1902.

True copy.

March 18th, 1902.

G. P. DEVEY,
H.B.M. Consul.

*(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the
16th day of May, 1902.)*

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