

(No. 7590.)

72.

“BRUNDAH” (S.S.).

The Court of Marine Inquiry, at Sydney.

IN the matter of a formal inquiry held at Sydney before His Honour Judge MURRAY, assisted by JOHN SIMPSON and CHARLES WILLIAM DAVIDSON, Assessors, into the circumstances attending the grounding of the British ship “BRUNDAH.”

The Court, having carefully inquired into the circumstances attending the above-mentioned shipping casualty, comes to the decision following:—

1. The British ship “Brundah” (Official Number 121147) grounded on a rock off Sugarloaf Point, on the coast of New South Wales, on the fifteenth day of January, 1913, while on a voyage from Sydney to the Richmond River, New South Wales, and sustained serious damage.

2. The vessel was well-found, and provided with the necessary life-saving appliances.

3. The weather was hazy, the sea smooth, and the wind light from the north-east.

4. Such grounding was caused by the neglect of the master, James Archer, first, in failing to take charge personally of his ship when he was navigating a part of the coast of New South Wales where a peculiar risk of accident exists, under circumstances which made it his duty to take such personal charge; and, secondly, in delaying to come on deck when called by his second officer instead of at once acting on the call; and, thirdly, when he was aware that the exact position of his ship, in dangerous waters, was uncertain, in failing to stop and reverse his engines.

5. The Court also finds that the second officer, Percival John Elsey, was in fault in altering the course as he did without first consulting the master, an act which the Court thinks was at least a serious error of judgment.

The Court orders that the certificate of competency of the said James Archer, as master of a foreign-going ship, numbered 510, dated the thirteenth day of September, 1901, and issued by the Superintendent of the Department of Navigation, New South Wales, be suspended for a period of three months from the fifteenth day of January, 1913.

Dated this twenty-first day of Februrary, 1913.

C. E. R. MURRAY,  
Judge.

I, John Macvicar Anderson Bonthorne, Registrar of the Court of Marine Inquiry at Sydney, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the decision of the Court in the matter of the inquiry into the circumstances attending the grounding of the British ship “Brundah.”

Dated at Sydney this twenty - eighth day of February, 1913.

J. M. A. BONTHORNE,  
Registrar of the Court.

(Issued in London by the Board of Trade on the  
22nd day of April, 1913.)

(29480—4.) Wt. 44—89. 120. 4/13. D & S.