

CONFIDENTIAL

EXCERPT FROM BOARDING REPORT WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO COAST GUARD:

"Captain reported that at approximately 1400 Zone time, on March 26, 1943, when a few hours out of Dutch Harbor, the Messmen living on the port side amidships reported that the plate on the deck house was split. The Master stated that he had immediately investigated the matter and found that the hull plate abreast the engine room on the port side was split from the deck to the water line. The split appeared only as a crack and the aperture was small. The Master stated that due to heavy weather encountered, he had reduced the vessel's speed in order to alleviate the strain on the vessel. The remainder of the voyage was without incident."

SOURCE: 12ND Boarding Report, SS LEW WALLACE (US), dated 4/16/43.

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"On December 15, 1942 a heavy east-southeast gale was encountered and caused the vessel to roll badly. At 0430, Chief Mate advised the master that the troops quartered 'tween decks were taking a terrible beating, several of the men being injured and bunks and equipment going to pieces. It was some time before the master hove to in order to make the vessel ride more easily. Investigation of the damage disclosed that in #1 'tween decks, twelve stanchees had bent, allowing 93 bunks with men and equipment to fall to the steel deck. In #2 'tween decks, fifteen stanchees collapsed, dropping 110 men and equipment. A total of fourteen men were hospitalized including four fractures and one serious back injury. Over fifty other men were treated.

During the same storm, the starboard gunwale opposite the 'midship house, cracked from excessive strain. This fine crack was in the horizontal plate forming the top of the gunwale; there was no crack down the side."

SOURCE: 13ND Boarding Report, SS LEW WALLACE (US), dated 1/8/43.

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