



(OMI)
CG-MIN-
WILLIAM GASTON

CHARLESTON, S. C.

DISTRICT COAST GUARD OFFICER (OMI)
SIXTH NAVAL DISTRICT

4 January, 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

To: TDCGO 4 ND (OMI)

Subj: Daytime distress signals on SS WILLIAM GASTON

1. The SS WILLIAM GASTON was torpedoed and sunk on 23 July, 1944. During the investigation of the above casualty survivors stressed the effectiveness of the daytime distress signals aboard the SS WILLIAM GASTON in expediting rescue operations.

2. Since the SS WILLIAM GASTON was last inspected in your district HQ requests that you procure, as soon as conveniently possible, the name of the manufacturer and the numbers of the lifeboats on the SS WILLIAM GASTON and the name of the manufacturer of the daytime distress signals with which such lifeboats were equipped.

3. The SS WILLIAM GASTON was operated by the American West African Line, 17 Battery Place, N.Y.

4. The daytime distress signals with which the lifeboats were equipped on her initial annual inspection 30 April, 1943, were manufactured by Van Karner Chemical Arms Corp., New York, N.Y.

R. E. COOMBS
By direction

Build
Wilmington, N.C.
1942
6 ND

1st certificate
August 1942 at
Charleston

Return to 8-2
JHF: bw

It it's Distress Signals call "VAN KARNER"

DCGO, 4ND (OMI)

CG-MIN-V-1206

18 January 1945

To: The Commandant

Subj: Daytime distress signals on SS WILLIAM GASTON

1. The information requested in HQ letter of 4 January, 1945, is as follows:

Lifeboats Nos. A168, A169, and A170 on the subject vessel were manufactured by the Neptune Boat and Davit Company, Inc., and lifeboat No. 71 was manufactured by the Imperial Boat and Davit Corporation.

2. To date this office has been unable to obtain any data from the American-West African Line in regard to the manufacture of the daytime distress signals.

L.H. Shackelford
By direction

Return to 9-2
JHP: bw

If it's Distress Signals call "VAN KARNER"

AMERICAN-WEST AFRICAN LINE, INC.

17 Battery Place

New York 4, N.Y.

January 26, 1945

United States Coast Guard
801 Custom House
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

Attention: Officer in Charge Marine
Inspection

Gentlemen:

Refer to V-1206, S.S. WILLIAM GASTON

In reply to your letter of January 10, this is to advise that we have purchased for the subject vessel in January, 1943, sixteen (16) daytime smoke signals from William E. Williams, Inc. at New York. These were manufactured by Sam Jackson Company.

However, we also purchased for the same vessel in July, 1943, twenty (20) day time smoke signals which according to our records were intended for the rafts. These were purchased from Baker, Carver & Morrell of Philadelphia, Inc. and they are said to be manufactured by the Sculler Safety Corporation.

These according to our records are the only smoke signals we have purchased for the vessel. For any further information you may require, kindly address your request to the writer's attention.

Very truly yours,

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION
By: AMERICAN-WEST AFRICAN LINE, INC.,
Agents

J.M. McKENNA
Asst. Purchasing Agent

JMM:MR