

WINONA REVISITED

Our Ship of the Month No. 207, featured in the November issue, was the passenger steamer WINONA, which was built in 1902 at Port Stanley, served a few brief years on Lake Erie's north shore and in the Wallaceburg area, and then headed northward, running for many years for the Purvis interests in the North Channel of Lake Huron.

Several members have come forward with additional information to assist us in respect of the early years of WINONA. Thanks to the efforts of George Ayoub, Alan Mann and Gordon Shaw, we are able to provide a detailed follow-up article which will clear up some of the mysteries concerning WINONA. Unfortunately, although we had planned to run the material in this issue, we do not have sufficient space available to do so, and accordingly it will have to wait a bit before we can present it in the manner it deserves. Please watch for more about WINONA in an upcoming issue.

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MORE ABOUT MEAFORD

In our December issue, we featured as Ship of the Month No. 208, the Farrar Transportation Company Ltd. steam cannaller MEAFORD (I). We very much enjoyed putting together our history of this little-known vessel. and we are pleased that our members received it well.

One of the interesting bits of information concerning MEAFORD is the report that we quoted from Page 413 of "Canadian Railway and Marine World", issue of October, 1917, regarding the steamer sinking an enemy submarine by gunfire off the coast of Sicily on June 12, 1917. One of our learned members, John Wilterding, of Algoma, Wisconsin, who has done extensive research into such matters, has written to dispute the C.R. & M.W. report.

Having reviewed many informative sources, John reports that the only enemy submarine sunk on June 12, 1917, was UC-66, a small mine-laying submarine built in 1916 by Blohm & Voss. She operated for a while in the Mediterranean there using the Austro-Hungarian number 66. Departing the Mediterranean, she was sunk off Cornwall's Lizard Point, June 12, 1917, by depth charges from from H.M.S. SEA KING. Twenty-two lives were lost.

How does this match the Canadian press report? We cannot say. Perhaps, however, the depth charges forced UC-66 to surface, thus giving MEAFORD a chance to use her armament. But how could the press report have confused The Lizard for the coast of Sicily?

John has, however, found another report which states that the steamer MEAFORD was attacked off the entrance to the English Channel by a German U-boat, and the freighter chased off her attacker by gunfire. The date of the occurrence was given as May 27, 1917.

So now we have a mystery where we thought we had fact. Puzzling indeed...

One mystery about MEAFORD has, however, been solved. In our feature, we spent rather a lot of space speculating about the stack colours that were carried by the two Farrar Transportation Company steamers, MEAFORD and COLLINGWOOD. We happened recently to be reading our 1913 Lynn's Directory ("American and Canadian Great Lakes and Ocean Appointments and Marine Directory"), when we came across a section entitled "How to Know the Ships by Their Funnels on the Great Lakes". This is a listing of the major lake fleets with a description of their stack colours.

According to E. J. Lynn, the Farrar Transportation stack colours were: "Black top, red band, black and red bottom".

So there it is at last. We will lose no more sleep in the wee small hours by lying awake and fretting over the colour of MEAFORD's stack. Thank you, Mr. Lynn!

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