

Headlines:

Puget Sound – floating ordnance detonated;
FMC – closed meeting on 4 September;
Court – passenger slip and fall;
UK – shipwreck bell returning to South Africa; and
Sinking of SS Metis – 30 August 1872.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Puget Sound – floating ordnance detonated



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that a temporary safety zone has been established around unexploded ordnance drifting south in Puget Sound near Bremerton. The Coast Guard is working with a Navy explosive ordnance disposal unit and others to address the situation. (8/28/18)
[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/2095417>].

Note: Unofficial reports state that the floating ordnance has been safely detonated.

FMC – closed meeting on 4 September



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a notice stating that the Commissioners will meet in closed session on 4 September in Washington, DC to consider Fact Finding No. 28: Conditions and Practices Relating to Detention, Demurrage, and Free Time in International Oceanborne Commerce.

83 Fed. Reg. 44271 (8/30/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-08-30/pdf/2018-19021.pdf>].

Court – passenger slip and fall



In an unpublished decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit affirmed the award of a directed verdict in favor of defendant cruise line in a passenger slip and fall case. The court held that plaintiff passenger failed to introduce probative evidence regarding causation and damages. **Kellner v NCL (Bahamas) Ltd**, No. 16-15837 (11th Cir., August 29, 2018) [<http://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/unpub/files/201615837.pdf>].

UK – shipwreck bell returning to South Africa



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a **news release** stating that the bell of SS Mendi is being returned to South Africa. The ship sank off the Isle of Wight on 21 February 1917 while carrying more than 800 men of the South African native labor corps to support the war effort on the Western Front. More than 600 men died in the sinking. (8/29/18) [<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-world-war-shipwreck-bell-is-returned-to-south-africa>].

Sinking of SS Metis – 30 August 1872



During a rainstorm, the passenger vessel **SS Metis**, with approximately 242 passengers and crew on board collided with the schooner Nettie Cushing at about 4 a.m. on 30 August 1872 in Long Island Sound near Watch Hill, Rhode Island. Metis, en route from New York to Providence, was holed below the waterline and flooded quickly. Passengers were assembled and many boarded lifeboats. The captain and the agent of the Providence and New York Steamship Line refused to board lifeboats and remained in the pilot house. They were among the forty persons still alive when the vessel's upper works washed ashore. The **Revenue Cutter Moccasin**, Captain David Ritchie commanding, rushed to the scene, rescuing 45 persons and recovering 17 bodies. It is estimated that 130 persons died in the sinking. Captain Ritchie and the officers and men of Moccasin received the formal Thanks of Congress by means of a Resolution adopted on 24 January 1873. A US Life-Saving Station was built at Watch Hill in 1879, adjacent to the Lighthouse. There was no marine insurance on Metis. Suits were brought against the shipowner, including one by a passenger stating that he bought his \$3 ticket and incurred injuries and expenses due to the sinking – he demanded \$20,000 damages. The owners filed a petition in federal court seeking exoneration from and limitation of liability.

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