

Mr. HAZEN: Is he here?

Mr. VAUGHAN: No, he is not here to-day. We can get him here if necessary. I think I can answer most questions, but I cannot answer that particular question because I have no knowledge of such a letter ever having been written.

Mr. HAZEN: You say it is possible such a letter could have been written?

Mr. VAUGHAN: I could not say that such a letter was not written because he may have written it. I can say this—I do not know how much of this would be desirable to go on the record because the navy have asked us to keep as secret as possible everything that happens in connection with the movements of these vessels—I do know that some of our captains have felt that they should have escorts.

Mr. HAZEN: I understood that Captain Giffin did write a letter. I do not know whether it should be tabled or put in the record, but I was told that such a letter had been written.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I can ascertain if such a letter was received and let you know in the morning.

Mr. HAZEN: I will appreciate it if you do that.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Yes, we will do that.

The CHAIRMAN: Any further discussion?

Mr. HANSON: What is the value of the *Lady Somers*?

Mr. COOPER: The original cost is \$1,779,000.

Mr. HANSON: You have depreciation?

Mr. COOPER: After deducting depreciation the ledger value would be \$1,167,000.

Mr. HANSON: That stands as an asset to the company?

Mr. COOPER: That is the value at which the asset is carried in the accounts; but I would not say it indicates the real value of the vessel.

Mr. HANSON: That is the value in the accounts.

Mr. VAUGHAN: The replacement value would be more.

Mr. HAZEN: Have you still some ships in the West Indian trade?

Mr. VAUGHAN: Yes, a number.

Mr. HAZEN: Are you satisfied with the armament on them at the present time?

Mr. VAUGHAN: That is difficult to say.

Mr. HAZEN: Has any convoy system been provided for ships?

Mr. VAUGHAN: I could not tell you that because our boats only move when they are released by the navy and they travel entirely under the direction of the navy. We do not know whether they are convoyed or not.

The CHAIRMAN: Will we proceed with page 6? Mr. Armstrong will read this.

Mr. ARMSTRONG: