

1. SUMMARY

On 5 September 1991 mfv MARGARET AND WILLIAM II with five men on board was expected to berth at Newlyn early in the morning, but did not do so and was reported overdue. HM Coastguard initiated a search, and at 1343 hrs GMT a liferaft was found, with three survivors. The two remaining members of the crew were missing.

The survivors reported that MARGARET AND WILLIAM II had been in collision with an unidentified vessel the previous afternoon and, in consequence, had sunk very quickly. Search continued for the missing men without success. It is known that they were below in their bunks at the time of the accident and they were not seen at all after the collision: almost certainly they went down with their ship.

The Dutch chemical tanker JACOBUS BROERE reported that she had been in the area of the accident and although her watchkeeper had seen nothing, paint scrapings of unknown origin had been found on her bow. Subsequent investigation makes it almost certain that JACOBUS BROERE and MARGARET AND WILLIAM II had been in collision.

NOTE :

Times are significant. MARGARET AND WILLIAM II was keeping British Summer Time (GMT + 1) and JACOBUS BROERE was keeping GMT + 2. HM Coastguard keep GMT. In this Report, critical times are given in both the time being kept by the ship referred to and in GMT.