



M V Apricity

Coastal trade in the early post war years was very busy. One run we had was from Blythe to Norwich with coal for the power station, then reload with sugar at Cantley, a split cargo for Sunderland and Newcastle. We arrived at Sunderland on Friday evening ready to deliver one hundred tons on Saturday morning. This was completed by about ten o'clock, with pilot aboard we set sail for Newcastle.

As we cleared the entrance the ship plunged down into the trough of the ground swell, burying the forecastle completely, even covering the windlass. There was a lot of noise and shouts from the forecastle and as the ship lifted the door flew open, out came the crew followed by a surge of water. Two portholes had smashed in, you can imagine the force through two eight inch holes buried beneath that amount of pressure.

So really the story is - **‘Thro the Portholes!**

Bill Willis