

21 April 1955

THE WILLIAMSON TURN

The Williamson Turn consists of putting the rudder over hard in the direction of the side from which the man fell overboard while maintaining engine speed. At the precise instant the ship's head reaches 70° from the original course, reverse the rudder, circle and steady up on the reciprocal of the original course. As soon as the ship is steady on the reciprocal course, stop the engines and the ship will drift to approximately the position at which the man fell overboard. Ships using this maneuver at normal cruising speeds report that it is effective in various conditions of wind and sea and consumes about five minutes more than backing down or circling. The advantages of the Williamson turn during darkness or reduced visibility is obvious.