The Ghostly Crew of SS Watertown-Karen Sphink

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In December 1924 the American tanker SS Watertown was heading down the Californian coast to New Orleans via the Panama Canal when two sailors Courtney and Meehan, were asphyxiated by oil fumes. Their bodies were buried at sea off the Mexican Coast ...

Just before dusk, the following day the first mate saw to faces in the waves off the port side. He recognised the two sailors immediately. The heads (3D in water ...and clear to the eye) continued to reappear daily while the ship was in the Pacific and were seen on many occasions by virtually every member of the crew, either independently or in groups. The two heads appeared about 3 mtrs apart, some 13 mtrs from the ship, floating on the crests of the waves. Larger than living heads, the spectres stayed for about 10 seconds , faded and reappeared. Once the ship was in the Atlantic Ocean the heads were no longer seen.........

On arrival at New Orleans, Captain Tracy reported to the shipping office - the Cities Service Company. Noone on board the ship had a camera with which to photograph the sight , ship's mate bought one before the return voyage . When the apparition appeared once again, Captain Tracy photographed the faces, then locked the camera and film in his safe. Later a commercial editor found nothing unusual on 5 of the 6 exposures, but one shows the faces quite distinctly. A detective agency asked to examine the negative, found no trace of fraud..................

The faces appeared less frequently on the third voyage, the weather was stormy ..and no photos worked out, after this voyage the crew was changed, and there were no more reports of sightings . Not everyone below decks believed in the faces . Some claim the apparitions were optical effects, and that identification with the dead sailors was simple suggestion. But optical effects are unlikely to be recur day after day and be seen by several people every time. The photograph , if it is genuine , is not easy to explain away.....................