

CAPT. FINCH TELLS STORY OF ARABIC

Describes Sinking of His Boat by German Submarine.

NO WARNING WAS GIVEN HIM

Splendid Behavior of Passengers and Crew Accounts for Saving of Lives—Heroes of the Engine and Boiler Rooms.

Queenstown.—A thrilling story was told by Captain Finch of the Arabic "I left Liverpool at 2:34 p. m. Wednesday," he said, "and had on board 423 souls all told, including 261 members of the crew. All went well with us on our way down the channel until 9:30 a. m., Thursday, August 19, when the ship was torpedoed. There was a northeasterly wind and there was only a slight swell on. Therefore before we were torpedoed we were going a sixteen knots."

Asked as to whether any warning had been given by the submarine, Captain Finch said emphatically:

"No. We were torpedoed without receiving any warning whatever. I was on the bridge at the time, and had been on the bridge all the way down the channel. The first indication I had that we were attacked or of the presence of a submarine at all in our vicinity, was when I saw the torpedo coming toward the ship at a distance of about three hundred feet. That was the very first I saw of it. It approached us at right angles, coming toward us from the north and striking us on the starboard side at a point some ninety or a hundred feet from the stern."

"When the torpedo struck us there was a terrific explosion, so loud that I had never heard anything like it. You can imagine how terrible it was when I tell you it shook the whole ship from stem to stern. The explosion was so stupendous that one of the boats which was swung out from the ship's side was blown into the air in splinters. Then after the torpedo struck an immense volume of water was thrown up in the air to a tremendous height and, of course, there was a great shock."

Sank in Ten Minutes. Asked if the torpedo struck the ship in a very vital part, Captain Finch said:

"Oh, yes, indeed. Why, the ship sank in ten minutes. As soon as she was struck she gave a great list, first to starboard and then to port, and after that she seemed to steady herself a bit. Then she went down quickly by the stern and disappeared completely."

"I did not see a single sign of a submarine, and, as far as I am aware, nobody else saw a submarine, either before or after the occurrence."

"We had all the lifeboats and also the rafts and the patent Andersen lifeboats ready, and they were swung out immediately. Everything was ready right away, including the rafts, which floated off. We put out plenty of boats. In fact, there were sufficient boats to take many more persons than were on board. Life belts were distributed fore and aft before we reached the spot where the torpedo struck us. This is always done, in anticipation of the danger zone."

Carried Plenty of Boats.

"There was no commotion. Everybody behaved splendidly. All the officers and crew were at their posts and everybody was supplied with a life belt. There were in all fourteen boats lowered, I think, but I have been informed that as the ship was sinking two or three of the boats capsized. I do not know what was the cause of that. I did not see it, but I was told it did take place."

"We had good assistance sent to us. I understand eleven boats were picked up."

"I was on the bridge when the ship went down and I went down with her. I thought I was all in, but after a time I found myself in the water floating among rafts and patent boats which were banging the life out of me, until a patent boat to which I could cling came along and I was able to hold on to it. I was too tired and weak to haul myself on board. Then two firemen came along and I succeeded in shoving them into it, but I could not get in myself. After that a woman and her baby were met and taken on board, and I got a piece of raft under me and a swell then washed me on board the boat."

Saw Dunsley Sinking.

"Just before we were torpedoed we passed the Dunsley, which was sinking. The vessel had three holes in her from shells. I also saw two boats sailing away from the Dunsley toward the land. At the time we were torpedoed we were sixty miles south and 202 degrees west of Queenstown and half a degree east of Fastnet. The majority of the missing were members of the crew."

"As soon as the torpedo came there were signals from above to stop and go astern, and wires were also in motion, but all the poor fellows remained below and never came above, but kept at their duties and their work like heroes. This is the engine-room staff I refer to, and they were lost."

"All the men who remained down deserved twenty Victoria crosses. They were real heroes a thousand times over."

"All the loss of life has been caused by the blowing up of the ship. As regards the passengers and crew from the boats, assistance was sent to us as quickly as possible."

SCANDINAVIAN NEWS

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS IN FAR OFF NORTHWEST.

ITEMS FROM THE OLD HOME

Resume of the Most Important Events in Sweden, Norway and Denmark—Of Interest to the Scandinavians in America.

SWEDEN.

The United States will continue to act alone in representations to Great Britain regarding the neutral trade. Negotiations begun by the Swedish legation here to secure American co-operation in proposed concerted action of neutrals to protest against the British orders in council have brought no results. The most recent Swedish proposal contemplated identical notes of protest by neutrals, flat rejection by the American state department having met a previous suggestion for a joint note. Negotiations are still in progress. Some details of the Swedish position, it is said, are inconsistent with the contentions of the United States. Reports as to strong German sympathies in Sweden also are believed to have been considered by the state department. Negotiations progressed to a point where both the Swedish and American governments prepared tentative drafts of proposals to be sent to Great Britain. The Swedish proposals were submitted to the state department, but were found to be unsatisfactory.

"Sweden looks like an armed camp and all the troops are ready for a brush with the enemy," says George Malmgren, who hails from Brainerd, Minn., and who has just returned from a visit in Sweden. "German agents and buyers," said Mr. Malmgren, "are overbidding the allies on anything that can be bought. The only thing that Germany appears to be well supplied with is arms, ammunition, cotton and copper, of which some make the claim that Germany had an enormous supply long before the war started."

Salomon Silfversvan, one of the most noted vagrants of Sweden, died at the Ljungby poorhouse at the age of seventy-two years. For him, to live was to roam, and he had been in all parts of Sweden. Time and again the local authorities would send him back home to get rid of him, but he used his first chance to get away. Sweden was not his only field of operations, and he could even boast of having visited both Berlin and Paris.

The Bible commission has completed the great task of making a new translation of the Old Testament. The national convention of the Church of Sweden has a right to authorize or reject the new version as far as the state church is concerned. Such a convention is to be held next fall. The translators themselves believe that some slight changes will be made if the work is approved.

There are many people in Kristianstad who are unable to get work even in the busiest season of the year. In the course of one month over 300 stone cutters applied for work at the employment bureau. About 200 cigarmakers are also out of work because the tobacco monopoly has no use for them.

The war has almost destroyed the stone-dressing industry of Bohuslan. Some firms have discharged all the single men in order that the heads of families may have a chance to make from \$8 to \$16 a week.

The president of China has awarded the decoration of the Order of the Golden Crop to Maj. H. O. Hjalmarson, and King Gustaf has granted Major Hjalmarson permission to wear the badge in public.

Nils Strongren of Ankarstrum, while bathing in company with some friends, wanted to show them how skillfully he could dive. But his head struck a rock and he went to the bottom and was drowned.

The Swedish state railways announce that the railroad from Karungi to Haparanda, on the Russian frontier, is open for traffic. It was previously necessary to make the journey by wagon.

The women of Skane raised over \$8,000 for aeroplanes for the army and navy.

The Swedish Blue Ribbon association held its thirtieth annual meeting at Skara.

The amount available for the Nobel prizes this year is 144,000 kronor (\$38,000) each, but it is possible the distribution will be postponed. Next year the amount will be reduced by 20,000 kronor, this sum representing the amount of the new Swedish defense tax.

The first detachment of a party of 2,000 German prisoners for the exchange of whom arrangements have been made, left Petrograd for Sweden via Finland. They are totally disabled.

NORWAY.

In Sogn, in the western part of the country, everything points to veritable bonanza crops. The potato vines could not look better, and the growth of the small grain is something almost marvelous. The hay crop is also far above the average. The weather has been peculiarly favorable—rain at night and bright sunshine in the day. Hardanger and Voss also will have fine crops. The apples have been somewhat injured by mildew, but the crop will be large. In the interior of the country the severe drought was broken just in time to save the crops. More rain would be an injury in that part of the country. It is no longer feared that the farmers will have to dispose of too much of their stock on account of a general lack of fodder.

House rent has been abnormally high in Aalesund because the building industry has not kept pace with the growth of the city in other respects. Now a number of business men have organized a stock company for the purpose of putting up a number of houses for working men. It is expected that the city will back the enterprise financially. A piece of ground has been bought near the Aalesund church. According to the plans, which have been prepared in Christiania, there will be eleven buildings accommodating about one hundred families. The buildings will be sold as soon as possible in order that the proceeds from the sale may be used for putting up other buildings.

The salmon seems to be gradually deserting the Drammen river. People who are financially interested in the salmon catch complain that the run is getting smaller from year to year. This is said to be due to the many factories that have been built along the banks of the river. The sewage from these factories contaminate the water. But that is not all. The waste matter covers the sand bottom of the river, making it unsuitable for spawning. But some big fellows still visit the river. The biggest one caught this season weighed 55 pounds, and another weighed 51 pounds. As a matter of fact no one is known to have caught so heavy fish in the river before.

A house at Kleven, Arendal, is occupied by three persons whose combined age is two hundred and seventy-two and one-half years. Lars Kristiansen, a blacksmith, is ninety-one and one-half. He does not mind his years sufficiently to quit his trade. He still spends a part of his time in his smithy, and he keeps himself busy, too. He is no longer limber, but he can swing his sledgehammer with telling effect. His wife, Gunhild Marie, who is of old Holmesogn mettle, has passed her eighty-sixth milestone. Her sister, Mrs. Aase Tomine Storaker, is just ninety-five years old, and she is as hale and active as many a damsel a quarter of a century younger.

The Norwegian Students' Total Abstinence Association has a membership of 1,200. There are local societies at nearly all of the higher institutions of learning. It is a curious fact that many students who are not abstainers are contributing to the expenses of the association. This association is co-operating with similar organizations in Sweden and Denmark.

During the present fiscal year the government silver mines at Kongsberg will be able to break all former records in the long history of the plant. The output will be about twenty tons. This is four times the average for many years past, and twice as much as was expected at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Capt. Roald Amundsen has gone to England, where he intends to continue his study and practice as an aviator.

DENMARK.

A company of seven men are draining Gab lake, which is located between Klovberg and Hammer. The methods of doing the work are by no means usual. The water is pumped into a canal connected with Skjern creek. The men who are engaged in this enterprise claim that at the bottom of the lake is a 25-foot layer of fuel peat, and their aim is to take this out and utilize it.

The merchants of Fur Island promised that if it could be demonstrated that public sentiment was against the sale of whisky they would quit selling it. A vote was taken and out of a total of 700 there were 400 who voted for prohibition and none against it. And now if a Fur man wants a drink he must go to the mainland to get it.

The discovery was accidentally made in the island of Moen that a mixture of five or ten per cent molasses and 90 or 95 per cent of water sprinkled on the roads will bind the dust effectively. The application is comparatively cheap, too.

During a debate in the British parliament it was pointed out that Holland and Denmark now are the only countries from which Germany can obtain cotton, and that exports to these countries must be stopped. This assertion was not taken literally. But the result was that the exportation of cotton to Denmark was stopped. Several cotton mills have already been closed. There is no cotton stored up in Denmark and in a short while the big cotton mills will have to close, which means that 7,000 persons will be thrown out of work.



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A Wise Parent. "Father," said Willie, "I want to write a war poem and I can't think of a rhyme for Przemysl. Would weasel do?"

"I don't know, my son," replied the pater. "But I'm told there is no rhyme for jitney. Why not try that? Nobody'd know the difference."

HIDDEN IMPURITY

"If American women knew how much of our Coffee lies on the ground for days, before the berries are finally swept up and harvested, greater care would be exercised in purchasing this food. For this Coffee is impure. But its moldy color is lost in the roasting, and the partial decay is concealed until it comes up harsh and bitter in the cup. This fact is not generally known to importers, for few of them have studied conditions existing prior to the arrival of their ships in port."

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An Ideal Combination. "What is your idea of a happy combination?" asked the doctor. "A millionaire menu with a deck-hand appetite," answered the goody patient.

AUTO HORN JERICO TRUMPET

Does Not Make Any Walls Fall But Signals Smashing of Speed Laws.

"This lady has a Jericho horn on her auto."

Patrolman Helmuth made this accusation to Recorder Gaskill against Mrs. E. B. Frost of Philadelphia, passing the summer at 110 South Dorset avenue, Chelsea. Students of the Old Testament will remember that when Joshua and his hosts blew the then auto siren the walls of Jericho fell.

Mrs. Frost denied indignantly that she broke any walls, even that she broke the antispeed law, although Helmuth charged that 40 miles an hour is a lame gait when Mrs. Frost drives. "Five dollars fine," said Recorder Gaskill gently. "A warning, this five. Try to add to the city's quietude by muffling that Jericho horn, I beg of you, madam."—New York World.

Waterproof Matches.

Hint for camping and fishing parties. Many of you have encountered the annoying experience of finding yourselves miles from a store and all the matches in your possession so damp that they could not be used. A fact worth knowing is that matches can be made waterproof without injury by dipping them in very hot melted paraffin, allow them to cool and they are ready for use. The paraffin does not interfere with their use in the regular way and they are absolutely protected from dampness.

Two Singles.

The Nervous Curate (trying to follow an introduction with genial conversation)—And—er—how is your wife in these trying times?

The Introduced—I regret to say, sir, that I am not married.

The Nervous Curate—Ah, yes, of course; how exceedingly pleasant that is! I take it, then, that your wife is single, too.—London Sketch.

Unexpected Reply.

"Ethel, do you know you have hair just like your mamma's?" "Oh, no, I haven't. I can't take mine off!"

Coal Is Dethroned. The Norfolk & Western railroad has electrified 100 miles of its system in West Virginia, one of the heaviest coal carriers in the world. The electric locomotives in use weigh 270 tons each and two of them attached to a 4,000-ton train recently carried it with ease up a two per cent grade at the rate of fourteen miles an hour, a rate twice that attained by the most efficient steam locomotives formerly used on the system.

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New Minnesota Iron Mine.

A new iron mine now being operated in Minnesota has an estimated content of 40,000,000 tons of ore. It will be worked by the open-pit method prevalent in that state.

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