

# CAPTAIN GIVES LIFE IN AIDING A STOKER

Master of the Pollokshield  
Washed Overboard in Effort  
to Get Him a Lifebelt.

## VESSEL WRECKED ON REEF

Bermudian Arrives with 60 Seamen  
Saved from Two Aban-  
doned Steamers.

The story of how Captain Ernest Boothe of the British steamer Pollokshield, formerly the Hamburg-American steamer Graecia, lost his life trying to get a lifebelt for one of his firemen was told yesterday by twenty-seven of the shipwrecked crew, who arrived on the steamer Bermudian from Bermuda.

Dan Young, the boson, said that the

Pollokshield left Cardiff on Aug. 22, with a crew of thirty-seven men, and carried a cargo of shells, gunpowder, and provisions for Bermuda. On Sept. 2 the steamer ran into strong gales, with fog and rain.

"At eight bells on the morning of Sept. 7," Boson Young said, "the fog lifted, and we saw at once by the color of the water that the ship was on soundings—that is, in shallow water. Ten minutes later she struck on a coral reef off Elba Beach, on the south coast of Bermuda. When all hands were mustered on the upper deck lifebelts were served out to every man, but there was one short. James Smith, a fireman from Southampton, the last to come up from the stokehole, had no belt, and when the skipper saw he had none he told me to go below and get one from the deck cabins on the port side. By that time the seas were sweeping over the well deck aft, and it was a tight job to get there without going overboard, but I managed it, and found the doors locked. I got back, and reported to Captain Boothe that I could not force the doors and offered to go again if he would give me the keys. 'No, boson,' says he, 'that wouldn't be fair. You went down once, and now I will have a try.'

"The Captain got down all right, but just as he was making for the alleyway a big sea struck him, and he went overboard and was swept astern. We stood still, because we could not get aft and were powerless to help him. The last I saw of him alive he was on top of a

great sea, within ten feet of a sharp coral rock. The rest of us reached shore later that day."

The Graecia slipped out of New York Harbor one foggy night in September, 1914, loaded with a cargo of coal for the German cruiser Karlsruhe, then in West Indian waters. She was captured by the British cruiser Berwick and taken to Gibraltar and sold. Her name was changed from Graecia to Pollokshield.

In addition to the survivors of the Pollokshield, the Bermudian brought thirty-three of the crew of the Italian steamer Purificazione, bound from Genoa to Norfolk, Va., which was abandoned in mid-Atlantic on Aug. 15. The Captain and crew were picked up, after they had been adrift two days in the lifeboats, by the British steamship Cayo Gitmano, which landed them in Bermuda.

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