

TIRED AND HAGGARD

Amy Turner Survivors Home

WRECK IN MOUNTAINOUS SEAS

Tragic Fate of Captain and Wife

Tired, haggard, and strangely quiet, the four survivors of the crew of 14 that set out many weeks ago in the ill-fated Amy Turner, reached Sydney this morning from Manila, by the steamer St. Albans. They tell tales of mountainous seas and raging gales, of starvation and thirst. In their eyes one can read of the cruelty of the sea, and the frenzy of the wind.

The four men, C. West, F. Lindholm, C. Cornish and C. Tracey, tell a story to which only Defoe or Conrad could do justice. They are destitute. They have lost their mates, one of them was a woman, who was, to use their words, "the gamest of us all."

Briefly, their story is as follows:--- On February 7 the barquentine Amy Turner cleared Newcastle heads for Manila. She was commanded by Captain Neilsen. With the dawn of March 27 Guam was sighted. The watch reported that the glass was falling.

Later in the day the wind rose, and by noon a gale had overtaken the craft. The wind increased, and soon reached a velocity of 80 miles an hour. Mountainous seas swept

soon reached a velocity of 80 miles an hour. Mountainous seas swept the vessel's decks, carried away the iron stanchions, and stove in the hatches.

PUMPING GEAR FAILS

The pumping gear failed, and the crew were ordered to take to the boats. During four days before that they had never slept or eaten. Even the captain's wife was present day and night on the poop with her husband.

When taking to the boats, West, who returned by the St. Albans today, put his waterproof coat on Neilsen, by so doing he lost all his papers and war medals.

One of the boats was launched successfully, but the second became entangled in the gear, and capsized. Only

Cornish was saved from the entire complement. Mrs. Neilsen was sent forward to get into a boat, but on account of falling spars and the inability of the boat to get alongside the Amy Turner, she returned aft to her husband.

Then suddenly the Amy Turner lurched, nose first, and, heeling to port, sank. The last seen of the Neilsens was when the wreckage drifted from the lost vessel. They were clinging to a broken spar.

The remaining boat, unable to save them, steered south for Guam. They failed to reach this island, and, after drifting for 23 days, reached Mawish Island. Food and water had run out long before land was reached. Fortunately a dolphin was caught, and helped out with the supplies. On landing at Mawish Island the exhausted crew found an empty native hut, in which they spent the night.

SAVED BY NATIVES

Next day a party of semi-civilised natives, after feeding the crew, took them to Mindanao Island. The population was able to speak sufficient English to understand the castaway's story, and eventually they were taken to Cebu, and thence to Manila, where they boarded the *St. Albans*.

Besides the skipper and his wife, the drowned members of the crew are: J. Raupak, E. Fraser, T. Dunkin, T. Ogden, J. Jones, V. Mahbroo, T. Holland and H. Rich. The crew are mostly Melbourne men.