

Skipper's Plucky Swim Ashore

LIFEBOAT AND ROCKET RESCUES

PLUCKY act of the skipper of a French crabber, *Pluie de Roses*, in swimming ashore after she had been wrecked on the Land's End peninsula, helped to save the lives of his crew of five when his boat was wrecked yesterday morning.

Pluie de Rose (skipper, Albert Kerninon), struck the rocks at Merthen Point, near St. Loy, in Mount's Bay, at 5 a.m., when it was dark and foggy. Four of the crew took to the small boat, and were later rescued by Penlee lifeboat. One more was rescued by rocket apparatus, manned by Treen Life Saving Association.

Mrs. S. Nicholls, of Trevedran Farm, St. Buryan, told "The Cornishman" that she was awakened at about 5 a.m. by the barking of dogs. "I got out of bed and looked out of the window, but could see nothing. I went back to bed and heard footsteps. I looked out of the window again and saw a man approaching the farm. I let him in and saw that he was soaked to the skin. He could not speak a word of English, but by vigorous signs made me understand that he wanted help on the cliffs. I offered him tea, but he would not wait. My daughter phoned the police. Then my husband, my daughter-in-law and my daughter went down to the cliffs with hot drinks, food and whisky. My son, Michael, also drove the seaman into Newlyn."

WAITING IN DINGHY

Meanwhile, Penlee lifeboat, under Coxswain Jack Worth, was called out and found four of the crew in their dinghy about half-a-mile from the wreck. Treen L.S.A. under Station-Officer Coastguard A. Perkins, which had come overland from Tolpedn, Penwith, got a rocket line aboard the crabber and rescued Tinoc Le Bras, then the only man aboard her, by breeches buoy.

At the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, Newlyn, Skipper Kerninon said: "I was at the helm from 11.45 last night to 4 a.m., when I handed over to another member of the crew, to whom I gave the course. I went below, and had been down there about an hour when the ship was brought up by a terrific jerk. I ran on deck, had the engines put full astern, and sounded the fog sirens. Four of the crew got off in the small boat, but I stayed aboard, and Le Bras volunteered to stay with me.

DARK AND FOGGY

"Then I decided to try and get ashore and jumped overboard. It was dark and foggy, but I managed to get to the beach, and after walking along the shore for some distance found a house, but it was locked up. Then I found a gap in the cliffs, and walked about a mile inland until I found a farm house."

Skipper Kerninon added that the *Pluie de Roses* was only about 18 months old, and was only partly insured. "I had sold everything to buy her," he said.

Rescue work by the rocket apparatus was carried out in almost record time. The alarm was received by Coastguard R. Paul, who was on duty at Treen, at 06.02 hours. He immediately called Station-Officer Perkins, who summoned the L.S.A. team. "They were at the station by 06.15 hours," said Mr. Perkins. "We left the station at 06.17 hours, and arrived at the scene at 06.40 hours. The crabber was lying about 50 yards off shore. Her stern was under water, and her bows were in the air. The tide was rising, being at about one-and-a-half hours flood. One man was standing in the bows. We fired a rocket pistol, and the first shot missed, but we made contact at the second attempt. The Frenchmen made the line fast, and we got him ashore by the breeches buoy at 07.11 hours."

AID AT NEWLYN

Rescue work was assisted by Chief-Inspr. W. T. Walke, Penzance, police officers and local farmers.

The sea was fairly calm outside. Mr. Perkins added, but there were breakers between the wreck and the shore, and Kerninon must have had a very rough time in reaching the beach.

Coxswain Jack Worth said that when the lifeboat arrived on the scene they found four of the crew sculling their small boat about half-a-mile from the wreck. They were picked up and taken to Newlyn, where they joined their skipper at the Mission.

Mr. T. F. Paterson, in charge of the Mission, was awakened at about 6 a.m. and found Skipper Kerninon, soaked to the skin, on the doorstep. He was brought in and given dry clothes and a warm drink.

Later, Mr. Morgan Hosking arrived on behalf of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, and arranged for the crew to be provided with dry clothes.