5 DROWNED IN TUG SUNK WITH BARGE

Submerged Craft Rises to Surface, then Drags other to Delaware's Bottom

A sunken barge bobbed up from the bottom of the Delaware River and, as it sank again, capsize and dragged back to the depths a tug moored to it, carrying the tug captain and four of his crew to their deaths.

Three other crewmen were rescued from a floating hatch. A fourth was picked up a mile downstream, clinging to a ladder.

The unusual accident, first of its kind in the memory of river men, happened at 8 o'clock yesterday morning in mid-river, off Noble st., about 500 yards north of the Delaware River Bridge.

Today, with preparations underway to raise the sunken vessels, two motor harbor police patrol boats marked the spot. Nothing was visible about the 43 feet of water submerging the tug and barge on the east side of the channel.

The tug, the J. M. Taylor, of the Taylor & Anderson Towing Lighterage Co., had been towing the barge when it sank Saturday night, and had stood by with all lights burning throughout the night to warn of the hazard.

A freighter passed just before the accident and a tug company official suggested that suction of the passing vessel's wash may have shot the barge to the surface.

The Victims

Those who died when trapped in the tug's cabin were:

Captain Alton R. Murray, of Marley Park, near Baltimore.

olie Knutson, 35, deck hand, Seaman's Church Institute, 211 Walnut st.

Norman Hiekman, 25, deckhand, 122 N. Dewey st.

Andrew Beneski, 39, fireman, 311

Gaskill st.

Alpheus Dixon, 55, cook, 904 S. 46th st.

In Hahnemann Hospital, suffering from shock and exposure are:

Philip West, 38, first mate, 30 S. 224 st.

John H. Long, 40, first engineer, 5442 Webster st.

Treated at the hospital and sent home under physician's care were:

Walter Quillen, 29, second engineer, 5226 Chancellor st.

Russell Savage, 37, deckhand, 8223 Chancellor st.

The accident happened as the crew was changing watch and some of the men were having breakfast. Savage was in his bunk.

Deckhand Describes Accident

[Further details about the accident and its aftermath]
Deckhand Describes Accident

“Suddenly I had the sensation of falling or being thrown,” he said. “Then things started to hit me and by that time I was wide awake. I was lying on the floor.

“I started for the companionway and was met by a flood of water. I got to the deck and was holding the rail when I saw Knutson trying to get up the companionway. I reached down and pulled him up. One minute he was the rail by my side and the next instant he was gone.”

Quollen, West and Savage found themselves in the water, clinging to the hatch.

“We all shouted and yelled as loud as we could,” said Quollen. “I guess it was nearly a half hour before we were taken off.”

Meanwhile, Long, clutching the ladder and shouting, had been swept downstream by a strong outgoing tide. He was carried through the ferry lanes, past one ferry boat in the darkness, and was picked up off South st. by the crew of a motor harbor patrol boat that was putting out to the scene of the accident.

All the drowned Philadelphians were unmarried. Hickman lived with his mother, Mary, and father, George, who is employed as a watchman by the same tug company. He has a sister, Mrs. Nettie Coleman, 130 N. Dewey st., and a brother, Ernest, 2143 S. Mole st.

Dixon made his home with his sister, Mrs. E. G. Feasel, and had worked for the company two years. Benehos had lived at the Gaskell st. address only a few months, having moved there from 421 S. 3d st.

He came to this country from Greece in 1916 and has a brother and sister on the west coast. The Seamen’s Church Institute had no record of Knutson’s relatives.