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**HISTORY REPEATS
IN SEA TRAGEDIES**

How Jack Binns, First Wireless Operator to Send S. O. S. Managed to Get Help

Captain Fried's dramatic rescue of the crew of the steamship Florida has served to bring to public attention another series of those strange coincidences which are a striking feature of sea tragedies.

Three years ago, almost to the day, Captain Fried thrilled the world by a similar rescue, saving the 24 men aboard the British steamer Antiræ.

Another striking coincidence is found in the name of the Italian steamship, "Florida." For the first shipping disaster in which radio played an important part was the collision of another ship of this same name with the steamer Republic, off Nantucket. The American Magazine describes this incident of January 1909, as follows:

First S. O. S. Rescue

"Jack Binns was the first wireless operator to send an S. O. S. Binns was the operator of the Republic, and this was the world's first experience with a radio-distress signal. It was also one of the most thrilling that has ever occurred. After the crash, the Florida drifted away into the fog but was located by a small boat sent out from the Republic. The bow of the Florida was crushed, but the injury to the Republic was more grave, and her passengers were transferred to the other vessel.

"But the Florida had no wireless. With 3000 of her own passengers and more than 1000 from the Republic, her condition was serious. The collision occurred at four o'clock in the morning. Binns was asleep at the time; he was awakened by the shock, and as he jumped from his berth, the wall of his cabin simply crumpled up and disappeared.

Feat Is Recalled

"Groping his way to the wireless instrument, he found the key broken off. He tied it together and began giving the alarm. He could get no response and suspected that his storage batteries were not working. In the dark, he got a pitcher of water which he poured into the storage battery cells. Then he tried again to get his signal to the shore stations. He finally succeeded; and, what was more important, he succeeded in communicating with the Steamship Baltic, then only 30 miles away."

Since Jack Binns' dramatic entry into the public eye by way of the first Florida disaster, wireless has progressed tremendously. Captain Fried's latest adventure shows that one of the most important developments has been the "direction finder," by means of which an operator can find the exact point of the compass from which a radio message comes.

Not Guilty

A man was charged with kissing a girl against her will, and during the proceedings the girl went into the box. "You say," said counsel for the defense, "that my client took you by surprise, and that you gave him no encouragement?" "I do," replied the girl. "Doesn't it strike you as

strange that he should have managed to kiss you as you were unwilling?" added counsel. "Look at my client, and then consider your own height. Why, you are nearly a foot taller than he is." "Well, what of it?" retorted the girl. "I can stoop, can't I?"

Don't you think he's fresh? Not exactly; merely inquisitive.

His hand is cold
His eye is dim;
Friend wifey
Waited up for him.

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