

# SWEDISH SHIP POSTS SURETY FOR CRASH CLAIMS

LOS ANGELES, Tuesday.—The Swedish motor ship *Parramatta* was released from custody today and allowed to proceed to Australia with its cargo. The vessel had been seized by United States marshals after it had been involved in a collision with the racing yawl *Suomi*.

Five men on board the yawl — including Mr Sandy Wilson, aged 33, a former Auckland journalist — were killed in the collision. The *Parramatta*'s owners posted a surety of 1,314,000 dollars (about £477,000) to cover any claims. They denied negligence.

Meanwhile, in nearby Long Beach, a Coast Guard inquiry board heard evidence that two men were on the bridge of the *Parramatta* at the time of the collision in darkness and a choppy sea off Point Arguello, California, last week.

Ramon Diaz (26), a Filipino, third officer of the *Parramatta*, said he was in command at the time of the accident. The helmsman, Gunnar Andersen (28), of Norway, was also on the bridge.

## "Faint white light"

"I was standing lookout on the wing," Mr Diaz said, "and a faint white light appeared suddenly two points off the starboard bow. I ordered the helmsman to put the ship hard to port, and sounded the alarm."

"Just 30 seconds before the collision the helmsman saw a red light. The *Parramatta* was making full speed, about 12½ knots. When the crash came I felt a slight tremble on the *Parramatta*."

Captain Anders Ericson, master of the *Parramatta*, said he put the ship about and searched vainly for survivors for more than an hour.

## £290,000 claims

The seizure of the *Parramatta*, which had been preparing to sail for Australia, came after the filing in the Federal District Court of damage claims against the vessel and her owners, the Transatlantic Steamship Company of Gotenborg, Sweden.

The claims, as libels under Admiralty law, sought £272,000 for the death of Henry Meiggs, owner of the yawl, and £18,000 for loss of the *Suomi*.

The libel for Meiggs' death was filed on behalf of his brother, Mr Beauford Meiggs, of San Francisco.

The State Mortgage Company, which Henry Meiggs had headed, sued for loss of the yawl.

The Coast Guard inquiry was adjourned pending the arrival of an official of the Transatlantic Company from Gotenborg.—N.Z.P.A.—Reuter.

## Only One Body Found

# Freighter Sinks Yacht; Five Lost

Five California yachtsmen were apparently killed just before dawn yesterday when the \$25,000 racing yawl *Suomi*, bound for San Francisco, sank in a collision with a Swedish freighter during a rain squall off Point Arguello.

Only one body was recovered from the heavily running sea. The other four yachtsmen, who were probably asleep in their bunks at the time of the crash, are believed to have gone down in the *Suomi*'s shattered hull.



Cross on map shows where yacht went down

The 5956-ton Swedish motor vessel *Parramatta* was headed for Los Angeles with a crew of 38 and general cargo aboard. She was undamaged and no one on her was injured.

The body of Ralph Howard Cooper, 36, of 617 Howard avenue, Burlingame, a former marine architect and navigator of the sunken yacht, was recovered by the Coast Guard.

Also aboard the *Suomi*, and presumed dead by the Coast Guard, were:

Henry Meiggs, 49, of 57 Broad Acres road, Atherton, president of the State Mortgage Corp. in San Francisco and the *Suomi*'s owner and captain;

Colonel William S. Conrow 58, retired Army officer, of Menlo Park;

William Lawrence Meiggs of Beverly Hills, Henry Meiggs's brother;

Sandy Wilson, 33, an Auckland, New Zealand boat builder.

Early reports had listed a sixth member of the *Suomi*'s crew as a "Mr. Harris."

It was learned that this probably referred to Larry Harris, 19, of 2028 Laguna street, who had been invited by Meiggs to sail aboard the yacht. Young Harris was unable to go, however, and was not aboard.

Another man invited to join the crew was Dean Morrison of 712 Blair avenue, Piedmont, an old friend of Meiggs and a fellow member of the St. Francis and Corinthian Yacht clubs. He, too, dropped out at the last minute.

The two vessels collided two

## Swedish Motor Ship Released

### COLLISION SEQUEL

Los Angeles  
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