

Tall Ships

British Square rigger capsizes, 18 still missing

United Press International

MILTON, Bermuda — Survivors said Monday two huge waves capsized and sank a British square rigger in less than a minute, raising fears that 18 missing people were trapped below deck and entombed at the bottom of the Atlantic.

U.S. and Canadian vessels searched the sea north of Bermuda for possible survivors of the 117-foot, 67-year-old British ship Marques, which sank Sunday during a Tall Ships Race.

Eight survivors, including four Americans, and the body of an American crewman, were brought to Bermuda by the Polish schooner Zawisa Czarny and taken to the Royal

Navy base in the British colony. A ninth survivor was taken aboard a Canadian frigate.

Crew members of the Zawisa Czarny said seas were high Sunday morning and suddenly one wave struck the bow of the Marques, followed by another giant wave.

"They (the survivors) told us it happened at four o'clock in the morning when the watch, or the crew, was changing," said Jerzy Albimah, chief mate of the schooner.

"They said at one moment there was a big wind and a big wave and the hull was turned over. It was pounding and rolling. The sails were flattened. They were on the ocean."

"They tried to hold down the sails.

It was impossible, and at last they tried to cut the ropes but it did not help. They said it took half a minute for the ship to sink. It was turned upside down," Albimah said.

Everybody who was below deck never came out, the survivors told their rescuers. Those who were on watch on deck jumped over the side. The crew members said there was not even time to send a May Day distress signal.

The eight survivors rescued by the Polish ship were aboard three inflatable life rafts when they were spotted, the rescue vessel's chief mate said.

The dead American crewman was identified as James F. McAleer, 47,

of Quincy, Mass., a spokesman for the Quincy Police Department said.

Three Canadian warships, each equipped with a helicopter, and a U.S. Navy craft with infrared equipment for night operations, searched for the 18 missing people, said Coast Guard spokesman Johnny Ludlow.

Among the missing were the ship's skipper, Stuart Finlay, his wife and 15-month-old baby, and several cadets, ranging in age from 15 to 21, from the Sail Training Association in Newport, R.I.

The Marques, built in 1917, is operated out of Antigua and owned by the China Clipper Society of England.

Salvadorans seek archbishop's killer

United Press International

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — President Jose Napoleon Duarte's new government has begun investigating the killing of a popular archbishop in the first step of a crackdown on death squads, a government official said Monday.

Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, Duarte's chief of staff, said the March 24, 1980 assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero was the first of "two or three big cases" the government was starting to investigate.

Other political murders at the top of the list for investigation were the 1980 assassinations of two high-ranking Christian Democrats, Mario Zamora and Melvin Orellana, Rey Prendes said.

Duarte, the Christian Democrat leader sworn in on Friday, has ordered a special armed forces unit trained by the FBI to investigate death squad activities, government sources said.

There are reports that the unit will investigate Hector Regalado and Juan Ramon Gonzalez, two bodyguards for ultra-rightist leader Roberto d'Aubuisson, who lost the May 6 presidential runoff election to Duarte.

Government officials were not immediately available for comment. D'Aubuisson has been accused of having links to the death squads.

Rey Prendes has said a cleanup of human rights abuses must precede any peace talks with leftist guerrillas. He said such talks could not begin for six months to a year.

Romero, an outspoken critic of army repression and right-wing political killings, was shot to death by a rifleman in March 1980 as he said mass in a San Salvador chapel.

Mario Zamora was a director of Duarte's Christian Democratic Party and his brother Ruben, also once a top Christian Democrat, joined the guerrilla political leadership after the assassination.

The army, meanwhile, has put three security forces most often blamed for human rights abuses under a unified command, a top officer said.

Col. Reynaldo Lopez Nuila, newly appointed deputy defense minister for public security, said he is coordinating the command of the National Police, Treasury Police and the National Guard.

Algeria tries to end Gulf war

United Press International

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Iraq said Monday it sank an Iranian boat in the marshes south-east of Baghdad as Algerian mediators began a fresh effort to prevent a new flare up in the Persian Gulf war.

The attack, reported by the official Iraqi News Agency, occurred near an area where both sides are massing troops in anticipation of a new Iranian ground offensive against Iraq in their 3½-year war.

The report, quoting the Baghdad military command, said Iraqi forces sank an "enemy boat stationed in

front of our positions in the Misan operational zone" and killed two Iranian troops.

Algerian envoys visited Baghdad and Tehran a day after a Turkish oil tanker, the 153,000-ton Buyuk Hun, was hit by an Iraqi missile and set ablaze Sunday.

In Ankara, acting Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz hinted Turkey might ban Turkish vessels from entering the Gulf.

The Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey said the Gulf states were resorting to tanker movements

by night to escape air raids by the two combatants in the Gulf War.

Khamenei told Bitat that Iran did not want to expand the war to other areas of the Gulf, but said Tehran would "retaliate decisively" against recent incidents in the waterway, the radio said.

He did not specifically threaten retaliation against the Iraqi raid on the Buyuk Hun.

Algeria, which has good relations with both Iraq and Iran, has attempted unsuccessfully several times since the war began in September 1980 to mediate peace.

World Fair exhibits A&M work

University News Service

A system to extract clean water from oilfield waste — patented two years ago by a Texas A&M chemist — will be one of 10 exhibits from American small businesses to be displayed at the New Orleans World Fair, where the U.S. theme is "Water for the World."

Dr. Rod O'Connor, professor of chemistry and president of Texas ROMEC Inc. through which the system was patented, said a small working display of the water cleanup system will be exhibited through Nov. 11 by the Small Business Administration.

About 45,000 people a day are expected to view the SBA exhibits.

O'Connor and more than a dozen others worked after hours to perfect the system, which operates on a reverse osmosis principle to filter enough oil or other wastes to make water safe to drink.

Larger systems — able to process 10,000 gallons a day — could provide emergency drinking water during floods or other disasters. In addition, thousands of dollars worth of petroleum could be recovered by using the process to squeeze more oil from wastes, O'Connor said.

ROMEC was founded in 1980 by a group of Texas A&M faculty members as a spare-time invention and research firm.

Snakebite season starts again

University News Service

It's snakebite season again and time to exercise caution, warns Texas A&M University wildlife specialist Dr. Fred Hendricks.

"Chances are only four in ten that a poisonous snake will release venom when it bites," said Hendricks of Texas A&M's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, "but that's no excuse not to be cautious."

The fatality rate from snake bite is extremely low. Less than one percent of the victims who are struck die from 2,000-plus bites annually reported nationwide, he said.

"If you encounter a snake, simply walk away," Hendricks said. "Most snakes are not aggressive, and most man/snake encounters go unnoticed by man. In any case, an average person can outrun a snake."

"Nearly all bites occur from people handling snakes, rather than being surprised by one. Most of the bites should come as no surprise. I can recall seeing a bunch of young men along the highway playing with a huge rattlesnake. They had that snake so hacked off that if it had bitten, it could have killed one of them."

Snakes are most active between April and mid-June because it is their mating season, Hendricks said.

Hendricks said people should learn to distinguish one snake from another, pointing out that rattlesnakes, copperheads, cottonmouths (all pit vipers) and coral snakes are considered dangerous in Texas.

He warns people to be cautious when picking up fallen limbs,

boards, tin or other objects on the ground this summer.

"They ought to get rid of debris," he said. "If they did, it would reduce the likelihood of a snake being around. Don't lift anything towards you. Lift things away from you so that a snake won't be staring you in the eye."

There's no standard procedure to treat snakebites, Hendricks said, although most doctors would advise remaining calm, avoiding unnecessary movement and putting a constricting band above the bite to slow down but not cut off the blood flow. Then go immediately to the hospital.


"There's so much controversy about how to treat snakebites that the best cure seems to be to learn to avoid snakes and not get bitten in the first place," he said.

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