

# Steamer Is Sunk Off Block Island, Crashing in Fog With Liner; 3 Missing

The steamers City of Chattanooga of the Savannah Line and the Grecian of the Merchants and Miners Line crashed in a pea-soup fog off Block Island at 2:50 o'clock this morning.

Within a few minutes the Grecian sank, but within an hour all except "three or four" members of her crew of thirty-four men had been picked up by the Chattanooga's small boats, according to messages received here by the Coast Guard.

At that time it was believed the Coast Guard destroyer Upshur, out of New London, which had reported soon after the first message had been sent out that it was forty-five minutes from the scene at Lat. 41.05 N. and Long. 71.31 W., five miles south of Block Island and ten from the Rhode Island mainland, had reached the scene.

The master of the City of Chattanooga put out small boats within seven minutes after the collision. With searchlights, according to scant information radioed to the Coast Guard, members of its crew swept the heavy seas, picking up the shipwrecked sailors. Three blasts were

blown on the City of Chattanooga's steam whistle to indicate its position to the swimming men.

In the message sent out at 4:01 A. M. the officers of the rescue ship said that they were still looking for the rest of the crew. There had been no passengers on the Grecian. Formerly a passenger ship, she had been converted recently into a freighter.

Coast Guard patrol boats and destroyers at New London, Conn., and Stapleton, S. I., were steamed up to go, for Block Island is fifteen miles northeast of Montauk Point and about the same distance southwest of Newport, but the proximity of the Upshur to the scene of the disaster appeared in the subsequent messages to make further dispatch of boats unnecessary.

The first message, which was received in New York City at 3:27 A. M. by the Radio Marine Corporation via its Chatham (Mass.) station, read as follows:

"At about 1:50 A. M. E. S. T. struck Steamer Grecian and she sank in few minutes off Block Island. We

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# SHIP SUNK IN CRASH OFF BLOCK ISLAND

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anchored. Crew and passengers all right.

"(Signed) S. S. City of Chattanooga."

Seven minutes later, the following message from the City of Chattanooga to the Coast Guard was intercepted:

"We are blowing three blasts at intervals and searching for members of crew who are not yet rescued with lights and boats."

At 3:41 the Upshur reported that it would arrive at the Grecian's position in forty-five minutes. The City of Chattanooga reported at 4:01:

"Crew of about thirty-five, three or four missing yet, we have boat out looking for them." It was assumed the message referred to the crew of the Grecian.