



SEARCH AND RESCUE

"I am in trouble at position 58°55'N, 20°59'W. I have a crack in my deck, will you assist." . . . was the message received by the NORTHWIND enroute to New York from Oslo, Norway. The message came from the Swedish cargo ship, "ORION," which had suffered four cracks in her deck while in heavy seas in the North Atlantic.

The NORTHWIND, with the help of the British Air Force soon made positive identification by the use of night flares and after staying by her side for one day the ship's Master decided that he no longer needed our assistance. We were released, but later we were to return to the injured vessel and escort her to Cape Race, Newfoundland.

The following was the last message received from the "ORION": "THIS IS THE CAPTAIN OF THE ORION SPEAKING. I HOPE YOU ARE RECEIVING ME LOUD FOR THIS LAST MESSAGE. IT HAS BEEN ONE WEEK SINCE WE CALLED YOU AND I STILL HAVE SHIP WITH ME. I HOPE TO GET TO PORT WITH IT STILL WITH ME. I WANT TO THANK YOU AND YOUR CREW VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE. THERE ALWAYS BE ROOM IN OUR HEARTS FOR U.S. COAST GUARD NORTHWIND W-282. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. GOOD-BYE AND GOD BLESS YOU."

The "ORION" with 30 crew members was carrying a cargo of wood pulp. She had recently left Finland and was enroute to Toledo, Ohio.