

CREW SAYS TORPEDO SANK THE SILIUS

**Declare That Submarine At-
tacked Norwegian Vessel
Without Warning.**

AMERICANS TELL OF RESCUE

**Two Sailors Think They Saw the
Periscope of the Craft Which
Attacked Them.**

HAVRE, March 14.—A majority of the crew of the Norwegian bark Silius, which was sunk in Havre Roads on Thursday last, in statements to The Associated Press today said that the bark had been torpedoed without warning by a submarine and that the vessel was unarmed.

The French steamship Louisiane and the Silius lie within a hundred yards of each other. The Silius was sent to the bottom half an hour after the liner had gone down.

Of the seventeen members of the crew of the Silius seven were American youths—novices who were making their first voyage. They said that they signed because they wanted to "see a little of the world." Charles Cunliffe, 18 years old, of Atlantic City, N. J., explained that the bark had been buffeted by tempests for thirty-one days before the French coast was sighted. The ship was carried for nine days out of her course, and the members of the crew had been so overworked that they were looking forward to reaching port so as to rest, and had quit worrying about seeing the world.

So tired were the men that, with the exception of John Hartmann of Philadelphia, who was on deck and had his leg broken by a splinter of wood, they were not awakened by the explosion which sank the Louisiane, close by them.

The violent shock of the explosion which sank their own vessel tumbled the men out of their hammocks, and then the water poured into the Silius so rapidly that the crew had time only to save themselves and no chance to think of their effects.

The explosion was very violent, crashing in the ship. Splinters of wood and other debris flew in all directions. In three minutes after the detonation all the men were in the water and the Silius had sunk.

The crew expressed the belief that it was a torpedo from a submarine that sank the Silius. Two sailors saw what they called a stake moving through the water and which they think may have been the periscope of a submarine.

A French torpedo boat rescued all the men except the Captain, who was a Norwegian, and a Dane and another Norwegian, who were drowned. The men were in the water twenty minutes. Those drowned were lost while trying to launch a boat.

John William Vongalen, Henry Monahan, and Daniel Novak are returning to the United States on the British steamship Taxandrier, which is due to arrive in New York about April 1. The other members of the crew will be sent home by the Norwegian Consul.

"The Silius was torpedoed while we were sound asleep," said John Hartmann, aged 18, of Philadelphia, one of the sailors on the bark, in describing the attack.

"We were completely worn out by an exceedingly hard voyage," said Hartmann, "and were congratulating ourselves on ending the trip safely. A few hours later we were in the water. The only warning we had was the explosion itself. Except for the Captain and two sailors who were on deck, every one was in bed.

"I was thrown upward and shaken and at the same time felt a severe pain in the leg. Pieces of wood from the vessel were being hurled about in every direction. The boat began to sink rapidly, and I will never know exactly how I was saved, but I found myself in a boat later with the rest of the crew."

Otto Ekman, second mate of the Silius, said:

"I heard the first report, a distant explosion, but saw nothing, and again went to sleep. Thirty minutes later an explosion shook the Silius, and she went down so rapidly I could save nothing but my clothes. I jumped into the water and swam half an hour before being picked up by a lifeboat. The Silius was not armed."