

## ***S O S From Freighter Says It Is Sinking; Two Other Vessels Reported in Distress***

An S O S from the Danish freighter Normannia picked up at 5:30 by the naval wireless at the foot of Whitehall Street yesterday said that the vessel had sprung a bad leak in her engine room and needed help. She gave her position as twenty miles southwest by east of Frying Pan Lightship, off Norfolk, Va. The Coast Guard cutter Yamacraw was dispatched to her aid.

A short time later came another wireless message which announced that the Normannia was sinking fast. A third message was received from the freighter Charles E. Harwood, stating that she was making all speed to the Normannia and expected to reach her in little more than an hour. The Normannia is about 2,000 tons. It was reported that she sailed from Chester, Pa., on Jan. 14, bound for Charleston, S. C.

Another vessel in distress was sighted off Asbury Park, N. J. Watchers on shore said that she was burning distress signals. They could not make out her name. A third steamer off the beach at Bayhead, N. J., was also said to be in distress. A barge was calling for help off Long Beach, L. I., it was re-

ported, but the naval wireless station said they had heard nothing of these other vessels and were sure they had not sent out S O S calls.

Two barges were sunk earlier in the afternoon. One went to the bottom off Ellis Island in New York Harbor. It was the Liberty, owned by the O'Doyle Lighterage Company. The barge was loaded with 1,100 tons of coal and made fast to a stake boat at Ellis Island.

Buffeted by the choppy seas in the harbor, the barge unexpectedly began to sink. A man on board was taken off and in a few minutes the craft sank stern first, leaving its bow sticking out of the water. A menace to river traffic until it could be removed, lights were fixed on the bow to warn other craft away.

The other barge, heavily loaded with sand, went down in the high seas off West Bank, N. J. A report to Naval Communications said that all hands were safe. The barge was being towed by the tug Pan-American of the Moran Towing Company, which proceeded to New York after losing its tow.

A coal barge came ashore at Long Branch, N. J., last night. Her identity was not learned. Members of the Coast Guard went to the rescue of several men aboard her with a breeches buoy.