

SEA DISASTER.

Calling at New York on her maiden voyage in 1953, the 29,000 ton luxury liner Andrea Doria was the pride of Italy's merchant marine, claimed unsinkable, as safe as science could make her. Three years later, she lies abandoned and sinking fast, 50 miles from the United States coast, after colliding with the Swedish-liner Stockholm, whose heavy steel bow was crushed like paper by the tremendous impact.

Coastguard cutters, and merchant ships, rushed to the stricken liner and took off her seventeen hundred passengers and crew after desperate radio appeals told the world she was listing so fast that half her lifeboats could not be launched.

One of the rescue armada, the Ile de France, has 760 survivors on board as she heads for New York. No one knows yet how many are dead, though 12 have been named and 57 are still unaccounted for. Scores are injured, and many people separated from their families in the confusion are trying to trace their relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Hill (with their baby twins and older sons) make one of the lucky families. Some had no time to find their shoes.

As the Ile de France steams into New York Harbour, accusations of cowardice are being made against the crew of the sunken liner. But the ship's chaplain angrily denies them, saying "They were courageous to the point of death".

Injured survivors are brought ashore on stretchers, and from the quayside ambulances rush them to hospital.

There are moving scenes at the ocean terminal, as survivors are reunited with their families and friends. But behind the rejoicing, a question looms large that will have to be answered; How is it that one of the safest liners in the world, equipped with watertight bulkheads, and up-to-the-minute radar, collided in an ordinary fog, and met her end in a matter of hours?