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ANDREA DORIA

Baruch-Fitzgerald

Visiting New York on her maiden voyage only three years ago, the rakish Andrea Doria was the new queen of the Italy's merchant marine, with advanced safety design against the perils of the sea.

Forty-five miles south of Nantucket Island, the Andrea Doria lies sinking and abandoned after a harrowing collision with the Swedish-American liner Stockholm, whose heavy steel bow was crushed like paper in the grinding crash. It happened without warning on a fog-choked night at a crossroads of the Atlantic.

Coast Guard cutters, merchant ships, fishing boats, rushed to aid the stricken thirty thousand ton luxury liner. Neither radar nor the Doria's watertight compartments saved her. She listed so fast half her lifeboats could not be launched. Repeatedly her desperate radio appeal crackled out: "Danger immediate -- need lifeboats." Seventeen hundred persons were taken off by the rescue armada. Many were injured, some dead but heroic seamanship saved hundreds in the sinking of the Andrea Doria.