

5½ DAYS IN OPEN BOAT

Rotarians Hear About Dr. Hinton's Experiences in Atlantic

Highlighted now and then by a bit of humor, Dr. W. J. Hinton of the British Information Service, told Rotarians today the gripping story of five and one-half days in an open boat, following the torpedoing of his ship by a submarine.

Booked for passage on a Cunard liner, but forced to give way for another, the speaker was denied a luxurious trip and in its stead, sailed on an old Norwegian ship, whose engines broke down and left the boat and its occupants wallowing in the storm-tossed waves of the North Atlantic, where it was torpedoed and sunk.

Two trivial matters then stood between him and death. The first when he stopped to don more fitting garments and meanwhile his boat slipped away without him; and the second when he found a place in the captain's overcrowded boat. Of the four boats which left the sinking ship all were lost excepting the captain's.

The bitterness of cold, insufficient gasoline for the motor, freezing sails, and contrary winds was driving the boat towards the north, when it happily was sighted by an airplane and was saved. These experiences, frightful as they were, brought about understanding, respect and friendship between the 13 occupants, at least one of whom later died from the effects of exposure to the frigid water and wind.

Dr. Hinton is outstanding as an educator and has taught in American universities including those of Maine and Hawaii. He has also taught at Hong Kong, Oxford and Cambridge. He comes from a line of seamen, both his father and grandfather having been with the English merchant marine. He was introduced by Chancellor Malott.

During times of peace, said the speaker, England maintained two thousand merchant ships, and three years ago had already lost 20,000 seamen in keeping the oceans free from Nazi domination.

Happy to be well and again active in Rotary, I. J. Meade will supply two turkeys for a dinner for Rotarians to be served at the hotel, and Simon Hurwitz has volunteered a supply of cranberry sherbet. The date will be announced later.

Among the guests today were Roger Allen Jr., now in the armed service, Fred Schrader, of Clay Center and A. W. Ayles, of Warsaw, Wis.

A Christmas party for youngsters will be given Monday, December 20.