

L.L. Feb 22nd 1926

THE
"PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT."

Lloyd's Medals Presented.

MR. PULBROOK'S TRIBUTE TO
CREW'S HEROISM.

From Our Own Correspondent

NEW YORK, Friday.

The twenty-one Lloyd's Medals for Saving Life at Sea, awarded to Captain George Fried, Commander of the United States Lines' steamer *President Roosevelt*, and officers and men of that liner, in recognition of their services in rescuing the crew of the *Antinoe*, were presented at a luncheon given here to-day by the Committee of Lloyd's.

A very representative gathering of about one hundred were present, the company including General Summerhall, Admiral Plunkett, and other distinguished officers, the British Consul-General (Sir Harry Gloster Armstrong), the Vice-Presidents of the Chamber of Commerce and the British Chamber of Commerce, and Superintendent of Insurance Commissioner Teller, of the United States Shipping Board. Messages expressing regret at their absence were received from the British Ambassador, Governor Smith, Judge Hough, Judge Learned Hand, the Vice-Chairman and Commissioners of the Shipping Board, the Commissioner for Australia, the President of Columbia University, and the Hon. John W. Davis, President of the English-Speaking Union.

Lloyd's Agent at New York (Mr. H. K. Fowler) read the following cable:—"Committee of Lloyd's extend a very hearty welcome to their guests, and desire to express their gratification at having this opportunity of indicating the admiration which is felt at Lloyd's of the bravery and devotion of the officers and men of the *President Roosevelt*."

On behalf of the Chairman of Lloyd's (Mr. Eustace R. Pulbrook) Mr. Fowler then read the following speech:—

Gentlemen.—It has been the custom of the ancient Corporation of Lloyd's from time immemorial to recognise and commemorate the distinguished services of those who exercise courage and skill and incur extreme peril in saving life at sea. If we honour and rightly honour those who in times of war render heroic service to their country, it would surely be sadly ironical were we to allow to pass unrecorded and unhonoured the exertions of those whose noble services are inspired by that sense of brotherhood which transcends all bars of nationality and belongs to the universal fellowship of those who go down to the sea in ships. Presentations such as these are usually made at Lloyd's, but it is appropriate that on this international occasion, when we are doing honour to the captain, officers and crew of a great American steamer for arduous services rendered to the officers and crew of a British vessel, it should be possible to associate with Lloyd's some of the chief authorities of your renowned city and some of your leading representatives in marine insurance.

The occasion is remarkable—perhaps unique. A great American liner, bearing the honoured name of a famous President of the United States (and we can readily imagine with what delight that famous man would have welcomed such an association), was occupied for four days in the most appalling circumstances of difficulty and danger in effecting the rescue of the crew of an old British steamer, the *Antinoe*, whose lives entirely depended upon the skill and courage of those upon whom they had no claim, except the paramount claim of kindness and humanity. The endurance of both rescuers and rescued seems almost inconceivable, and adequately to tell the story would require the pen of a Conrad. It is only just to give the palm even for endurance to the rescuers, for lesser men might easily have abandoned the enterprise as impossible, or have been overcome by anxiety lest the great vessel in their charge might have collided with the wreck. By patient continuance in well-doing they carried through the astonishing feat of saving everyone on board the *Antinoe*. But, alas, they lost two of their own men. These two men, Wirtanen and Heitmann, have been commemorated by the Vice-Provost of Eton in the following epitaph:—
Great-hearted friends have died for friends;
but who
For strangers would lay down his life? These
two.

No better tribute could be paid to the heroic dead. We rejoice to have this opportunity of honouring the living. We wish them many happy years, years which will be brightened by the memory of a great achievement which will live long in the glorious annals of the sea.

To this address, which was enthusiastically received, Captain Fried replied. The Hon. Theodore Douglas Robinson, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and a nephew of the late President Roosevelt, and Mr. T. H. Rosshottom, General Manager of the United States Lines, also spoke. The speeches were broadcast.



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