

Photo from the book www.flying-enterprise.com



*Captain Carlsen looked with tearful eyes
as the sea washed over the Enterprise*

By Edna Ruffell, Cornwall 1952

Six days Kurt Carlsen was alone at sea
Worried and wondering what was to be.
The passengers rescued, the crew had gone
but the Captain stayed as Father to Son.

The wild winds blew and waves rolled high
and the rain came down from the angry sky.
To be alone was not a thrill.
He had no power to say, peace be still.

Then, as he looked over the angry waves
a tug he saw had come to save.
The Turmoil Tug had come at last
to help him against the stormy blast.

The preparation for a tow began
but on the Enterprise stood one man.
Captain Parker knew what ought to be.
He would ask no man on such a sea.

Ken Dancy was on the tug at the time
and knew what was in his Captain's mind.
He made a jump from tug to ship
and luck was with him, he did not slip.

"Shake hands," he said to the Captain brave,
we'll do our best your ship to save."
"If we can get it now in tow
we'll be in port in a day or so."

At last the Enterprise was on tow
and both their faces were aglow.
Soon they'd be in the Falmouth quay
looking out over the angry sea.

The Turmoil siren broke the peace.
The tow had broken, they were drifting East.
Captain Carlsen went back and fell asleep
for his health and strength he must keep.

At last they came on deck to find
the sea and waves were very unkind.
They had tried to sweep them off the ship
but men clung to rail with a firm grip.

Captain Carlsen looked, his face was grave.
He and Dancy his ship couldn't save.
They stayed on board as long as they dared
but there was no longer safety there.

No one knew how the Captain felt
as he tightened up his safety belt.
The waves swept over them angrily
and he followed his comrade into the sea.

The Turmoil tug was standing by
to rescue the men and get them dry.
Captain Parker greeted them cheerily
but they were tired and very weary.

Captain Carlsen looked with tearful eyes
as the sea washed over the Enterprise.
His ship had sunk, he could not stay.
He said to the Crew, "Take me away."

Over the phone his father's voice came.
It made him feel happy, but his heart was the same.
The tug made its way to the Falmouth quay
and soon his Parents and Sister would see.

On the Turmoil tug he spent the night
wanting to be quiet and out of sight,
but the waiting crowds stood in the rain,
only to be told they would wait in vain.

Next day, Carlsen and Dancy went through the Town
to be greeted by thousands who gathered around.
They afterwards went to a quiet hotel,
their adventurous and thrilling story to tell.