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These Events Made News

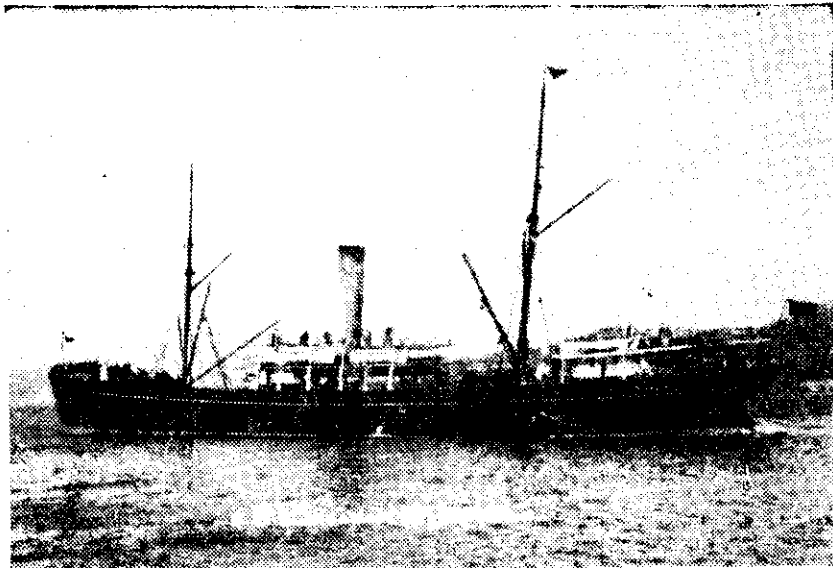
**STORIES THAT MADE THE HEAD-
LINES** is the title given to the next
series in the popular *This Is New Zea-
land* programme heard from the ZBs at
7.30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Starting this
week on November 6, Wellington jour-
nalist Neville Webber will talk about
the big news stories of this century.
He will give the authentic newspaper
flavour to the broadcasts as he tells
of the strivings behind the scenes by
reporters and papers to be first with
the news. In the course of his research
for this programme, Mr Webber turned
over scores of old files of New Zealand
newspapers, now housed in the Gen-
eral Assembly Library in Wellington.

The first of his talks is on the only
tragedy among Tasman flights—the
attempt by New Zealanders Hood and
Moncrieff to be the first to fly over from
Australia. Most of Wellington stayed
up that night and ever since then people
have argued as to what really happened
to the flyers. Another sensational avia-
tion story in the series is about the
first solo crossing by Guy Menzies, the
young Australian who startled the world
by announcing that he was flying off to
Perth and instead landed head first in
a Westland swamp.

There's the classic newspaper hoax
story about the finding of a moa in
the Urewera Country that made head-
lines round the world (until papers
realised they had been hoaxed), and the
saga of the wreck of the Elingamite in
1902, which gave its name to a poker
hand (one with three kings). There is



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General Assembly Library photograph



NEVILLE WEBBER (above) describes the
wreck of the Elingamite (top of page) in
his series, "Stories That Made the Head-
lines." The photograph shows the vessel
leaving Wellington for the last time

the story of the tremendous Rongotai
Wool Store fire, with its surprising
sequel, and of the mysteriously un-
heralded arrival in New Zealand of two
officers who were to tell New Zealand
—after they had told the world—of
Captain Scott's death on his journey
back from the South Pole.

One talk, which entailed much re-
search, deals with four prisoner-of-war
escapes in New Zealand, including that
of the German sea-raider Count von
Luckner, who returned to the scene of
his exploits between the wars. Another
tells how the famous Rotorua guide
Alfred Warbrick crossed the boiling
lake of Waimangu Geyser in a rowing
boat, a feat scores among the hundreds
who had gathered to see could not bear
to watch.

Neville Webber, who is 38, is with the
Wellington *Evening Post*. For four years
he was the London correspondent of the
New Zealand Herald, the *Evening Post*,
the *Press*, and the *Otago Daily Times*.
A regular reviewer in the ZB book ses-
sion on Sunday evenings, he is the New
Zealand correspondent of the BBC, and
also the joint-editor of the N.Z.R.S.A.
Review.

N.Z. LISTENER, NOVEMBER 8, 1957.