

Sanders Cup Broadcasts from 3YA

A Gallant Seaman

FROM 11 a.m. on February 1 to 4, inclusive, 3YA will be relaying running descriptions of the Sanders Cup yacht races, to be held this year on Lyttelton Harbour.

It was with the object of perpetuating the name of one of the Dominion's bravest sons that the Sanders Memorial Cup contest was inaugurated, but it is doubtful whether many know anything of the man whose memory they commemorate.

It is now over fourteen years since Lieutenant-Commander W. E. Sanders, V.C., D.S.O., R.N.R., went down with his ship in the Atlantic on a dark and stormy night in August, 1917, and "left his name to be inscribed imperishably on the same roll of naval history where stand the names of Blake and Nelson."

In 1915 Sanders volunteered his services to the Royal Navy, but received no acknowledgement of his offer. He then worked his passage to England, and applied to the Admiralty for a job to serve his country. He was given the rank of sub-lieutenant and sent to Falmouth to learn gunnery.

He was an apt pupil, and eight months after receiving his first commission was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-commander, a very remarkable achievement due to outstanding ability.

He was appointed second in command of H.M.S. Sabina, and shortly afterward was given command of H.M.S. Prize, with headquarters at the naval base at Milford Haven. The Prize was a decoy schooner, with auxiliary power, and her principal work was

to sail, disguised as a merchant vessel, into that part of the Atlantic where it was known that German submarines were carrying on their deadly work. The object was to decoy the submarines into attacking the schooner, allowing them to approach to point-blank range, then, uncovering masked guns, to sink them with a salvo.

On April 30, 1917, the Prize sighted a submarine about two miles off the port beam at about 8.20 p.m. The submarine, under the command of von Spiegler, opened fire on the Prize, which put her motor out of action, wrecked the wireless room, and caused much external damage, besides letting a great deal of water into the ship.

Throughout this terrible punishment Sanders and his men remained under cover at their concealed guns. Then, when the submarine stopped firing, Sanders put some of the men overboard, and appeared to have abandoned his ship in an attempt to decoy the German submarine alongside. With one or two of his officers, Sanders hid himself behind the guns.

When the U-boat came within a distance of 80 yards, Sanders unmasked the guns, and, with the first shot of the forward gun, blew the conning tower of the submarine overboard. This was not before the submarine had fired both her guns and wounded several more of the crew of the Prize. Sanders then sank the submarine, and rowed out in a canvas boat, taking the German commander prisoner along with the engineer.

The commander of the submarine was so impressed with the conduct of the Prize's crew that when examined afterward, he said he did not consider it any disgrace to be beaten by the Prize, and that he could not have believed it possible for a ship's company to be imbued with such splendid discipline to stand the shelling with which he subjected the schooner without making any sign that would give away her true character.

Lieutenant-Commander Sanders's gallantry on this occasion earned him the Victoria Cross, and many decorations were awarded to the officers and crew. By his fellow naval officers at Milford Haven he was presented with a jewelled sword, and due recognition was also made by the civic authorities.

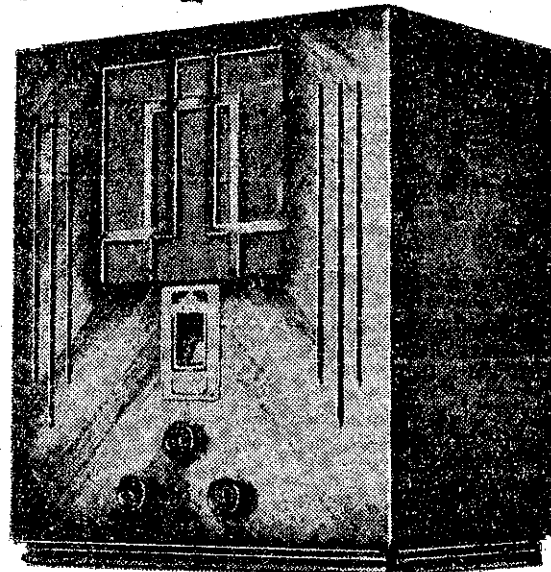
How Sanders Died.

During the afternoon of August 14, 1917, the Prize was again in action with an enemy submarine, but on this occasion she was not able to put the U-boat out of effective action. Practically submerged, the submarine followed the Prize until nightfall, and then torpedoed her. All hands went down with the gallant little ship.

It is fitting that Sanders's memory should be kept green among the yachtsmen of New Zealand, and the owner of the winning yacht each year may well be satisfied to see the name of his craft engraved upon the beautiful memento of one of New Zealand's national heroes.

the score which forms the best guide to his composition. Smetana's description is as follows: "Two springs well up in the depths of the Bohemian forest; the one warm and sparkling, and the other cool and still. Rippling gaily over the rocks, these two streamlets unite and flow together under the glistening rays of the morning sun. The swiftly flowing forest brook flows into a river, the Ultava (i.e., the Moldau)—and as it flows through the meadows of Bohemia at last becomes a mighty stream. It flows through dense forests, where the merry bustle of the hunt and the horns of the huntsman are heard; it flows through rich pastures and plains where to the joyful strains of song and dance, a wedding festival is being held. At night under the light of the moon, the nymphs of the woods and water sport on its shining waves, on which the towers and castles of the ancient nobles and warriors—the sole relics of a glorious past—are brightly reflected. Arrived at the rapids of St. Johann, the stream, bursting into cataracts through the rocks, finds its way to the broadest part of the river's bed, and thence sweeps majestically past Prague, where it is greeted by the venerable fortress of Visehead (the citadel built by the Duchess Lubusca in the ninth century), and then disappears in the far distance from the mind's eye of the poet." The concert orchestra under Mons. de Rose will play this interesting composition at 4YA on Sunday, February 5.

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