

May 9th 1955

"PYIDAWTHA" IS ABANDONED

CAPTAIN & CREW SAFELY REMOVED FROM STRICKEN SHIP

(From Our Staff Reporter)

Gaunt, tight-lipped Captain Keating had "no comments" to newspapermen when he alighted from the Dakota plane in which he and part of his crew were brought back yesterday by U Ba Chan, General Manager of the Shipping Board.

Earlier, at 2 p.m., the Captain had given the order to abandon ship, after the Nautical Adviser



Captain Keating: *No comment.* and Lloyd's Surveyor had advised the step to the General Manager.

With the Captain were Chief Officer Cand, 2nd Officer Nyunt Wai, 3rd Officer Tin Lay, Engineer Maung Tin, the Radio Officer and one other crew.

These officers and men had been 48 hours without food, but had hung on to the upper deck, swinging their passage from one part of the ship to another on tow lines, even after the vessel had listed at an angle of 46 degrees.

There were 24 members of the crew who arrived in the rescue plane which U Ba Chan had chartered and in which he made two inspection runs over the

wrecked *Pyidawtha*.

39 others have been sent on to Akyab, and they will be returned to Rangoon as soon as communications permit.

U Ba Chan paid a fine tribute to the Police and the UMP in Kyaukpyu who helped in removing the passengers to safety, as well as in restoring all their personal effects without loss.

U Ba Chan has notified the Union Insurance Board of the action taken on the advice of qualified experts.

The Captain is also required to submit a full report of the accident, and a finding based on this report and the investigations conducted by the authorities will be published.



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