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Subject: Re: Learning The Ropes

Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Tue, 24 Jul 2012 21:02:38 GMT

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Tracy Island; Tuesday, March 6th 2068; 4:10AM

Brains was getting antsy. He wanted to know what was going on, but knew that John was already fielding constant demands for updates from Jeff. He got up from the desk and started pacing.

"I wish there was some way I could find out what is going on without calling John. He's got enough on his hands, with Mr. Tracy calling him every few minutes," he said to no one in particular.

"Would the news services be covering this somehow?" Kat asked.

"You're right! Why didn't I think of this before? They wouldn't be out at the rescue site or on the naval vessel, but they'd be at the base." He practically leaped at the desk and punched the button that turned on the TV in the lounge.

It came on as one news story was just ending. The announcer then said, "Now an update on a breaking story. A fishing trawler out of Peterhead, the Saucy Lady, found itself in trouble when the crew accidentally snagged an old World War Two mine. The chain trailing from the mine got tangled around the ship's propellers, causing it to go dead in the water. Complicating things is a storm that broke about the same time and the fact that there is a drilling rig nearby. They put out a call to the Navy for help, but the only ship in the area, the Excelsior, found more of the mines in its path.

"International Rescue has been called, and we have just learned that they are now on the scene. We take you to the World Naval Base at Lossiemouth. Our reporter, Giles Baxter is out there. Giles, have you learned anything more you can tell us?"

"Arthur, I have been informed that there is at least one seriously injured man on the trawler. International Rescue personnel have managed to get him off the boat, and are taking the others off as quickly as they can. Also there are personnel attempting to detach the mine from the boat's propellers. But with this storm and the freezing temperatures, it'll be a miracle if they can all be rescued."

"Giles, do you have the name of the injured man?"

"Not at this time. We know there were twelve men on the trawler which has . . . Wait! I'm getting another update." The reporter put a hand to his ear. "We have just been informed that the trawler has been pushed into one of the stanchions of the drilling rig by the waves. There may not be much time left. I'll keep you updated as the bulletins come in. Back to you, Arthur."

The anchor shook his head as he said, "Thank you, Giles. Please break in anytime you get something. Now, in the town of Peterhead, we have Sara Troughbridge. Sara, what can you tell us?"

The picture switched to a dark haired woman standing just outside a church. "Arthur, I'm outside

St. Andrew the Apostle church, where the families and friends of the men aboard the Saucy Lady have gathered to pray. None of them agreed to be interviewed on camera, but one of them told me that most of the crew are seasoned seamen, and they hope and pray they all come through this safely. They have a radio with them so they can get any news immediately.

"I do know that two of the crewmen are new fathers; one has a daughter just four months old and the other has twin boys who are ten months old. They all ask for our prayers. From Peterhead, this is Sara Troughbridge with NTSB. Back to you, Arthur."

"Thank you, Sara. Tell them we are hoping and praying for the best. Once again, the fishing trawler, the Saucy Lady is in trouble in the North Sea. A mine was snagged in the nets and its chain wrapped around the propeller. One seaman is injured seriously, and the trawler is now being smashed against a drilling rig in the area. The naval vessel that was heading out to rescue it was stopped by several more mines in its path. International Rescue has been called and is now on the scene. We will bring you more information as we get it."

Brains turned the TV off. "It sure looks like this is going to be a tough one for everyone. I hope the new recruits are up to it."

Kat walked over to him and put a hand on his shoulder. "Consider this their 'trial by fire'. And if they can get through this, they'll be able to get through anything."

"They have to get through this. They just have to."

Post by Hobbeth on 17/08/2004

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