PRIVATE HERNDON IS BACK AT HOME

FIRST OF AUGUSTA OTRANTO SURVIVORS TO RETURN

Wounded Worse Than Friends Understood

Right Arm Paralyzed and Practically Useless—Bagby, Who Was Unhurt, Only Other Augustan.

Private J. H. Herndon reached Augusta yetserday from Fort McPherson, where he was convalescing at the base hospital. He is, probably, the first of the Augusta Otranto survivors to reach home. He reached Hoboken on December 16th, and entered the base hospital there. He was transferred to Fort McPherson about a week ago, and ran down to Augusta yesterday on a 5-day furlough. His wounds have proved more serious than was understood by his friends. He sustained the dislocation of a shoulder and the fracturing of the right arm. It appears that paralysis has set in in the arm, rendering useless the arm and the hand. Directly that he returns to Fort Mc-Pherson he is to undergo an operation which the surgeons hope will resuit in a permanent cure. Herndon received his injuries after he had gotten aboard the Mumsey. The Mumsey is the British destroyer the commander of which has been so extolled for his daring bravery in coming alongside the Otranto and saving the lives of so many soldiers under conditions that were so hazardous as to have won for him the plaudits of the American and British governments.

Herndon made the leap from the Otranto to the Mumsey with success and landed on the deck of the detroyer without a scratch. However, was immediately caught by a avy wave which swept over the vessel and dashed about as if he were plece of cork. It was then that he

as injured. A frightful sea was raging, it was bout 1 p. m., our time, when the acident occurred. Herndon was on duty on deck. He says that he saw Kashmir coming toward the granto. She had lost control of her ropellers, or other accident had ocgred which resulted in the boat's arusal to be controlled. She was being tossed high by the swells: She med to be right on the Otranto as she commenced lurching in the direction of the transport, though, of course, she was probably a quarter of mile away when she became unmanageable. The Otranto changed er course and tried to escape the collision, but without success. The Kashmir hit the Otranto amidships, tiling a number of men as she struck.

There was not the great commotion aboard the Otranto that one would expect. The men acted with coolness under the circumstances. As the Mumsey came in reach the men began to jump, and many of them saved the lives in this way. Some of the poor fellows failed to make the leap from boat to boat successfully, and went into the sea. The story of the wreck has been told often, and the narrative of it by Herndon is about the same as has already been given.

Herndon reached Belfast about 11:30 p. m., the date of the collision. Roy Bagby was the only Augustan with him, so far as he knows. Herndon was placed in the British hospital at Belfast. As stated, he was later transferred to the United States. Bagby remains in Europe. Herndon w nothing of him after entering

the hospital in Belfast. "The most significant thing to my mind in connection with my experience," said Private Herndon last night, "was the remarkable work of the Red Cross among the men who re gotten ashore. I have never dreamed of such attentions as were even the men by the workers of the ganization. I am sure that their envor, knowledge and kindness savmany a life, which, under other conditions, would have been lost. The men were in a terrible state. They needed the most careful nursing, and they were given it by the Red Cross people. I do not know what would have become of me except for the Red Cross. I owe my life to them, probably. I know that I owe them a debt of gratitude which I can never re-pay-which no man, no matter what his inclinations, gifts or means, could re-pay. I am a Red Cross man for all times."

"The experience? Well, such an experience comes in the lives of but few men. I would not wish to go through it again. I never want to know that so many poor fellows-so many fine fellows-were caught like the Otranto men were caught. It was terrible. I believe that at least 500 men besides the crew lost their lives. About 250 to 300 got aboard the destroyer."-Augusta Chronicle.

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