

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ANOTHER "EURYDICE" SQUALL

History repeated itself the other day when a sudden squall on the Baltic Sea capsized the German training barque "Niobe," while navigating under canvas, entailing a deplorable loss of life. Evidently most of the victims, including a large number of cadets, were below-deck at the time of the disaster and had no warning of danger.

On Sunday afternoon, March 24, 1878, the small British frigate "Eurydice," employed as a training ship for seamen of the Naval Reserve, was ~~homeward~~ bound from the West Indies with nearly 350 men on board. She was off Ventnor, in the Isle of Wight, running with all sails set before a moderate westerly wind, when, almost without warning, she was struck by a furious squall. Before sail could be shortened she heeled over and sank with all hands, except two seamen who were picked up by a passing vessel. The squall, which was accompanied by blinding snow, lasted only a few minutes, and subsequent investigation showed that it was a narrow strip of stormy weather about 400 miles long and only two or three miles in breadth, which advanced, broadside on, over the British Isles.

This storm, famous as the "Eurydice" Squall, was an example of what have since been called "line squalls," and its occurrence led to the first scientific studies of such disturbances.

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