

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Nov. 14, 1934

SHIPS IN A SEAWAY

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Authority on Meteorology

Most landsmen suppose that in "heavy weather" one is safer and more comfortable aboard a large vessel than a small one. This may be true to some extent of a huge liner as compared with craft of ordinary size, but a small, short ship generally fares better in a long sea than a larger ship. "The small craft," explains Admiral Knight, in his "Modern Seamanship," "climbs up and slides down the waves, accommodating herself to their slopes, and pitching only as the slope changes; while the longer craft, partially spanning the crests and the hollows of the waves alternately, one end being poised on the crest of one wave while the other end is buried in the adjoining one, may be making very heavy weather."

Some years ago a large cruiser in the Philippines was badly battered by a typhoon though a small gunboat passed comfortably through the same storm and apparently through identical sea conditions. In many cases a ship has been pounded to pieces by great seas, though her boats, once successfully launched, safely rode the waves.

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