The Cast

Greenslade .................................................. PAUL CARPENTER
Hamish .................................................. GORDON JACKSON
Dodds .................................................. EWEN SOLO
Matt .................................................. DAVID OXLEY
Jean .................................................. MAUREEN DAVIS
Lillian Dodds .............................................. HILDA FENEMORE
Johnny Dodds ............................................... CLAude KINGSTON
Mick .................................................. BARRY KEEGAN
Tom .................................................. RONALD FRASER
Simpkins .................................................. GEORGE TOVEY
Bert Harris .................................................. BEN WILLIAMS
White .................................................. EDWIN RICHFIELD
U.S. Radio Operator ...................................... ROBERT ROBINSON
U.S. Lieutenant ............................................. ERROL MACKINNON

Original Story by JOHN SHERMAN
Screenplay by ROGER PROUDLOCK and JOHN SHERMAN
Cameraman GEOFFREY FAITHFULL
Directed by GODFREY GRAYSON
Produced by JACQUES DE LANE LEA

Released by Archway Film Distributors Ltd.
IN the dawn of a wintry morning the two rival trawlers, the “Lorego”, captained by John Dodds, and the “Esmeralda”, whose skipper is his friend, Bert Harris, set out for the fishing grounds off Iceland from Hull.

As the “Lorego” makes its way northwards Captain Dodds has a strange feeling that something is not quite right. His suspicions prove correct when sometime later he encounters fog and a sudden drop in temperature. Then his Radio Operator, Matt, hears a message from the “Esmeralda” that they are turning back due to thick fog, and they advise the “Lorego” to do the same.

But the holds of the “Lorego” are not yet full with fish, and Captain Dodds decides to go on, despite the fact that two members of the crew, Greenslade and his friend Tom, are for turning back to port. Over the radio comes a “May Day Call” from the “Esmeralda”, which has encountered Black Ice, the dreaded combination of fog and ice against which a ship is powerless. Unable to turn their ship round they are listing badly to port, and need assistance urgently.

Over the radio Captain Dodds tells Captain Bert Harris that they will be there in four hours’ time, and the “Esmeralda’s” “May Day Call” is picked up by the U.S. Air Base at Reykjavik, who pass the call on to all patrol vessels and submarines in the area.

As the “Lorego” races towards the stricken “Esmeralda”, she finds herself in the grip of the Black Ice, and the radar stops working. The crew, headed by Greenslade, go up to the bridge and demand that either the Captain turns the trawler back to port, or they will take over the ship. But the rest of the crew arrive in support of their Skipper, and the men go back to work while the “Lorego” continues on its course.

Over the radio comes a final message from the stricken “Esmeralda”. They are going down. Then there is silence. The “Lorego”, however, carries on to try and pick up survivors. But the main-shaft breaks, and the “Lorego” cannot go on. They are so iced-up that they cannot clear the boats, and the radio stops working. Greenslade with his friend Tom go on deck to try and free one of the lifeboats, but the ship, now held down by tons of ice, suddenly heels over and the two men are swept out into the sea and are lost.

The “Lorego” is now listing heavily to starboard, and the crew prepare to jump, their only chance, if one can call it a chance, for one would quickly freeze to death in that icy water.

Suddenly, the echo sounder starts to ping. At first Captain Dodds thinks it is only a shoal of fish. One of the crew starts to panic. Then suddenly a voice is heard from the loudspeaker. A U.S. submarine from Reykjavik has surfaced and is lying 300 yards away, and is sending a boat for them. The crew hastily assemble on the deck whilst on the bridge Captain Dodds takes his last look at the trawler, now in the grip of the elements, shortly to cost her her life.
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