Did the crew of the Elkor find what they were looking for?

Why?

The salvage operation had been a complete failure.

The small ship, Elkor, which had been searching the Barents Sea for weeks, was on its way home.

A radio message from the mainland had been received by the ship's captain, instructing him to give up the search.

The captain knew that another attempt would be made later, for the sunken ship he was trying to find had been carrying a precious cargo of gold bullion.

Despite the message, the captain of the Elkor decided to try once more.

The sea bed was scoured with powerful nets, and there was tremendous excitement on board when a chest was raised from the bottom.

Though the crew was at first under the impression that the lost ship had been found, the contents of the chest proved them wrong.

What they had in fact found was a ship which had been sunk many years before.

The chest contained the personal belongings of a seaman, Alan Fielding.

There were books, clothing, and photographs, together with letters which the seaman had once received from his wife.

The captain of the Elkor ordered his men to salvage as much as possible from the wreck.

Nothing of value was found, but the numerous items which were brought to the surface proved to be of great interest.

From a heavy gun that was raised, the captain realized that the ship must have been a cruiser.

In another chest, which contained the belongings of a ship's officer, there was an unfinished letter which had been written on March 14th, 1943.

The captain learnt from the letter that the name of the lost ship was the Karen.

The most valuable find of all was the ship's logbook, parts of which it was still possible to read.

From this, the captain was able to piece together all the information that had come to light.

The Karen had been sailing in a convoy to Russia when she was torpedoed by an enemy submarine.

This was later confirmed by a naval official at the Ministry of Defense after the Elkor had returned home.

All the items that were found were sent to the War Museum.

The chest containing the personal belongings of Alan Fielding told them a lot, and there were other items of interest.

A heavy gun proved the ship was a cruiser.

Another chest belonging to a ship's officer contained an unfinished letter dated March 14th, 1943, from which they learnt the ship's name.

The most valuable find was the ship's log book, which told them the Karen had been sailing in convoy to Russia when she was torpedoed by an enemy submarine.

The journey has gone well so far.

We are now on the way to Russia and hope that we shall arrive with no more problems.

But we are watching the sea and sky.

The convoy successfully fought off an air attack early this morning.

No ships were lost, and we managed to shoot down three enemy aircraft before they broke off the attack.

At 10 a.m. this morning, we were attacked by a U-boat.

This was the first time we had been attacked, and for most men on board, this was the first time they had been in action at sea.

We were fortunate, but the ship ahead of us, the Dauntless, was torpedoed and sunk.

After the ship sank, there were hundreds of men in the sea.

We picked up as many survivors as we could in the Karen.

In fact, in the end, we picked up 720 men, which meant that 50 men lost their lives in the attack on the Dauntless.

The Karen was packed with men, many crowded on the open decks, when we turned and attacked the U-boat.

Depth charges were dropped and the U-boat was put out of action.

It is now 3.15 p.m., the light is already beginning to fade and storm clouds are gathering.

We are about to be attacked by a second U-boat, this time from the north.

The captain has just announced-

She had been doing the job for three years before she gave up.

She had been working in the office for three years before she resigned.

Yesterday I received a letter from my brother in Australia.

This morning I took it to my mother for her to read.

I've just cleaned the windows with a new cloth.

She has just bought some new clothes from the shop in the square.

We should give away all this old clothing.

She has just brought me some books from the library.

She took some books back when she left.

Can you fetch my glasses from my bedroom, please?

We quickly realized that the old lady was mad.

She didn't understand my friend because he only speaks German.

Why had the salvage operation been a complete failure? They had failed to locate the ship they had been sent to look for.

In ordering as much as possible to be salvaged from the wreck, the captain hoped, among other things, to establish the identity of the ship.

The logbook was the most important find because it helped to explain how the warship had come to be sunk in the Barents Sea.

The captain knew that his would not be the only attempt.

It was a ship which had been sunk many years before that they had in fact found.

They did not find anything valuable.

After the Elkor had returned home, a naval official at the Ministry of Defence confirmed this.

The ship's captain had received instructions to give up the search in a radio message from the mainland.