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TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 2 1918

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CANADIAN NURSES AND SHIP DROWNED WHEN HOSPITAL SHIP IS TORPEDOED

Another Added to Long List of German Crimes When Ship is Sunk and Her People Turned Adrift in Their Boats or Swim as Best They Might

"THE SISTERS WERE DROWNED" CANADIAN HOSPITAL SHIP SUNK 234 DROWNED INCLUDING NURSES

Life Boat Containing Twelve Nurses Was Seen to Capsize After Leaving the Llandovery Castle and Occupants Perished.

LONDON, July 1.—One of the boats of the hospital ship Llandovery Castle, containing 12 nursing sisters, was seen to capsize, according to latest information. The sisters were drowned.

SMALL BOAT CARRYING NURSES SUCKED DOWN BY WHIRLPOOL

Canadian Medical Officer, Wounded and Exhausted, Climbed Into German Boat and Was Thrown Back Into Water Like a Handbag—Survivors Chered When Picked Up.

London, July 1.—The commander of the destroyer Lysander, which rescued the captain of Llandovery Castle, and those in his boat, describing the rescue today, said: "When the survivors were picked up they cheered, although they had been drifting about for 36 hours, and had for sustenance only ship's biscuits and water which they brought from the sinking vessel. They were wonderfully amused at an incident, in which the captain figured. When he was certain that the vessel was sinking, Sylvester made a dash for his cabin and brought out a pipe and a tin of tobacco. Each man, in turn, had a pull at the pipe, but the tobacco was of little use because it got water-soaked."

Shelled a Boat. The commander, telling of the circumstances of the sinking as he learned them from the survivors, made it quite clear that this was another instance of sinking at sight, and that it was obviously intended to follow the policy of "leave no trace," for when he saw the submarine was apparently shelling in the darkness one of the seven boats launched. One boat, in which there were 12 nursing sisters, was seen to capsize. The sisters were thrown out, and were either drowned directly or caught be-

neath the boat. A Canadian sergeant, who was in the same boat, managed to crawl on the keel. Nothing had been seen of the remaining five boats. Whether they had been destroyed by shell fire, the commander of the Lysander could not say. The wreckage, on which might have been survivors, and in the locality where it was likely some of the boats were drifting. Moreover, the submarine steamed swiftly towards the captain's boat containing the survivors, and passed just astern. Ordinarily such a manoeuvre would disturb the water so as to make the capsizing of a small boat almost a certainty. This boat, however, kept on her keel.

Thrown Back Into Water. How the little craft with the nurses was swamped is also described. Not far from the stern of the sinking vessel, when the latter sank stern first, the boat was carried down by the whirlpool created. The commander of the Lysander, describing the ferocity of the submarine commander, said: "The Canadian sergeant was dazed with the buffeting he had received and was badly bruised. When the overturned boat got near the submarine the sergeant climbed aboard in an exhausted condition. He

thought it was a rescue, but he was seized by one of the submarine officers and thrown back like a hand-bag." The commander, in a general review of the circumstances, says that Captain Sylvester knew nothing about a submarine being in the vicinity. He did not at first realize that he had been torpedoed. He could not use his wireless, and tried to get the emergency dynamo to work, but there was no time.

No Wreckage Seen. "After the submarine charged into the wreckage," says the commander, "From what I have heard I firmly believe that the submarine tried to ram the survivors' boat, and thought it had done so." "As far as can be ascertained, one stoker was observed on the upper deck just as the ship was disappearing. We have since been cruising in the neighborhood, but not a single speck of wreckage of any kind was seen. It must, of course, be remembered that it was a long time after the event that any naval craft got on the spot. The wreckage might have drifted away, but none has been discovered. (Neither have we been able to find any trace of the missing boats.)"

Official British Report of German Crime Says Submarine Commander Ill-treated Ship's Captain and Canadian Officers and Fired on Unseen Target, Probably Boatload of People.

The British admiralty's official reports on the sinking of the Llandovery Castle follows: "Germany's awful debt to the world continues to grow. Another hospital ship has been torpedoed, this time 70 miles from the nearest land, and her people turned adrift in their boats to sink or swim as best they might. "And this as it happened was a Canadian hospital ship, returning from Halifax, with no wounded aboard, the tale of crime reveals wanton deliberation on the part of the submarine commander, and almost suggests the hope on his part that he would find her full of injured and helpless men. "The Llandovery Castle, R. A. Sylvester, master, was chartered by the Canadian Government to convey their sick and wounded from England to Halifax. The Llandovery Castle had on board a total of 258 persons, including 80 Canadian Army Medical Corps men and 14 female nurses. One boat, containing 24 survivors, has reached port so far. "It was during the night of June 27, towards 10.30, that the crime occurred. The Llandovery Castle, steaming on the usual navigation and regulation hospital ship lights. Under the over-cast sky she was plain to see and could not be mistaken for anything but what she was—a ship immune by every law of war and peace from attack or molestation. "The commander saw the wake of the torpedo. The first intimation of the presence of a submarine was a jar and the roar of an explosion from astern. "Then the lights went out. "All that followed, save when a dim light was obtained from an emergency dynamo, just before the ship foundered, took place in the darkness. The engines were rung to stop, then full speed astern, but from the engine room came no answer. "The rehearsal routine of the ship, however, held good. With the German enemy one must be prepared for every emergency like this, and along the darkened decks the crew groped to the boat stations and stood by for orders to leave her. "From the bridge the captain's megaphone, loud in the night, bade them hold till way was off the ship. The carpenter was aff making an examination of the damage. Wireless Spark Gone. "In his wireless cabin the Marconi operator was trying in vain to transmit the ship's position. His key gave no response; the spark was gone. "The carpenter's report was that number four hold aft was blown in and that the ship could not remain afloat. The order was given to lower away the boats on both sides and abandon ship. "The officer commanding the Canadian Army Medical Corps on board reported that his people were out. This is important in view of the fact that no boat but the captain's has been picked up. "From any of the ship's company or the engine room crew who may have been killed by the explosion of the torpedo, it is clear that everyone got away. One of the small boats, called accident boats, was held back for those last to leave the ship, but when all the others were away, the captain went to his cabin for an electric torch, and, on returning to deck, found that this also had gone. "The submarine halted the boat in English. 'Come alongside,' it ordered. 'Was Saving a Man.' "The boat was pulling down to pick up a drowning man. The second officer stood up and shouted back: 'We are picking up a man from the water.' 'Come alongside,' repeated the submarine voice from the submarine. The boat held on its way, and forthwith two revolver shots were fired at or over it. 'Come alongside. I will shoot with my big gun,' shouted the submarine commander. The boat lay alongside the submarine and the captain (probably the man picked up) was ordered

on board. In case he should be made prisoner and kept on board, he gave the second officer, who remained in the boat, the course to steer. He was then taken to the conning tower of the submarine, where two officers awaited him. "The commander asked him sharply: 'What ship is that?' "It is the hospital ship Llandovery Castle," answered the captain. "Yes,"—the commander did not attempt to appear surprised—"but you are carrying eight American flight officers." "We are not," replied the captain. "We have seven Canadian medical officers on board. The ship was chartered by the Canadian Government to carry sick and wounded Canadians from England to Canada." "The submarine commander's reply iterated: 'You have been carrying American flight officers,' he added: 'I have been running to Canada for six months with wounded. I give you my word of honor that we have carried none except patients, medical staff, crew and sisters.' "The commander then demanded if there were any Canadian medical officers in the boat, and he was told there was one. "Where are our other boats?" asked the captain. The submarine commander did not answer. He was watching the Canadian medical officer being roughly hauled on board and thrust along the deck. This was done so violently and with such plain intention to injure the Canadian, Major T. Lyon of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, that he actually had a small bone in his foot broken by the handling he received. "There was another German officer in the conning tower, the second in command, who had not yet spoken in reply to the captain's question he motioned over his shoulder with his field glasses, northwards. "List of Survivors. "The following survivors from the captain's boat are the only ones accounted for up to the present. Eleven of them were picked up from the water. "R. A. Sylvester, captain; L. Chapman, second officer; D. C. Barton, fourth officer; H. M. Evans, purser; Leung Trimmer Davies; Painter Scott; O. S. Hunt; able-bodied seaman Murphy; Schroeder, Goodrich, Ward, Treddian; Fireman P. McVey; Fireman Moushey; Trimmer Headley; Deck Steward Savage; Assistant Steward Abraham; Ward, attendant of the Canadian Army Medical Corps. The boat also contained the following: Major P. Lyon, Serjt. Knight and Orderlies Taylor, Hickman, Pilot and Cooper. "Major Lyon was interrogated after protesting, as a medical officer, and ordered back into the boat. The captain also was allowed to go. The boat was cast off and pulled away from the submarine. "The submarine began to circle around the wreckage at full speed. Several times it shaved the boat narrowly, once swirling past within two feet of it; once it stopped and again took the second and fourth officers aboard and questioned them. "A New Excuse. "By this time the submarine commander invented a new excuse. He stated that there was a big explosion aft as the vessel sank, and that therefore she must have been carrying ammunition. The second officer explained patiently that this was the explosion of the boiler and the falling of the funnel. They were allowed to return to the boat, which then made sail and proceeded. "Again for a while the submarine circled and threatened her by swooping close to her; then moved off and seemed to come to a stop. From this position says the captain's official statement, she opened fire at an unseen target, firing about 12 shells. "It is perhaps too early yet to guess what the unseen target may have been. Possibly the other boats when they are picked up can furnish evidence on this point.

Llandovery Castle, Returning From Halifax to England, Torpedoed Without Warning, 70 Miles From Land—258 People Were on Board, Including 80 Men of Canadian Army Medical Corps and Fourteen Nurses, Only 24 of Whom Have Been Saved.

LONDON, July 1.—A German submarine 70 miles from the Irish coast on the night of June 27, torpedoed the 11,000-ton hospital ship Llandovery Castle, which had been chartered by the Canadian Government and had been in the service of carrying wounded and sick from England to Canada for many months. The ship was then on her way to England. She had on board 258 persons, including 80 men of the Canadian Army Medical Corps and 14 nurses.

Up to the latest reports, only 24 of those on board, including the captain, have survived the treacherous attack, which came without warning. The submarine commander, who ordered the captain of the Llandovery Castle, several of his officers, and Major Lyon, of the medical corps, aboard, declared that he had sunk the ship because she was carrying American aviation officers and others in the fighting service of the allies. He added to this later by asserting that the vessel was carrying munition stores, because of an explosion which had occurred aft.

All lights were burning when the Llandovery Castle was torpedoed. These included a huge electric cross over the bridge and strings of white and green lights on either side. The red crosses on the sides of the vessel also were illuminated by electric lights.

It is assumed that the 14 nursing sisters reached a lifeboat, but so far as known, there was no trace of them after the ship sank.

KILLED IN ENGINE ROOMS. According to Red Cross information, many were killed in the engine rooms. There is hardly any doubt of this, as there was no response to Captain Sylvester's signals from the bridge after the torpedo struck. As the engineers were either killed or left their posts, there was no one to shut off the power, and the ship went on her way despite the great holes torn by the torpedo, not beginning to slow down until the water rushed into the boiler room, extinguishing the fires.

This added to the confusion in launching the lifeboats. There was no panic, however, and by the time the Llandovery Castle lost her momentum, most of the boats were over the side. Those above decks began climbing into them in good order, but many were unable to reach the boats and the ship was sinking rapidly. They jumped into the sea, and a few of them were picked up.

MAJOR LYON THREATENED. According to information received by the Canadian Red Cross here, Major Lyon, from the Llandovery Castle, was forced to stand in the conning tower, despite an injured foot, while the German submarine officers questioned him. The Germans insisted that Major Lyon was an aviation officer, despite the officer's strenuous denials. The Germans even threatened to shoot Major Lyon, contending he was an officer of the fighting unit, not a medical officer.

The admiralty report on the sinking describes the cruel treatment of Major Lyon and declares that the submarine, after sinking the vessel, shelled an unknown target, which it intimates might have been the missing boats.

THE ADMIRALTY STATEMENT. The captain's boat, containing the survivors, was picked up by the destroyer Lysander, the commander of which has reported that he had found no trace of the remaining five boats.

The Llandovery Castle was 11,423 tons gross and was built at Glasgow in 1914 for the Union-Castle mail steamship service. The vessel was 500 feet long, 63 feet beam and 27 feet deep.

Carried Thousands of Canadians. Halifax, N.S., July 1.—The hospital ship Llandovery Castle was well-known at this port, she having made many trips here and brought back thousands of Canadian soldiers who were wounded at the front.

Among the medical staff on board were several Nova Scotians. Major MacDonald, the officer commanding, is a brother of Dr. H. C. MacDonald, dentist, of this city. The matron was Nursing Sister Margaret Fraser, youngest daughter of the late Hon. D. C. Fraser, formerly lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia.

BRITISH FORCE ENEMY BACK SOUTHEAST OF BOUZINCOURT

Important Position on High Ground Overlooks the Valley of the Ancre is Taken and Held.

With the British Army in France, July 1.—In last night's successful operation north of Albert, the British attacked the German lines near Bouzincourt and forced the enemy back from an important position on the high ground southeast of that town. The Germans had been holding the crest here, which overlooks the valley of the Ancre around Albert and the Hamlet of Aveluy. In order to force the enemy from this elevation, last night's attack was undertaken at 9.30 o'clock.

The drive was entirely successful and the British this morning had consolidated themselves in the new defences, which included virtually all the highest ground, as well as some further down to the southward. The Germans heavily bombarded the British positions in the territory west of Aveluy Wood early this morning, but thus far no hostile infantry attack has been reported.

State of War is Proclaimed in the Province of Archangel. Moscow, July 1.—A state of war has been proclaimed in the Province of Archangel.

BRITISH CONTINUE BOMBING OF RAILWAY WORKS AND STATIONS

Chemical Works at Mannheim, and Aerodrome at Boulay Are Again the Target for Airplanes.

London, July 1.—Recent air raids against railway stations and military establishments in Germany are being continued, according to an official statement issued by the air ministry tonight. The statement reads: "On the night of June 30-July 1, further attacks were made on the enemy aerodrome at Boulay and on railway works and stations at Thionville, Remilly, Landau, Zweibrucken and Saarbrucken. The chemical works at Mannheim were again attacked. "On July 1 the railway and workshops at Karthaus, the station at Treves and the railway triangle of Metz Sablon were bombed with good effect. One hostile machine was shot down and two of ours are missing. One of the machines reported as missing on June 30 has returned."

Noel Pemberton Billing Suspended and Ejected

London, July 1.—Having refused to leave the house of commons when ordered to do so by the speaker for disorderly conduct, Noel Pemberton Billing, member for Hertfordshire, was forcibly removed by the officials. The incident arose thru Mr. Pemberton Billing persistently attempting to discuss the question of internment of enemy aliens while other business was before the house. "Before his removal, the house had, on motion of Andrew Bonar Law, the chancellor of the exchequer, unanimously decided to suspend Mr. Pemberton Billing for the rest of the session. He fought desperately, and outside assistance had to be secured before he was removed beyond the parliamentary precincts.

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