

escape of steam which followed drove off some of the smoke, and let her see what she was doing. Lieutenant Bonham Carter, commanding *Intrepid*, placed the nose of his ship neatly on the mud of the western bank, ordered her crew away, and touched off the charges, which blew the bottom out of her. Four dull thumps were heard, and then the engineer who had been in the engine-room during the explosions appeared on deck, and reported that all was as it should be.

Meanwhile Lieutenant E. W. Bellyard-Leake, commanding *Iphigenia*, beached his vessel on the eastern side, blew her up, saw her drop nicely across the canal, and left her with her engines still going in order to hold her in position until she should be well bedded down on the bottom. Aviators afterward reported that the two old ships, filled with concrete, lay across the canal in a V position. On 20th June we were informed by the Admiralty that the success of the blocking operation was greater than had at first been supposed. Twenty-one torpedo boats and destroyers, together with a large number of submarines and numerous other craft, were still penned in the harbour, and were being constantly bombed.

Now I must tell you how the crews of *Intrepid* and *Iphigenia* escaped. A motor launch which had pushed further up the canal lay waiting against the western bank. It darted towards the sinking vessels, and carried off some of the crews. Other men got away in their own boats, and pulled for several miles out to sea before being picked up. Lieutenant Bonham Carter had a wonderful escape. He had sent away his boats, and had prepared a Carley float—that is, a kind of large lifeboat with a floor of grating—by means of which he hoped to keep afloat until he was seen and rescued.

As soon as the float touched the water it set fire to a calcium flare, which might easily have attracted the attention of the German machine gunners, who were only a few hundred yards away. What saved him was the smoke, which was still blowing ashore from the sinking *Iphigenia*. While on this frail float he managed to catch the rope of a motor boat, and was towed for a while, until he was perceived and taken on board. Another officer of *Intrepid* escaped by jumping ashore. He ran along the canal bank to the waiting launch; but as he did so was hit by a bullet from a machine gun. Happily it did not incapacitate him, and he reached the boat, only to be received by a