

**THE LLANDOVERY CASTLE.  
ANOTHER BRUTAL GRIME.  
CANADIAN HOSPITAL SHIP SUNK.  
ONLY TWENTY-FOUR PERSONS LANDED**

A. and N.Z. Cable Association and Reuter.

LONDON, July 1.

The Admiralty reports: -

The British hospital ship Llandovery Castle was torpedoed at 10.30 o'clock on the night of June 27, 116 miles south-west of Fastnet, and sank in ten minutes. She was homeward bound from Canada, and therefore had no sick or wounded aboard. The crew consisted of 164, and the ship also carried eighty Canadian Army medical men and fourteen female nurses — a total of 258. One boatload of twenty-four has been landed. There is a bare possibility that there are other survivors. It must be noted in this, as in all other instances, that the German submarine had a perfect right to stop and search the hospital ship under The Hague Convention. It preferred, however, to torpedo the ship, which showed all navigating and regulation hospital lights.

**DETAILS OF THE TRAGEDY**

A. and N.Z. Cable Association and Reuter.

LONDON, July 1.

The Press Bureau states: — Germany's awful debt to the world continues to grow. Another hospital ship has been torpedoed, this time 170 miles from the nearest land, her people being turned adrift in boats to sink or swim, and though, as it happened, she was a Canadian hospital ship returning from Halifax with no wounded on board, the tale of the crime reveals wanton deliberation on the part of the submarine commander, almost suggesting that he hoped to find her full of helpless and injured men. The Llandovery Castle was chartered by the Canadian Government to convey sick and wounded from England to Halifax and had on board at the time eighty members of the Medical Corps, including seven officers. She was steaming at fourteen knots, with the usual navigation lights and the regulation hospital ship lights, under an overcast sky. She was plainly visible, and unmistakable for anything but what she was, a ship immune by every law of war and peace from attack or molestation.

No one on board saw the wake of the torpedo. The first intimation that a submarine was in the vicinity was the jar and roar of the explosion from aft. Then the lights went out, and everything after that occurred in the darkness, except for a dim light provided by the emergency dynamo until just before the ship foundered. The engines were immediately rung to stop, then full speed astern, but from the engine-room came no answer. The ship's rehearsal routine, however, held good, for with the Germans one must be prepared for every such emergency. Along the darkened decks the crew groped their way to the boat stations and stood by for orders to leave. The captain megaphoned from the bridge: "Hold on till the way is off the ship." The carpenter went aft and examined the damage. The Marconi operator remained in his cabin, vainly striving to transmit the ship's position, but gained no response. The carpenter reported that the hold aft had been blown in, and the ship could not remain afloat, and the order was given to lower the boats and abandon the ship. The officer commanding the Canadian Medical Corps reported that all his people, were out. This is important, inasmuch as only the captain's boat has been picked up. Except for any of the ship's company or the engine-room crew being killed by the torpedo, it is clear that everyone had got away. The captain and the second officer entered the last boat and got clear just in time to avoid being sucked under as the vessel's stern went down. One boiler seemed to explode as the water reached it. The ship sank in ten minutes from the time she was torpedoed. The captain's boat rescued eleven from the wreckage.

### THE U-BOAT GIVES ORDERS.

When the submarine was seen she hailed the boat in English” “Come alongside!”

The second officer replied: “We are picking up a drowning man.”

A voice from the submarine replied. “Come alongside!”

The boat held on its course, but two revolver shots were fired over it, the commander of the submarine shouting: “Come alongside, or I will shoot my big gun!”

The boat obeyed, and the captain was ordered on board the submarine and questioned regarding the name of the ship. The commander of the U-boat did not appear surprised when told that it was a hospital ship. He said “You were carrying eight American flying officers.” This the captain denied, stating that he had seven Canadian medical officers on board. The ship was chartered by the Canadian Government to carry Canadian sick and wounded.

Replying to the commander’s reiterated statement that the vessel was carrying American flying officers, the captain gave his word of honour that the steamer only carried patients, medical officers, nursing sisters, and crew.

The commander then ordered one of the Canadian medical officers on board. He was roughly handled by the Germans and had a small bone of his foot broken. He was interrogated and protested that he was a medical officer. He was then ordered back into the boat with the captain. The submarine circled round the wreckage, and again stopped the boat and questioned the second and fourth officers. The Germans then invented a now excuse, stating that the vessel must have been carrying munitions owing to the big explosion aft.

The second officer explained that the explosion was due to the boiler. They were then allowed to return to the boat. The submarine began firing at an unseen target, possibly at other boats. The captain decided to make for the Irish coast, and had proceeded seventy miles when he was picked up by a destroyer and brought to Queenstown.

### TO LEAVE NO TRACE.

#### SUBMARINE CHARGES THE BOATS.

LONDON. July 3.

The survivors from the Llandovery Castle believe that the German submarine charged amidst the wreckage, trying to sink the boats, in order that no trace of the outrage should remain. The submarine only missed the surviving boat on two occasions by two feet. The survivors say that it was evident that the German commander’s aim was to ram the boat and down the lot.

The wireless operator did everything to send out “S.O.S.” messages, but even the emergency dynamo became useless. The operator stuck to his post to the end and was drowned.

*Press.* 7 August 1918 (Papers Past) [07/09/2024]

It is little more than a month ago since the Canadian hospital ship Llandovery Castle was sunk seventy miles off the coast of Ireland, with the loss of some 230 lives. This was possibly the most fiendish crime of its kind, for the German submarine commander, not content with sinking the ship, drove his vessel madly among the wreckage, as if trying to sink the boat in which were the captain of the ship and a number of other survivors. He also fired a number of shells at some target not visible to these survivors, but suspected of being some of the other boats. He was also seen to be charging wreckage, to which it was only too probable that some unfortunate nurses and men were clinging. The German’s excuse for sinking the Llandovery Castle — that she was carrying eight American flight officers — was, of course, absolutely false, but even if he had believed it true, it would not, under the rules of naval warfare, have justified his torpedoing of the ship. The Hague Convention gave him the right to stop the vessel, examine her passengers, and take off the eight officers, if they had been aboard. But he preferred to sink

the ship on sight, and make his enquiries afterwards, thereby adding another to the long list of German naval and military officers who, if everyone gets his deserts after the war, will be hanged as common criminals.

*The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Wed, 3 July 1918 (Trove) [07/09/2024]*

**LLANDOVERY CASTLE.**

**SURVIVORS' STORIES.**

Survivors of the torpedoed hospital ship **Llandoverly Castle** believe the German submarine charged amidst the wreckage, trying to sink the boats containing the survivors in order that no trace of the outrage should remain. They only missed the surviving boat on two occasions by two feet. The survivors say it was evident the German commander's aim was to ram the boat and drown the lot.

The wireless operator did everything to send off S.O.S. messages, but even the emergency dynamo was useless. The operator stuck to his post to the end, and was drowned when the vessel foundered, smashing the boats, which were unable to get clear. Twelve nursing sisters were in one boat which was capsized thus.

*The Bundaberg Mail, Queensland, Thursday, 4 July 1918 (Trove) [07/09/2024]*

**Sinking of Llandoverly Castle.**

**ACTION BY BRITISH SEAMEN.**

(Reuter.)  
LONDON, Wednesday.

A meeting of 600 seamen and stewards, of Liverpool, passed a resolution strongly protesting against Germany's latest crime in sinking the **Llandoverly Castle** without warning, and urging Mr. Havelock Wilson to add five years to the post-war boycott of Germany "for this most diabolical and most cowardly murder of our brothers on the seas."

*The Riverine Grazier, Hay, NSW, Fri, 5 July 1918 (Trove) [07/09/2024]*

## **THE LLANDOVERY CASTLE.**

### **234 MISSING.**

There are still 234 missing from the **Llandoverly Castle**.

After the ship sank the submarine hailed the captain's boat, and after interrogating the officers, declared first that the doomed vessel was carrying five American flying officers, and, second, that she had munitions on board. Neither excuse had any foundation in fact.

The outrage has caused the deepest indignation in Britain.

*The Muswellbrook Chronicle, NSW, Sat, 13 July 1918 (Trove) [07/09/2024]*

## **LLANDOVERY CASTLE OUTRAGE.**

Ruter's correspondent is authoritatively informed that the outrage on the **Llandoverly Castle**, which was the fourth hospital ship to be submarined in 1918, was deliberate and premeditated, consequent upon orders given to submarine commanders by the superior German authority, it has been alleged that eight flying officers were on board, but the allegation is without foundation, and could have easily been tested by exercising the right of search. There is no doubt that the submarine endeavored to slaughter all the witnesses of the crime, in accordance with Luxbourg's notorious phrase "Spurlos versenken," and it is clear the British have to face a settled plan of the German High Command to destroy hospital ships as far as possible.

*The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, SA, Fri, 13 Sep 1918 (Trove) [07/09/2024]*

## **ON ACTIVE SERVICE.**

Mr. **Thomas King**, of McLaren Vale, has been notified by the Union Castle line, that his son, **THOMAS INMAN**, able seaman, is missing, owing to the sinking of the hospital ship, **Llandoverly Castle**, by enemy action, on the night of June 27. He was 27 years old.

*The Register, Adelaide, SA, Sat, 14 Sep 1918 (Trove) [11/02/2019]*

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ON LLANDOVERY CASTLE.**

Mr. **Thomas King**, of McLaren Vale, has been notified by the Union Castle line that his son, **Thomas Inman**, A.B., has been reported missing as a result of the sinking of the H.M. hospital ship Llandoverly Castle by the enemy on the night of June 27, 1918. The sailor was 27 years of age.

*The Advertiser, Adelaide, SA, Mon, 16 Sep 1918 (Trove) [07/09/2024]*

### **ON ACTIVE SERVICE.**

Mr. **Thomas King**, of McLaren Vale, has been notified by the Union Castle line, that his son, **THOMAS INMAN**, A.B., is missing, owing to the sinking of the hospital ship, Llandoverly Castle, by enemy action, on the night of June 27. He was 27 years old.

*Observer, Adelaide, SA, Sat, 21 Sep 1918 (Trove) [07/09/2024]*

Mr. **Thomas King**, of McLaren Vale, has been notified by the Union Castle line that his son, **Thomas Inman**, A.B., has been reported missing as a result of the sinking of the H.M. hospital ship Llandoverly Castle by the enemy on the night of June 27, 1918. The sailor was 27 years of age.

*Timaru Herald. 10 Oct 1918 [20/01/2018]*

Mr **Leslie King**, of Washdyke, has been notified by the Union Castle Line that his brother, **Thomas Inman**, A.B., has been reported missing, as a result of the sinking of H.M. Hospital Ship Llandoverly Castle by the enemy on the night of June 27th, 1918. The missing sailor was 27 years of age.

**KING.**—In loving memory of Inman, who was drowned through the sinking of the hospital ship Llandoverly Castle by enemy action on the night of June 27, 1918. His duty nobly done.—Remembered by his loving sister and brother-in-law, D. and F. McCallum, Norwood.

**KING.**—In loving memory of Inman, who was drowned through the sinking of the hospital ship Llandoverly Castle by enemy action on the night of June 27, 1918.

It is sad, yet true, though we cannot tell why,  
The best are the first who are called on to die.  
—Ever remembered by his loving father.  
**Thomas King, McLaren Vale.**

**KING.**—In loving memory of Inman, who lost his life by the sinking of the Llandoverly Castle on June 27, 1918.

In our hearts your memory lingers,  
There is not a day, dear Inman,  
That we do not think of you.  
—Inserted by Arthur, Agnes, and children.

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