

*New Zealand Times.* 14 September 1915 (Papers Past) [23/11/2021]

## **AMOKURA BOYS**

Following is a list of boys who will join the Government training steamer Amokura at Wellington to-day: — Hector McDonald Morrison (Wakapuaka), Deo Michael David Jackson (Wellington), John Henry Bax (Waikuku, North Canterbury), Cecil Rawhiti Smith (Ma Waro, Timaru), Charles Mafeking Denny (Tuahiwi. Kainpoi), Bradford Rudolphus Penny (Kauakauaia, Gisborne), Frederick Ernest Lewis Wilson (Frankton Junction), Gerald Phillip Retter (Levin), John Walter Cook (Sawyer's Bay, Dunedin).

Following is a list of boys who have lately left the Amokura to join the mercantile marine: — L. J. Redshaw to the Paloona as boy, J. Sewell to the Squall as O. S., C. D. Strongman to the Mokoia as O. S., E. C. Horton to the Koromiko as O. S., F. A. Hayes to the Tarawera as boy, G. H. Kime to the Wimmera as O. S., V. A. Jespersen to the Kaitoa as O. S., F. G. Chapman to the Somerset as O. S., A. Hooker to the Arahura as boy.

*Sun.* 27 June 1918 (Papers Past) [23/11/2021]

## **INTERCOLONIAL STEAMER LOST WIMMERA SUNK NORTH OF AUCKLAND**

### **VICTIM OF ENEMY MINE**

### **85 SURVIVORS LANDED; 56 STILL MISSING**

*Press Association.*

**(Extraordinary.)**

**WELLINGTON, June 27.**

**It is officially announced that the Huddart-Parker steamer Wimmera has been sunk north of Auckland. Eighty-five survivors have been landed, and 56 are at present unaccounted for.**

### **VESSEL ON OUTWARD VOYAGE TO SYDNEY.**

Since the Ulimaroa was commandeered by the Government, and the Riverina, which formerly was on the Sydney-Auckland run, was transferred to the Sydney-Wellington schedule, the Wimmera has been engaged in the Riverina's former run from Sydney to Auckland, coming on to Dunedin, via way ports, every second trip, and returning along the same route. On the present occasion the Wimmera had come only to Auckland. She was a vessel much favoured by intercolonial passengers.

The Wimmera was commanded by Captain H. J. Kell, an Australian. The first officer was Mr J. A. Nicholls, and the second officer was Mr G. S. Wilson. Both are believed to be Australians.

The vessel was booked to sail from Auckland on Monday, but her departure was delayed, and she did not leave the northern port until 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning.

Her course, after leaving Auckland, would take her past North Cape, where a mine field was recently found.

The Huddart-Parker Company have now lost three vessels in the New Zealand trade, the others being the Elingamite, which was wrecked with great loss of life on the Three Kings, and the Tasmania, which came to grief on Cape Mahia.

The Wimmera was a steel-screw steamer of 3022 tons, and was built in 1904 by Messrs Caird and Co., Ltd., of Greenock, for the Huddart-Parker Co. She had a length of 335 ft, a beam of 43ft, and a depth of 20.6 ft. She was fitted with a wireless outfit.

## SURVIVORS LAND AT TOM BOWLINE BAY.

*Press Association.*

WELLINGTON, June 27.

The following List of survivors landed at Tom Bowline Bay has been received from the assistant-purser of the Wimmera: -

### PASSENGERS.

Women. — Tucker, Glencoe, Croft, and six children, Gunn, Evans, White, Jenkins, Nicholls and child, Richards, McEdwards (two), Turner, Boyd, Davidson and seven children, Richardson and two children.

Men. — Carguse, Hewson, Kirnan, Bradney, Ledgeber, Tuckers, Liddle, Fair, Longbottom, Chapman, Jenkins, Carlesworth, Gordon, Bowring, Davidson, Richardson.

### CREW.

Officers. — Wilson (second mate), Parton (first engineer), McDonald (third engineer), Gorrie (assistant purser), Curtis (second steward), Koeck (carpenter), Riddell (bo'sn).

A.B's.—McLean, Johannesen, Tommassen, Jones, McFarlane, Robinson, **Smith**, Bennett.

Stokehold. — Williams, Bennett, Thomas, Frankham, Hugo, Edwards, Thompson, Campion, Batkschedt, Bennett, Fanning.

Stewards. — W. Gallagher, H. Gallagher, Stapleton, Lee, McKenzie, Cumming, Corner, Wersley, Wood, Pointer (chief cook), Frankland (butcher), Woods (scullion).

Tom Bowline Bay is the most northerly of the larger bays on the New Zealand coast, lying south-west of North Cape, between that headland and Cape Te Reinga.

## A LIST OF THE MISSING.

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*Press.* 1 July 1918 (Papers Past) [23/11/2021]

*Timaru Herald.* 28 June 1918 (Papers Past) [23/11/2021]

## **BLOWN UP AT SEA S.S. WIMMERA.**

SUNK NORTH OF AUCKLAND.

BY EXTERNAL EXPLOSION.

ABOUT TWENTY-SIX MISSING.

Per Press Association.

WELLINGTON, June 27.

It is officially announced that the Wimmera has been sunk north of Auckland. Eighty-five persons have landed, and fifty-six at present are not accounted for. The Naval Adviser to the New Zealand Government issued the following statement, dated June 27, 11.30 a.m., to the Press Association: —

I regret to have to state that at 8 p.m. on the 26th inst. information reached me from naval sources that the Huddart Parker steamer Wimmera, which had left Auckland at 10 a.m. on the 25th inst. for Sydney, had been lost off the north coast of New Zealand, by internal explosion, at 5.15 a.m., which took only ten minutes to sink her.

### **EIGHTY-FIVE SURVIVORS LANDED.**

Eighty-five of the passengers and crew, whose names are given below, landed last evening at Tom Bowling Bay, near the North Cape, and at the present moment are en route to Auckland in rescue vessels, which were provided by the Wimmera's owners at the earliest opportunity.

It may be added that the survivors, who were in their night attire, were, generally speaking, in fairly good condition when they landed, and that they have been temporarily supplied with food and clothing, both from naval trawlers in the vicinity and also from settlers at Parengarenga, who sent over all available assistance immediately they heard of the disaster.

Definite information is difficult to obtain at present, but it is established that the ship left Auckland with 66 passengers and 75 of a crew. The following numbers have been landed: —

Lady passengers, 15.

Children, 16.

Men passengers, 16.

Ship's officers, 7.

Able seamen, 8.

Stokehold crew, 11.

Stewards' department, 12.

Total — 85.

This leaves a balance of 56 persons unaccounted for, the names of whom are not yet known to me. They may still be on their way ashore, or they may have landed on the coast; and not yet been discovered, although a search both on the coast and in the vicinity of the disaster has been in progress by naval and other vessels since 8 o'clock last evening.

All inquiries as to the welfare of individuals known to have been on board should be made to Huddart, Parker and Co.'s offices.

[The earlier messages regarding the disaster stated that it was due to an internal explosion. A later message (9.15 p.m.), "Passed by the Censor," read: "Correction, Wimmera, external not internal explosion."]

The lists below were made up by comparing the list of saved with the total list of passengers and crew, according to the Customs documents.

#### Passengers.

Ladies.—Tucker, Glencoe, Croft and six children, Gunn, Evans, White, Jenkins, Nicholl and child, Richards, McEdwards (2), Turner, Boyd, Davidson, and seven children, Richardson and two children.

Men.—Targuse, Hewson, Kiernan, Bradney, Ledgeber, Tucker, Liddle, Fair, Longbottom, Chapman, Jenkins, Charlesworth, Gordon, Bowring, Davidson, Richardson.

#### Crew.

Wilson (second mate), Parton (first engineer), McDonald (third engineer), Gorrie (assistant purser), Curtis (second steward), Koeck (carpenter), Riddell (boatswain).

#### MISSING PASSENGERS.

Mr Hewitt 43, Mr H. Graham 67, Mr W. J. Mabo 53, Mr Jones 46, Miss Jones 22, Mr and Mrs Jones (theatrical artists) 39 and 32, Miss Sayegh 38, Miss Greenwood 35, Miss Browning 31, Mrs Browning 62, Miss A. Wyllie 22, Miss Watson 30, Miss T. O. Schuberg, Mrs E. R. Dunn 58, Mrs Gould 40, Mr and Mrs Giblin 48 and 33, and two children 9 and 3, Miss Street 30, Mrs V. McLean 27, Miss Peter 30, Mrs McDonald 31 and child 11, Mrs Burt 54, Miss E. M. V. Barnett 37, Messrs M. C. Hodder 31, R. J. Elliott 26, F. C. Bond 32, H. B. Kennedy 24, Peter 46, Jose San Pedro 38, Manuel Sanudo 35.

#### MISSING CREW.

H. J. Kell (master), A. Nichol (chief officer). A. Brookes (third officer). S. Collier (second engineer), D. Mowatt (fourth engineer), H. Verge (chief steward), A. Bomont (wireless operator), N. Hawkeswood (assistant purser); J. Mulvenna, B. Benson, A. Geary, T. Donaghy, A.B.s; E. Martinos, J. deBeanze, firemen; T. Graham, greaser; W. Brems, C. Neal, S. Hawes, J. Fanning, W. Murdoch, F. Tildslev, firemen; J. McCarney, J. Roper, L. Hennigsen, F. McCreve, trimmers;

C. McMillan, J. Robertson, stewardesses; W. Smeed. C. Woodward, J. Blaekborough, H. Butler, E. Greaves, J. Forsyth, stewards; S. R. Saville. saloon waiter; C. Crossa, night watchman; E. Gamble, pantryman: T. Grimshaw, second cook; E. Edwards, third cook; S. Yates, baker.

#### NAMES OF SURVIVORS.

The list obtained from the Assistant Purser of the Wimmera of the survivors landed at Tom Bowline Bay is as follows:

McLean, Johannesen, Tommassen, Jones. McFarlane, Robinson, **Smith** and Bennett, A.B.'s.

Stokehold crew - Williams, Bennett. Thomas, Frankham, Hugo, Edwards, Thompson, Campion, Batkschedt, Bennett, Fanning.

Stewards - W. Gallagher, H. Gallagher, Stapleton, Lee, McKenzie, Cumming, Corner, Wersley, Wood, Pointer, chief cook; Frankland, butcher; Woods, scullion.

#### VESSELS TO THE RESCUE.

AUCKLAND, June 27 (10.30 p.m.)

Two of the Northern Company's Vessels, the Clansman and Waiotahi, were despatched to the scene as soon as news of the disaster was received, and are still searching for survivors.

The Clansman left Whangaroa at 0.45 this morning and should reach the scene at 2 p.m. The Waiotahi was despatched from Houhora at 1 p.m. and should reach the locality at three o'clock. Four boats landed.

At the instance of the Deputy-Mayor the Secretary of the Parenga Gumfields Company, Mr H. Gilfillin, wired to the manager at Parcnga, requesting him to supply provisions and do all he possibly could for the survivors.

#### THE LOST OFFICERS.

The following particulars of the officers are available here: —

H. J. Kells, the captain, has been on the New Zealand and Australian run for a long time. His wife and two children reside at Auckland.

A. Nichol, chief officer, recently joined the Wimmera, having been previously aboard the Zealandia in the West Australian run. He is married and his wife resides in Sydney.

C. Wilson, second officer, joined on the previous trip, replacing Mr Thurston.

A. Paxton, chief engineer, was making his first trip, having relieved Mr Morris, who had been chief for some time.

Kenneth Gorrie, purser, is an Auckland, with several relations residing in the city.

M. Hawkswood, assistant purser, is also an Auckland.

D. Mowatt. fourth engineer, is a native of Wellington.

As the Wimmora is an Australian ship most of the crew are unknown here. Martin, ordinary seaman, is also an Aucklander.

#### FIVE RACEHORSES LOST.

Five thoroughbred horses were shipped by the Wimmera and as there was no insurance on them their loss is a severe one. Messrs W. and V. Casey sent Informal and Demotic, and Mr H. Cotter shipped Hymeona, Lady Jack and Deep Sleep. Informal was a leading Auckland two-year-old last season, and his three-year-old career was full of promise. Hymeona was recently purchased by Mr Cotter for 1000 gns. and Lady Jack for, it is stated, 275 gns.

#### A PASSENGER'S STORY.

Mr Tucker, of Melbourne, a passenger, telegraphed, to the "Herald" that two distinct explosions occurred. The lights were extinguished in two minutes. There was no panic. The vessel kept an even keel for fifteen minutes and then sank, stern first. The vessel was struck near the stern and the social hall was smashed. It was a moonlight night with a fair sea.

The captain, first officer, chief steward, and several others remained, on the vessel to the last, and apparently went down with her. Four people were rescued from the sea, including the chief engineer, who was washed off the deck as the steamer sank. One boat was swamped and one was stove in. Difficulties that arose in persons getting clear of the vessel were principally due to inability to get on deck after the lights went out. One family of eleven and one of seven were all saved. Fourteen stewards and all the stewardesses were missing from the first party of four boatloads that were landed at Tom Bowline Bay. Most of the stewards who were saved were compelled to clamber through a skylight. Several of those who were the earliest to reach the deck were among those not included in the four boats that reached Tom Bowline Bay.

Timely assistance was rendered by the trawlers in the vicinity. The 84 persons in the four boats, most of whom were clad in their night attire, and were without boots, walked and crawled over eight miles of rough hill country. They were shown every kindness by Mr Munro and the Maoris resident in the vicinity.

The women and children, who are in good spirits, are being well cared for by the residents of Te Hapua and Parengarenga. The survivors in this party comprise 34 adults, 16 children, and 44 members of the crew.

#### OTHER SURVIVORS.

Messrs Huddart Parker announce that one boat containing thirty people landed at Tom Bowline Bay, and another containing thirty reached Mangonui.

Later news from Mangonui announces the arrival of a boat load of survivors, who were blown clear of North Cape and drifted down the coast, making Kaimoia Beach. The names available of those on board are — Mrs Jones, Miss Jones, Mrs

Dunn, Bruce, W. Murdoch, Shaw, J. McCartney, Icclay, Mr Graham, S. Yates, Mr Grimshaw, and one seaman.

#### MORE SURVIVORS.

WELLINGTON, June 27.

The Secretary to the General Post Office has been advised by the postmaster at Mangonui as follows: "Wimmera. - Mr Stacey, native school-teacher at Taemaro, on the coast four miles east of Mangonui, came in at 8.30 p.m., and reported four survivors in his house and about 20 on the beach. Mr A. McKay, storekeeper here, with his launch and a relief party, has just left to pick up those on the beach. The names as far as known are: — Mrs Dunne. Tom Grimshaw, Mr and Mrs Jones, Bruce, Tom Graham. Muldock, Howels, a [s]eamen, John McCartney, Y. McLea, S. Yates, but the names were roughly written on a slip of paper. The sea is calm."

#### THE VESSEL.

##### HUDDART PARKER LINER.

The Wimmera belonged to the Huddart Parker line, a single-screw steamer, length 335 feet, breadth 43feet, depth 20½ feet, gross tonnage 3022, net 1872. She has been engaged in the intercolonial trade for some time past.

The Wimmera, from an Australian port, arrived at Auckland last Saturday morning. She had an exceptionally rough voyage and shipped water in huge quantities. On Friday afternoon a great sea swept the decks and broke the saloon door and washed into the saloon.

In July, 1597 the Tasmania, belonging to the Huddart, Parker line, was lost off Cape Table. Mahia Peninsula, and two lives were lost. Amongst the passengers on that occasion were Messrs J. Macaulav, D. Grant and E. Park, of Temuka.