

# The Sinking of HMHS Llandoverly Castle 27 June 1918



100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Ceremonies  
held in  
Ottawa and Halifax  
June 2018

# The Sinking of the Canadian Hospital Ship HMHS Llandoverly Castle



June 27, 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of one of the most tragic events in Canadian military medical series history the sinking of the HMHS Llandoverly Castle by a German U-Boat. The attack killed 234 people, including 94 Canadian Army Medical Corps personnel comprised of five Medical Officers, 14 Nursing Sisters, one Chaplain, five NCOs (one Dispenser, one Ward master, three Medical Orderly NCO's) and 61 Medical Orderlies

# The Event



One of the more controversial events during the Great War was the sinking of the Canadian Hospital Ship Llandovery Castle by a German submarine, U-86, on 27 June, 1918. The ship was returning to England after having brought Canadian casualties back to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Being a Hospital Ship, it was clearly identified as such with a brightly illuminated Red Cross, was unarmed and running with full lights. On board, the crew consisted of one hundred and sixty-four men, eighty officers and men of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, and fourteen nurses, a total of two hundred and fifty-eight persons.

According to the Hague Convention, an enemy vessel had the right to stop and search a Hospital Ship, but not to sink it. U-86 made no attempt to search the ship, but rather torpedoed it

The above painting was done after the disaster, no doubt to emphasize the bright hospital markings which were obvious to the U-boat captain. The German submarine U-86 torpedoed and sank the well - marked hospital ship, which had been carrying civilians, nurses, and wounded soldiers, off the Irish coast. The attack killed 234 people, including 94 Canadian Army Medical Corps personnel.

Even though the Llandoverly Castle sank within ten minutes, a number of boats were lowered successfully and the ship was abandoned in a calm and efficient manner. Three boats ultimately survived the sinking of the vessel undamaged and proceeded to rescue survivors from the water. They were interrupted by Patzig, who intercepted the boats and started interrogating crew members to obtain proof of the misuse of the hospital ship as an ammunition carrier. When no proof could be obtained, Patzig gave the command to make clear for diving and ordered the crew below deck.

Patzig, two officers (Ludwig Dithmar and John Boldt) and the boatswain's mate Meissner stayed on deck. The U-boat did not dive, but started firing at and sinking the life boats to kill all witnesses and cover up what had happened. To conceal this event, Patzig extracted promises of secrecy from the crew, and faked the course of U-86 in the logbook so that nothing would connect U-86 with the sinking of the Llandoverly Castle.

Only one lifeboat survived the attack. It was picked up by the destroyer Lysander on the morning of 29 June, 36 hours after the attack. Twenty four people survived the attack on the lifeboats, including six members of the Canadian Army Medical Corps. All 14 Nursing Sisters on board lost their lives.

After the war, the British initiated a War Crimes trial against the officers of U-86. The commander, Helmut Patzig could not be found and was never brought to trial. The two other officers, Ludwig Dithmar and John Boldt were tried and convicted. The men were sentenced to 4 years of hard labour, but escaped while underway to the prison. It is unclear if they were ever recaptured, but it is certain that they never served more than four months.

The following document is recommended should you wish to learn more about this tragic event:

- [Massacre of Canadian Army Medical Corps personnel after the sinking of HMHS Llandoverly Castle and the evolution of modern war crime jurisprudence](#), Jay Doucet MD, Greg Haley MD, Vivian McAllister MB, Canadian Journal of Surgery, Vol 61, No. 3, June 2018

# Commemoration Ceremony

## Canadian Forces Health Services Group

### Headquarters Ottawa

#### 27 June 2018



#### RSVP

by 14 June / avant le 14 juin  
to Ms. / Mme Dahlia Allaire  
613-901-9629  
[dahlia.allaire@forces.gc.ca](mailto:dahlia.allaire@forces.gc.ca)

CF H Svcs GP HQ - Surgeon General /  
QG Gp Svcs SFC - Médecin général  
Carling Campus / Campus Carling  
Building 9 / Édifice 9  
101 Colonel By Drive / 101 Promenade Col By  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K2

#### Price/ Prix

\$20 in advance / en avance

Further details will be provided upon  
confirmation of your attendance /  
Détails supplémentaires seront fournis  
avec confirmation de votre présence

Commemoration of  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sinking of  
HMHS Llandovery Castle  
27 Jun 2018  
1100-1500 hrs  
Carling Campus Building 8-9 Common Area



Commémoration du  
100<sup>ième</sup> anniversaire du naufrage du  
HMHS Llandovery Castle  
27 juin 2018  
11h00-15h00  
Campus Carling Édifice 8-9 Espace Commun



# Ceremony of Remembrance



Col Putnam, Chaplain, Canadian Forces Chaplain Service, delivers prayers.



Capt Colwill strikes 2-bells for the Nursing Sisters lost



LCol Brierley speaks on behalf of the Nursing Officers



MCpl Robitaille strikes 2-bells for the NCMs lost



Emcee Capt Gaylene Archer



BGen Andrew Downes, Surgeon General and  
Commander Canadian Forces Health Service Group,  
delivered closing remarks



The ceremony was attended by many serving and former members of Canada's military medical services.



Former Surgeon General MGen Bernier, QHP and BGen Downes



HMHS Llandoverly Castle  
Commemoration Ceremony  
participants (L-R) LCdr Toth, Capt  
Colwill, MCpl Robitaille and Cdr Haley



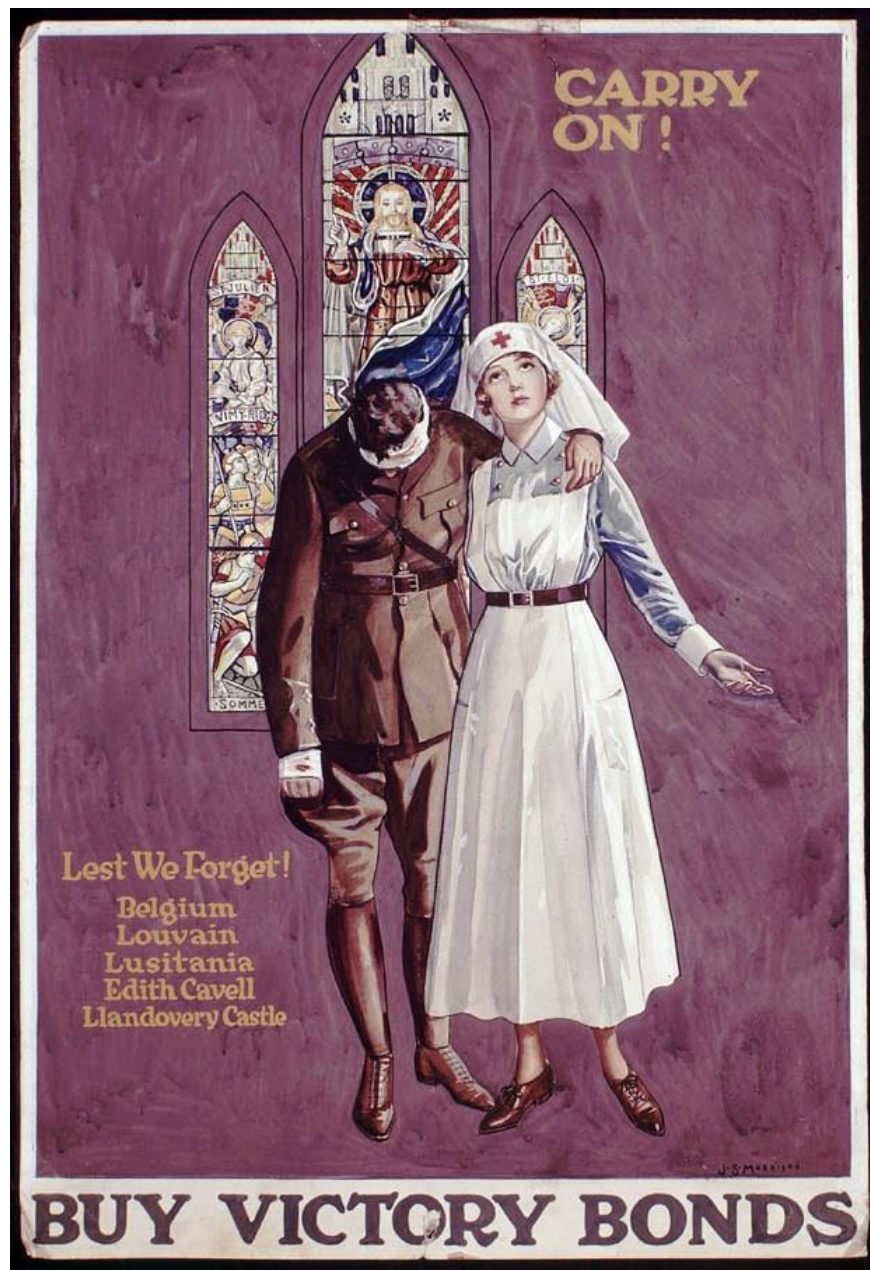


*His Majesty's Hospital Ship Llandovery Castle*

Maurice Randall IWM ART 5605

*In memory of the 86 personnel of the C.A.M.C. lost to enemy action on 27 June 1918,  
by the sinking of HMHS Llandovery Castle while under the protection of the Geneva Conventions*

*Royal Canadian Medical Service Association, 27 June 2018*



*Victory Bonds – Carry On!*

LAC C-005792

*In memory of HMHS Llandoverly Castle, sunk by U-86 on 27 June 1918,  
with a loss of 86 medical personnel, including 14 Nursing Sisters.  
Her name became the rallying cry of the Canadian Corps during the final 100 days of the War to End All Wars*

*Nursing Sisters Association, 27 Jun 2018*



*Victory Bonds – Will Help Stop This*

CWM19850475-04

*In memory of the Canadian chaplain, medical officers, nursing sisters, medical orderlies, and the British merchant seamen,  
234 souls lost while engaged in humanitarian service aboard HMHS Llandoverly Castle, sunk by U-86 on 27 June 1918  
– the worst tragedy suffered by the hospital ship service of any nation during the Great War of 1914-1919*

*Officers of the Royal Canadian Medical Service, 27 June 2018*





Former Surgeon General RAdm (ret) CJ Knight and  
HCol MM Lange, Colonel Commandant RCMS



BGen Savard and RCMS CWO Leahy



Col (Retd) Giselle Fontaine and Cmdre Rebecca Patterson



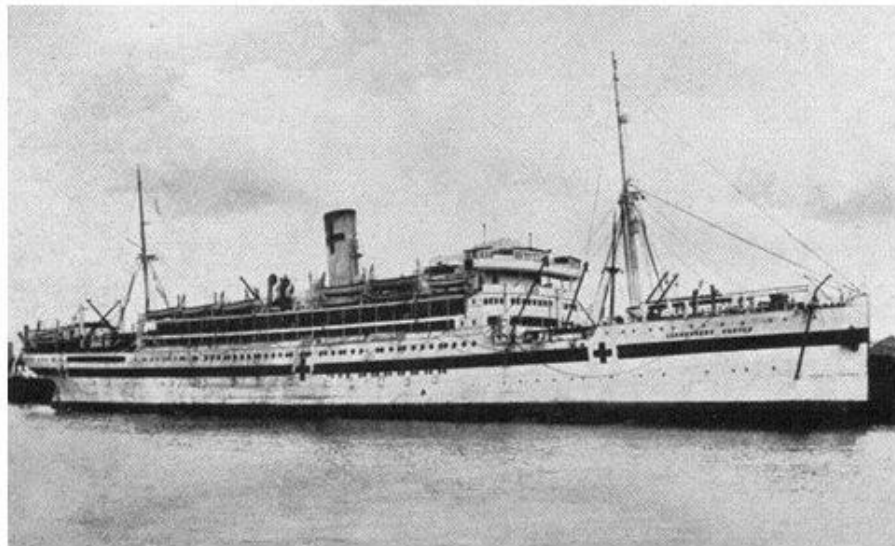
## Poster Display

The following page present the posters on display during the commemoration ceremony capture in pictures and words the magnititude of the Llandovery Castle sinking.

# The Ship



Postcard view of SS Llandoverly Castle, 1914: a new Mediterranean passenger liner



Postcard view of HMHS Llandoverly Castle, 1917: as Canada's largest hospital ship

The loss of *HMHS Llandoverly Castle* by enemy action in 1918 was the final straw for allied hospital ships. Solitary voyages under the protection of the Geneva Conventions was discontinued. Thereafter, they were re-designated His Majesty's Ambulance Transports, painted grey and integrated into the armed convoy system.

"All the News That's  
Fit to Print."

# The New York Times.

THE WEATHER  
For the week ending  
July 2, 1918.

VOL. LXVII. NO. 22,074.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, JULY 2, 1918—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

TWO CENTS

## U-BOAT SINKS ANOTHER BRITISH HOSPITAL SHIP, 234 MISSING

### SEA TRAGEDY AT NIGHT

Canadian Steamer Llandovery Castle Sunk 70 Miles from Land.

### HOPED TO KILL AMERICANS

U-Boat Believed to Have Been Warned That U. S. Aviators Were on Board.

### TWELVE WOMEN DROWNED

Wreckage of Lifeboats Rammed by Submarine—Tried to Leave No Trace of Crime.

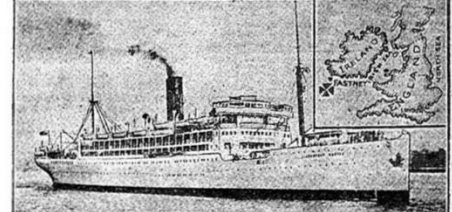
LONDON, July 1.—Seventy miles from the Irish coast on the night of June 21 a German submarine torpedoed the 11,000-ton hospital ship Llandovery Castle, which had been chartered by the Canadian Government and had been in the service of carrying wounded and sick from England to Canada for many months past. The ship was torn on her way to England. She had on board 234 persons, including 10 men of the Canadian Army Medical Corps and 14 women nurses.

A coincidence, for they could not have been seen. When he was on board the submarine, Captain Sylvester inquired where the ship was going. He was told that it was going to England. He was told that it was carrying wounded and sick from England to Canada. He was told that it was carrying wounded and sick from England to Canada. He was told that it was carrying wounded and sick from England to Canada.

### CHARGED THROUGH THE WRECKAGE

The fact that the men saw of the submarine was that it was a German. The fact that the men saw of the submarine was that it was a German. The fact that the men saw of the submarine was that it was a German. The fact that the men saw of the submarine was that it was a German. The fact that the men saw of the submarine was that it was a German.

### HOSPITAL SHIP LLANDOVERY CASTLE, VICTIM OF HUN SAVAGERY



Thousands of injured Canadians have been brought to Canada on this ship. The least map shows where it was sunk, 70 miles from the Irish coast.

### Up to the latest reports only twenty-four of those on board, including the Captain, had reached land.

One of the boats, containing twelve nursing stations, was seen to escape. The destroyers were ordered to search for the submarine. The destroyers were ordered to search for the submarine. The destroyers were ordered to search for the submarine.

### THINK SPY SENT WORD OF HOSPITAL SHIP

Servitors Believe U-Boat Was Warned That Flight Officers Were on Board.

Although it was not possible to see the ship, the fact that it was a hospital ship was known. The fact that it was a hospital ship was known. The fact that it was a hospital ship was known. The fact that it was a hospital ship was known. The fact that it was a hospital ship was known.

### SEA TRAGEDY AT NIGHT

Continued from Page 1, Column 2.

and containing twenty-four survivors. They included the Llandovery Castle's commander, Captain R. A. Sylvester; Major T. Lyon of the Canadian Army Medical Corps; three other officers, and nineteen men, including several Canadian Medical Corps orderlies. They then had been in the boat thirty-six hours with only biscuits and water to live upon, but were quite fit and cheerful.

Their chief comfort seems to have been due to the Captain's foresight in running to his cabin for his pipe before leaving the vessel, my informant told me. It was the only tobacco they had aboard the boat and the pipe was passed round in turn.

The vessel was torpedoed just at dark on Thursday night, when she was steaming along alone with lights, showing all her hospital ship signals. "The Captain told me that at first he had not realized that he had been torpedoed," said the destroyer officer. "He said he simply felt a shock as though a Zeppelin bomb had been dropped. The vessel began to shudder, and the Captain stopped the engines. Then he put them full speed astern in order to check the way of the ship in the sea to facilitate getting the boats out. No wireless signal could be sent out, for the explosion brought all of the ship's equipment down about their heads, and there was no time to get the emergency dynamo at work before the vessel sank."

One boat was captured by the vessel as she sank, and possibly others met the same fate, or were sucked down by her. The reason for this was the short time the boat remained afloat, which was only ten minutes, and in the darkness the boats could not clear away in time. One of the rescued men, a Sergeant Major of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, told me he was in the boat which captured the boat and the pipe was passed round in turn. He was the only survivor picked up, and there is no doubt that all the nurses were drowned, being pinned under the boat. The boat was making frantic efforts to pull out of the danger zone.

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### THE "HE SAVED! THANK GOD!" SHOUTS ANXIOUS FATHER

Canadian Captain Trembled Between Hope and Fear Regarding Fate of Son Who Was on Medical Staff of Llandovery Castle.

By Lt. Col. A. J. Macdonald, Canadian Forces in France. When I was in France, I was in the Canadian Forces. I was in the Canadian Forces. I was in the Canadian Forces. I was in the Canadian Forces. I was in the Canadian Forces.

### TELLS OF SINKING OF HOSPITAL SHIP

German Officer Says They Always Suspected Such Vessels.

LEIPZIG, Germany, July 13.—At the conclusion today of trial in the supreme court here of the two German submarine lieutenants, Ludwig Dittmar and Johann Boldt, charged with murder in the first degree for firing on the hospital ship Llandovery Castle, which was sunk in the summer of 1918, Petty Officer Pupin, of the German navy, said that he was sure that the two lieutenants were guilty of the crime. He said that he was sure that the two lieutenants were guilty of the crime. He said that he was sure that the two lieutenants were guilty of the crime.

### LANDOVERY CASTLE OUTRAGE RECALLED

German Submarine Officers Placed on Trial For Murder.

PARIS, July 12.—France has informed Germany she will continue the occupation of the Rhine region until Germany has complied with the conditions of the treaty of Versailles, relative to the punishment of those who violated the rules of civilized warfare in the war. Premier Briand told the Senate today, replying to a question, he characterized the findings of the Leipzig court as "astonishing." M. Briand said the Government had decided to show Germany that France still had strength, and expressed the hope that the other allied countries would join in the French viewpoint.

### FORMER LIEUT. BOLDT MAKES HIS ESCAPE

Man Who Fired on Lifeboats Was Serving Four-Year Term.

HAMBURG, Nov. 19.—Former Lieutenant Commander Johann Boldt, who, with Lieutenant Dittmar, was convicted of manslaughter for firing on the hospital ship Llandovery Castle, has escaped from the prison here. Boldt was found guilty by the supreme court at Leipzig in July and sentenced to four years' imprisonment. The charge against him was that he fired on the hospital ship Llandovery Castle in the summer of 1918. He was found guilty of the crime. He was found guilty of the crime. He was found guilty of the crime.

### THIRTEEN BRITISH AND 22 GERMAN WINNERS, INCLUDING ADMIRAL PATING, UPHELD BY COURT

Winnings, including Admiral Pating, upheld by court.

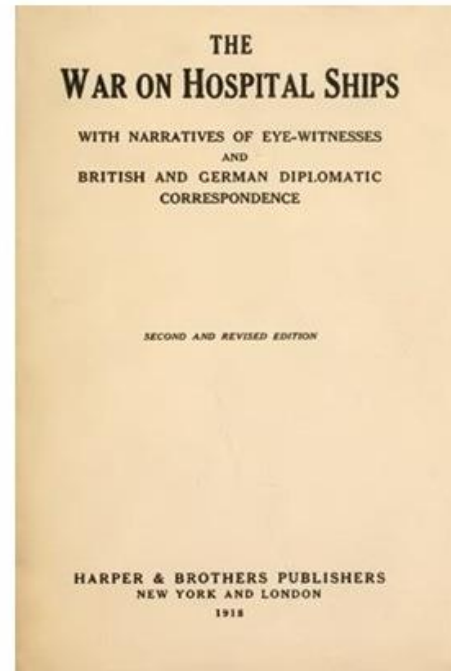
Asked what was his answer to the charge, Dittmar silently refused to make reply, finally saying he had pleaded guilty to speak about the case. Dittmar pleaded not guilty, adding that he was obliged to obey the commander, whose word was law, referring to the torpedoing of the vessel, but he was silent regarding the charge of firing on the lifeboats. Second officer Chapman of the Llandovery Castle gave an impressive account of the sinking of the hospital and the subsequent conduct of the submarine. He said he was ordered, under threats of instant death, aboard the submarine, although he pleaded to save his comrades who were on board. Chapman then was released in his lifeboat, but afterwards he was re-arrested, and questioned whether the Llandovery Castle carried ammunition, which he denied. One of the German officers charged that the ship had eight United States flying officers aboard. To this Chapman said he replied that they were Army Service Corps officers. The lifeboat was again released, but again, declared the witness, the submarine repeatedly attempted to ram it. But he escaped, whereupon the submarine fired 14 shells, two of them passing over the lifeboat. Chapman said he saw a British sailor on the submarine, but that he was pushed off. Of the seven lifeboats of the hospital ship, two of them capsized, although the sea was calm.

# The Propaganda

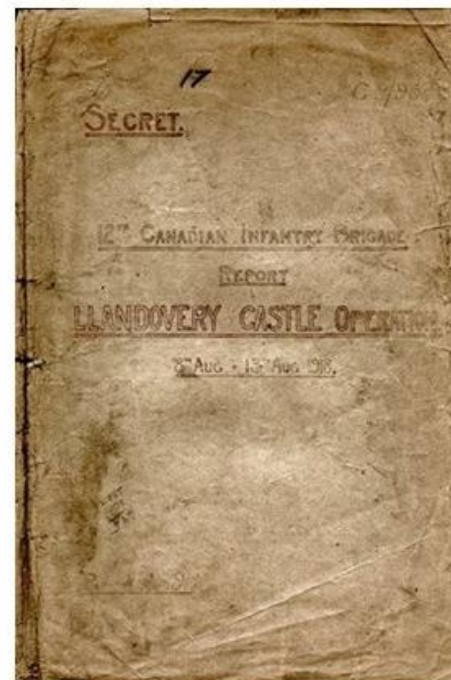


The sinking of HMHS Llandoverly Castle added fuel to a propaganda war that began in 1915 and intensified through the final year of the war as desperate enemy engaged more in more in unrestricted warfare.

During the great allied offensive that made up the last 100 days of the war, and for which the Canadian and Australian corps formed the "tip of the spear" for the British Imperial forces, the Llandoverly Castle was a rallying cry, and was chosen as the code word to launch the offensive along the Amiens front.



The enemy's "War on Hospital Ships" had been ongoing since 1915 account from 1918 was published before some of the greatest losses, including the sinking of HMHS Llandoverly Castle and HMAS Warilda.





# The Nominal Roll

## Lost to Enemy Action

SERVICE NO.	NAME OF OFFICER	RANK	HOME
CO	MacDonald, Thomas Howard	Lieutenant Colonel	Port Hawkesbury, NS
21/C	Davis, Gustavus Mitchell	Major	Welland, ON
MO	Enright, William James*	Captain	Port Daniel, QC
MO	Leonard, Arthur Vincent	Captain	Toronto, ON
MO	Sills, George Luther	Captain	Tweed, ON
Head Nurse	Fraser, Margaret Marjory "Pearl"	Acting Matron	New Glasgow, NS
Nurse	Campbell, Christina	Nursing Sister	Victoria, BC
Nurse	Douglas, Carola Josephine	Nursing Sister	Straw River, MB
Nurse	Dussault, Alexina	Nursing Sister	Montreal, QC
Nurse	Follette, Minnie Asenath	Nursing Sister	Ward's Brook, NS
Nurse	Fortescue, Margaret Jane	Nursing Sister	Montreal, QC
Nurse	Gallagher, Minnie Katherine	Nursing Sister	Ottawa, ON
Nurse	McDiarmid, Jessie Maud	Nursing Sister	Ashton, ON
Nurse	McKenzie, Mary Agnes	Nursing Sister	Toronto, ON
Nurse	McLean, Rena Maud (ARRC)	Nursing Sister	Souris, PEI
Nurse	Sampson, Mae Bella	Nursing Sister	Simcoe, ON
Nurse	Sare, Gladys Irene	Nursing Sister	Montreal, QC
Nurse	Stamers, Anna Irene	Nursing Sister	Saint John, NB
Nurse	Templeman, Jean	Nursing Sister	Ottawa, ON
Chaplain	MacPhail, Rev. Donald George	Honorary Captain	Cayuga, ON

SERVICE NO.	NAME OF NCO	RANK	HOME
34408	Evans, Herbert Parry	Staff Sergeant	Montreal, QC
2098951	Brown, Daniel	Sergeant	Ottawa, ON
33653	Jackson, William	Corporal	Saskatoon, SK
50972	Bonnell, Hugh	Lance Corporal	Quebec City, QC
823269	Dawson, William Albert	Lance Corporal	London, ON

SERVICE NO.	NAME OF MEDICAL ORDERLY	RANK	HOME
536451	Anderson, John	Private	Sudbury, ON
421053	Angus, Hubert Tyndall	Private	Winnipeg, MB
536234	Baker, Albert	Private	Saint John, NB
33281	Barker, Frank	Private	Brandon, MB
02568	Bentley, John Arthur	Private	St.-Lambert, QC
524309	Bloomfield, John Wilfred Burgess	Private	Fort William, ON
524507	Bristow, James Frederick William*	Private	Kamloops, BC
526511	Carter, Neville Raymond Stevenson	Private	Montreal, QC

962	Cates, William Frederick	Private	Wimbledon, England
536231	Clark, Frederick	Private	Saint John, NB
536448	Clark, William	Private	Saint John, NB
536023	Cowie, Walter	Private	Perth, ON
526671	Curtis, John Henry	Private	Montreal, QC
536282	Daley, Kenneth	Private	Saint John, NB
536338	Duffie, David William	Private	Fredericton, NB
418883	Dunlop, Alexander Livingstone	Private	Williamstown, ON
50879	Eaton, John (MM)	Private	Vancouver, BC
523897	Elsley, Harley Clifton	Private	Vancouver, BC
645609	Falconer, Robert Douglas*	Private	Saskatoon, SK
50946	Foley, James Benedict*	Private	Charlottetown, PEI
522922	Gemmel, Wilfred Howie	Private	Wallaceburg, ON
535505	Goldberg, Myer Philip	Private	Glasgow, Scotland
770053	Hannah, James	Private	Toronto, ON
33354	Harlock, Mathew Henry	Private	Staffordshire, England
33079	Harris, Bertram D'Arcy	Private	Gaudhurst, England
536276	Harrison, Harry	Private	Marysville, NB
524248	Harvey, George Edward	Private	Winnipeg, MB
406310	Hoskins, Clifford Hugh	Private	Castle Cary, England
6815	Isaac, Sidney*	Private	Parry Sound, ON
535449	James, Wilfred Lawrence	Private	Kingston, ON
195880	Kelly, Robert Carman	Private	Havelock, ON
526600	McDermott (aka Murray), James Henry	Private	Morrisville, VT
526674	McAnally, Frederick Leo	Private	Fredericton, NB
2098858	McDonald, Leonard Hugh	Private	Cornwall, ON
536277	MacPherson, Edward Moore	Private	Marysville, NB
644511	Nash, George Edward	Private	Midland, ON
213383	O'Neil, Norman Robert*	Private	Paquette, ON
467562	Pateman, John Cooper*	Private	Edmonton, AB
81693	Patton, Herbert Arthur*	Private	Dudalk, ON
1390	Pollard, Frederick Davie	Private	Winnipeg, MB
525545	Porter, John	Private	Calgary, AB
50089	Purcell, John Arthur	Private	Portugese Cove, NS

524579	Renyard, Alfred	Private	Grand Prairie, BC
523324	Richards, Percy	Private	Edmonton, AB
525169	McGarry (aka Rogers), John	Private	Carleton Place, ON
910940	Roseboro, Kelby*	Private	Davidson, SK
536477	Sacre, Walter Bramwell	Private	Marysville, NB
644708	Sanders, Victor	Private	Mt. Brydges, ON
527999	Sanders, Walter Harry	Private	Hamilton, ON
536403	Sanderson, Robert Andrew	Private	Woodstock, NB
862726	Sayyae, Frederick Jacob Orville	Private	Toronto, ON
536249	Scribner, Clement George	Private	Saint John, NB
524307	Shipman, Lewis	Private	Winnipeg, MB
527654	Smith, Ernest Crosby	Private	Toronto, ON
3676	Smuck, David Radcliffe	Private	Sarnia, ON
536315	Spittal, John Albert Ivor	Private	Cold Brook, NS
400171	Steen, Robert Alexander	Private	Calgary, AB
51098	Sutherland, Harvey*	Private	Victoria, BC
536236	Williams, Frank Chandler	Private	Fredericton, NB
530063	Williams, Robert	Private	Medicine Hat, AB
527674	Wilson, Andrew	Private	Glasgow, Scotland

## Survivors of the Sinking

SERVICE NO.	NAME OF SURVIVOR	RANK	HOME
MO	Lyon, Thomas	Major	Creston, BC
528654	Knight, Arthur	Acting Sergeant	London, ON
69	Pilot, William Robert*	Private	Montreal, QC
522907	Cooper, Frederick William	Private	Penhurst, England
536288	Hickman, George Robert	Private	Saint John, NB
536437	Taylor, Shirley Kitchner	Private	Saint John, NB

# The Survivors



Maj T. Lyon (LAC PA-00560, crop)



Sgt A. Knight (LAC PA-007471, crop)

Major Thomas Lyon MD (left) and Sergeant Arthur Knight (right), two of the 24 survivors, in their hospital beds. In 1921 Lyon travelled thousands of miles from Victoria to Leipzig, arriving at the last minute to deliver damning testimony. Knight was the only survivor of the nursing sister's boat, and watched helplessly as they bravely "faced the terrible ordeal of certain death". Sergeant Knight later served at the College Street Military Hospital in Toronto until his discharge in March 1919.



# The Medics



Private William Pilot was one of five medical orderlies who survived the HMHS Llandovery Castle disaster. He had enlisted as a motorcycle dispatch rider and was subsequently attached to the Military Police. He was wounded at the battle of Courcellette during the grueling Somme campaign, on 8 October, 1916. After recovering in hospital from his wound, he transferred to the CAMC. He had made 3 voyages with HMHS Llandovery Castle when she was torpedoed and sunk. Pilot was one of the 6 CAMC survivors. Two photographs that he took of his friends are among several of his war-time mementos, which have been donated to the Canadian War Museum. These two candid snapshots seem to be the only photographs of the ship's orderlies which have survived in public collections. (CWM 20070096-011)

"My boy was an excellent swimmer and I have every hope that he will be saved," said Thomas Smith, 229 Gerrard street east, whose son, Pte. Ernest C. Smith, was attached to the medical staff of the torpedoed Llandovery Castle. Pte. Smith originally Pte. E. G. Smith, enlisted with the C. A. M. C. in October, 1915, but was transferred to the Signal Corps, on reaching England the following February. After 13 months heavy fighting in France, without any leave, he contracted trench fever, and was sent back to England to recuperate. As he had previously acquired some medical training in Canada he was attached to the hospital ship as a stretcher bearer, and was on his seventh voyage when it was sunk. His last letter to his father was written on June 15th, from Halifax, shortly after receiving word of his mother's death.



Pte. William F. Cates, who for three years before enlistment was in the employ of the Civic Works Department in the power section, is now known to have been a member of the crew of the Llandovery Castle. He enlisted in Toronto with the C. A. M. C. of the second contingent, and had been serving since 1915.



## WAS ON LLANDOVERY CASTLE.

Pte. Clifford H. Hoskins, formerly in the employ of the City Dairy, enlisted with the 36th Battalion early in 1915. He was 23 years of age, and prior to enlistment lived at 20 St. Albans st. His mother now lives at Castlebury, Somerset, England. His name appears in the list of those on board the ill-fated Llandovery Castle.



Pte Robert Steen served two years in No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, the busiest Canadian forward surgical unit.

## 7 MEN WITH WINNIPEG UNITS IN LIST FROM HOSPITAL SHIP



ROBERT T. ANGUS

Seven men, if not more, who went away with Winnipeg units, are believed to have been on the Llandovery Castle when sunk by a torpedo. In sending, Thursday afternoon, a list of the medical officers and orderlies who sailed from England, the militia department at Ottawa pointed out that some might have obtained leave at Halifax and thus missed the trip.

Following is a list of those known to have sailed from England on the last voyage of the hospital ship. Angus, Robert T., No. 114185. Left with the 48th Battalion, Canadian Highlanders. Father, lived at 248 Elgin Ave. with parents. Beardsley, Alfred, No. 114179. Went away with a Canadian Army Medical Corps draft. Son in England. Brimble, Burgess, No. 114186. Went away with a Canadian Army Medical Corps draft. Worked in the C.P.R. shops, lived at 220 Carlton st. Kin at 277 York st., Port William. Harvey, Geo., No. 114187. Went away with a Canadian Army Medical Corps draft. Lived at 5 Shelburne court. Kin at 200 Lake st. McDonald, Hugh, No. 114188. Went away with a Canadian Army Medical Corps draft. Lived at 181



LEWIS SHIPMAN

Garry st., worked for the T. Eaton Co. Kin in Scotland. Patten, Herbert, No. 114189. Went away with the 22nd Battalion. Kin at 110 St. Mary's. Shipman, Lewis, No. 114187. Went away with the Canadian Army Medical Corps. Worked in the C.P.R. shops. Kin at 1147 Mellick ave. Military authorities point out that numbers of men attached to medical units are the hardest of all to pick out. These drafts and units have always been small, so only few numbers have been allotted. Often a unit would run short of numbers and more would be given, so that men with different serial numbers would be attached to the same draft.

BRANDON MAN BRANDON, July 8 — The Frank Barker, of Brandon, is among the missing from the Llandovery Castle. Pte. Barker went to France with the Third Field Ambulance, came from Brandon at the outbreak of war. He served in France until last November when he was sent to England suffering from trench fever. Since February he has been travelling on hospital ships as an orderly.



Pte W.H. Sanders, a drug clerk, assisted the ship's pharmacist, S/Sgt H.P. Evans, in the dispensary.



Pte Robert Sanderson, left, was one of 15 men from New Brunswick who had transferred to HMHS Llandovery Castle from No. 16 Canadian Field Ambulance, and who were making their third trans-Atlantic run.



Pte Kelby Roseboro, left, was wounded in action while serving with No. 11 Canadian Field Ambulance.



Pte J.B. Foley was also wounded in action with No. 3 Canadian Field Ambulance.







# The Officers



LCol T.H. Macdonald, MD  
Commanding Officer



N/S Anna Stammers visited with  
her family in Saint John, NB be-  
fore the doomed return voyage.

## NURSE VICTIMS OF HUN.



Nursing Sister Mae Sampson, Dunrobin, Ont., was one of the nurses on the Llandovery Castle who has been lost. Her mother and her cousin, who live at 7 Baker Avenue, Toronto, received a letter from her from Halifax, stating that she was sailing overseas on this particular boat.

Miss Sampson was a graduate of the Hamilton City Hospital, and enlisted at the outbreak of the war. She was among the first draft of nurses that left England for France in October, 1914. A year ago she was transferred to Saloniki, and was home on leave last Christmas. After duty at Orpington Hospital last winter she was transferred to the Llandovery Castle.

Major Gustavus M. Davis, reported to have been on the boat, is a Welland doctor, who graduated from the University of Toronto in 1901. He went overseas with the first Canadian contingent, and after serving with the R. A. M. C. in France was placed on a medical board in London. He later volunteered for hospital work, according to Col. E. B. Hardy, D.S.O., of the Base Hospital, Toronto.



Maj. G. M. Davis



Capt Still was at first reported saved, but sadly this proved false.



N/S M.K. Gallaher



Nursing Sisters were trained in lifeboat drills.



Major Gus Davis, 21/C



N/S M.K. Gallaher

N/S Rena McLean

N/S Jessie McDiarmid



N/S Christina Campbell



N/S Nan McKenzie



N/S M.J. Fortescue  
Was on Lost Hospital Ship



N/S M.A. Follett



N/S C.J. Douglas

**MATRON MARGARET FRASER,** of the Llandovery Castle, whose kindness to the returning soldiers endeared her to the hearts of them all, she is a daughter of Hon. Duncan Fraser, former Lieut.-Governor of Nova Scotia.

Sergeant A. Knight, C.A. M.C., was in charge of the lifeboat assigned to the 14 nursing sisters, and a few days later made the following official statement to the writer:

"We were together in the boat about eight minutes. In that whole time I did not hear a complaint or a murmur from one of the nursing sisters. There was not a cry for help or any outward evidence of fear. I heard only one remark when the matron, Miss Fraser, turned to me as we drifted helplessly toward the stern of the ship and asked: 'Sergeant, do you think there is any hope for us?' I replied, 'No, seeing myself our helplessness without men and the sinking condition of the stern of the ship alongside.'"

"A few seconds later we were thrown into the whirlpool of the submerged after deck and the last I saw of the nursing sisters was as they disappeared over the side of the boat. It is doubtful if any of them came to the surface again, although I myself sank and came up three times, finally clinging to a piece of wreckage and being eventually picked up by another boat."

"On all sides survivors were clinging to wreckage floating about the area of the disaster. Within twenty minutes one lifeboat picked up eleven and was going to the rescue of two others when the submarine appeared and according to Major Lyon ordered them to leave these drowning men and come alongside the submarine. Previously four lifeboats containing survivors had been deliberately shelled and sunk."

**411,000 Men Overseas.**  
The Premier said that Canada had 175,000 troops in France and Belgium. Up to August nearly 411,000 men had gone overseas. This was made possible by Canada's resolve to stand by her army and provide adequate reinforcements.

Regarding the assertion that men were remaining in England who should be at the front, Mr. Robert declared: "I found no evidence of any such condition."

**Scots Issue Now.**  
"The issue," he said, in conclusion, "must be settled now and Germany must learn her lesson once for all. There must be no more inconclusive peace. Was it for nothing that the Americans went into the battle shouting 'Remember the Ladies'?" "Was it for nothing that the Hun heard the battle cry 'Remember the Llandovery Castle' when the Canadians made their onset? This is the message I bring you from the Canadian Army. Stand fast to your purpose, shatter the house and vindicate the cause of justice and humanity."

Rev. D.G. McPhail, right, the hospital chaplain, was a man of "resolute action". He had served 26 months in France ministering to the men of the 6th and 12th Canadian Infantry brigades, before being attached to No. 10. Canadian Field Ambulance.



Cayuga, Ont.—In Knox Church a memorial window has been placed in memory of the pastor, Capt. the Rev. Donald MacPhail, drowned on the hospital ship Llandovery Castle.



**CAPT. ARTHUR LEONARD.**  
He is a graduate of Toronto University, who enlisted in the A.M.C. in 1915, and commanded duties on hospital ships about a year ago. His home is at 1470 King Street West.



Two patients relaxing on deck, snug and well-attended by medical orderlies.

# The Momuments



Tablet 2 lists CAMC personnel



The Halifax Memorial (courtesy Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

The Halifax Memorial, facing the harbor mouth from Point Pleasant Park, was erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It commemorates the 3,267

Canadian and Newfoundland sailors, soldiers, merchant seamen and nursing sisters who died at sea in the two world wars and have no known grave. One of its 18 plaques bears the names of the 84 CAMC personnel from HMHS *Llandoverly Castle*, whose bodies were never recovered from the sea. Two more are remembered on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, England. The chaplain Rev. D.G. MacPhail has a monument at Lampaul Churchyard, Ile D'Ouessant, Brittany.



Tower Hill Memorial: Situated near Trinity Square Gardens, London, the Tower Hill Memorial carries the names of over 12,000 merchant seamen lost in the Great War, including 145 who went down with the sinking of HMHS *Llandoverly Castle*.



**Commemoration Ceremony**

**Halifax**

**20 June 2018**

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the sinking of the HMHS Llandoverly  
Castle,  
a Canadian Hospital Ship

by  
Lt(N) Krista Ryan, Nursing Officer  
1 Canadian Field Hospital, High Readiness Detachment Halifax

On June 20th, 2018, a ceremony was held on the Halifax waterfront at The Last Steps Memorial Arch to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of one of the most notable Canadian Naval disasters of the First World War, the sinking of the Canadian hospital ship HMHS Llandoverly Castle while enroute to Liverpool, England.

On June 27th, 1918, The Llandoverly Castle hospital ship was torpedoed by a German U-86 submarine on the order of the ship's Captain, Helmut Patzip. Various online historical accounts indicated that the ship sank within ten minutes of being struck, and the life boat that carried the 14 Nursing Sisters was pulled into the whirlpool vortex as the ship descended below the surface. All 14 Nursing Sisters lost their lives in the tragedy.



During the ceremony held on the Halifax waterfront, retired nurses of the Nursing History Nova Scotia organization attended in their civilian nursing uniforms and capes, which dated back to 1953. LCol Sheila MacLean, Commanding Officer, and CWO Greg McDonald Unit Chief of Canadian Forces Health Services Center Atlantic, as well as 1 Canadian Field Hospital High Readiness Detachment Commander, Maj Sharon Higgins, were in attendance along with 5 other currently serving Nursing Officers from CFB Halifax.

During the ceremony, LCol MacLean discussed how today's serving CAF Nursing Officers are working outside the roles which were once considered traditional. She highlighted how Nursing Officers are embedded in civilian hospitals maintaining the more traditional bedside role, but are also filling key senior leadership positions within Canadian Health Services Group and beyond. LCol MacLean believes what has not changed over the past century is the dedication and commitment of military nurses to their patients as seen in day to day work, and in military operations.

Members of the Nursing History Nova Scotia organization (Victoria General Hospital), and a currently serving Canadian Forces Nursing Officer stood to represent each of the 14 Nursing Sisters that perished in this tragedy. Each nursing representative was given a red rose as roses were a symbol for the losses of the Great War before the poppy was adopted as a symbol of remembrance in 1921. In turn, each nurse walked the pathway of the brow through The Last Steps Memorial Arch<sup>1</sup> and placed the rose into the harbour.

The Llandoverly Castle tragedy from the Great War was nearly forgotten. In an effort renew awareness of the controversial event that took place 100 years ago, a new opera has been written about the sinking of the ship and in remembrance of the Nursing Sisters that lost their lives on June 27th, 1918. It debuted in Toronto on June 26th, 2018.



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<sup>1</sup> The arch commemorates where thousands of Canadian men and women took their last steps as they embarked on ships to Europe during the First World War.







**Militi Succurrimus**