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Quebec Fire

(Continued from Page One)

Shapiro had been seen ashore. No one else could be found. This morning, search of the vessel revealed the bodies of two adults and of a child. Attempts at positive identification are now being made.

"Overnight accommodation for passengers and crew was provided at Tadoussac, at Murray Bay and at Quebec City. Transportation is being arranged to return them to their homes."

"The vessel will probably be towed to Lauzon, Quebec. Pending investigation and determination by the appropriate authorities, the cause of the fire is unknown."

Robert Rowe, of Montreal, a crewman on the Quebec, told The Star by telephone from Tadoussac that only good seamanship by Capt. Cyril Burch, veteran master of the ship, saved the passengers from what might have been almost certain death.

By this time the fire broke out shortly after 5 o'clock while most of the passengers were getting ready for dinner. He added that the smoke out of his cabin to find the ship filled with smoke that seemed to be coming from a cabin on "D" deck.

"There was no sign of panic despite the fact we were about 20 minutes from shore," Rowe said. "We could see Tadoussac quite clearly and Captain Burch turned the ship in the direction of the port with everything she would take."

"At no time did we think we wouldn't make it because although there was plenty of smoke there was no sign of flames," Rowe continued. "It was not until we got almost in that the flames started to shoot out of the ship. As soon as the smoke was out of control, the passengers went over the side with ropes, ladders, or anything they could find that would get them safely ashore."

SHIP COLLAPSES AFTER BEING CLEARED

Shortly after all the passengers were off the entire three-decked ship collapsed falling like match-wood into the ship's steel hull. Only the two smokestacks, sticking up from the ruins, remained in place.

Volunteer firemen joined the crew in fighting the fire but by the time the vessel had reached the dock it was out of control. Within an hour the ship was completely gutted.

So quickly did the passengers leave the ship there was little time to save more than the clothing they wore. Reports from Tadoussac said that little, if anything, was salvaged.

"The body of Saint John, N.B., another member of the crew, said there was no chance to lower any of the lifeboats because all of them appeared to be on fire. Aigle said that a few of the passengers were scared but there wasn't any panic. He praised the work of Captain Burch whom he said was possibly the hero of the fire."

U.S. DOCTOR DESCRIBES OUTBREAK

Dr. D. W. Bussmann of Clayton, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis, travelling with his wife and five children, had gone out on deck for the approach to the ship when he said that the boat was on fire.

"Then a woman came along and said that the boat was on fire," Dr. Bussmann reported. "I doubted that there was a fire but sure enough I saw smoke coming out of a corridor. I figured it wouldn't be long until we reached Tadoussac but I was worried."

"I told my wife and the children to keep their eyes closed so the smoke wouldn't hurt them."

Capt. C. H. Burch, 60, of St. Lambert, Que., a suburb of Montreal, ordered full speed for Tadoussac, a resort settlement built on the Saguenay cliffsides.

Passengers moved to forward and after decks and all cabins were cleared. The holidaymakers donned life-belts while members of the crew went to work with hoses and fire extinguishers.

Guy Paquet of Sillery, Que., who had boarded the ship at Quebec with his wife for a Lower St. Lawrence vacation, said that there was no panic. All was very calm. The crew got out the hoses and fought the fire but few of us saw any flames, just the smoke."

The dash to the French-speaking town of Tadoussac, at the Saguenay mouth and 40 miles down that river from Bagotville, the Quebec's destination, took just under a half-hour.

While passengers went through those anxious minutes, the smoke pouring from the cruise ship grew thicker.

PUBLISHER GIVES FIRE DETAILS

F. I. Ker, publisher of the Hamilton Spectator, holidaying at Tadoussac reported that Capt. Burch brought his ship into a jetty about 5:40 p.m. He told about the passengers evacuation, most of them making their escapes ashore by emergency ladders.

Mr. Ker said that shortly after rounding Princeps head lightship three miles east of Tadoussac after 5:15 p.m. smoke was reported issuing from a cabin window on the starboard of the S.S. Quebec about midnight.

Captain C. H. Burch sounded the alarm and speeded the ship into Tadoussac's harbour, securing her alongside the jetty at about 5:40 p.m. and evacuating all the passengers safely.

The passengers report that there was no panic whatsoever and were loud in their praise of Captain Burch and his officers and crew for the calm and efficient manner in which the situation was handled, he said.

All the ship's fire fighting equipment was immediately put into service.

No Panic on Ship

Eye-witnesses Describe Nervous Moments During Fire

Montrealer and Honeymooner Have Praise for Vessel's Crew

Experience of the passengers on board the ill-fated cruise steamer Quebec, which caught fire yesterday, are revealed in stories told by eye-witnesses. Their accounts follow:

"We were all shaken by the experience but there was absolutely no panic," Dale Bourcier, of 4032 Vendome avenue, said today in a long distance telephone conversation from Murray Bay, Que.

Mr. Bourcier, who is assistant sales manager of Calvert Distillers (Canada) Ltd., was aboard the vessel, S.S. Quebec, when the fire started last night.

Served Overseas
A veteran of four years' service overseas, Mr. Bourcier told how he had aided several persons in leaving the ship at Tadoussac. "We were all plenty scared," he admitted, "for the smoke was pretty bad."

"Everything was so efficiently run off that there was no panic at all though I didn't have time to take my baggage with me and I was only one of a large number of people in the same position."

"I saw that some persons were a little more excited than others so I tried to give what help I could in calming them and aiding them off the boat."

Mr. Bourcier said that after docking at Tadoussac he had gone by bus to Murray Bay and had immediately telephoned his wife to announce his safety.

He said that he had embarked at Montreal on Sunday night on a business trip.

On Honeymoon
Garth Husk, of Actonville, Que., told The Star that he and his wife were on the Quebec when the fire broke out. He was on his honeymoon. Mr. Husk said: "We were in our cabin when we heard someone shout to get out of the lifeboats and get out of there."

"That was enough. My wife and I rushed out of the cabin with the things we had on and our life belts. The ship was on fire and the people were rushing down to the lower decks and the main lobby."

"The fire started right above our cabin which was number C-21 on the portside. It seemed to have originated either in a linen closet or in a stateroom similar to ours."

"Someone said at some time during the rounding up of the passengers that the fire was under control but this was soon denied."

"There was really no panic aboard the ship but quite a few people showed signs of great concern. The ship was on fire and the main lobby on D deck."

Trousseau Lost
"We lost everything except our money. My wife (the former Elsie Gwynn of Crofton, Que.) lost her whole honeymoon trousseau, and her only coat now is a ship's blanket. We were married Saturday at Crofton."

"We did not hear any alarm, and streams of water were poured upon the ship, inside and outside, for some two hours after the ship had docked, Mr. Ker reported."

"The fire was confined to the upper decks. Then it spread to the lower decks and the engine room. The engine room crews who had stuck to their posts to the last minute, were forced to leave the ship. After this the fire spread rapidly."

"When the ship was seen to be in distress as she approached the dock, C. H. Etches, manager of the Canada Steamship Lines Tadoussac Hotel, and his staff immediately began preparations for reception and relief of the passengers. They were taken from the dock to the hotel in buses and cars and immediately supplied with food, coffee, and other comforts. Tadoussac is a small picturesque French-Canadian village on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River at the mouth of the Saguenay River, some 140 miles below Quebec," Mr. Ker said.

Ottawa Orders Immediate Probe
The Star's Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA, Aug. 15—An order to proceed immediately with a preliminary investigation into the fire which struck the cruise ship "Quebec" at St. Simeon, yesterday was issued today by the Hon. Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Transport.

Captain D. R. Jones, of Ottawa, principal examiner of masters and mates is chairman to hold a preliminary inquiry under the provisions of the Canada Shipping Act. He will be assisted in his preliminary investigations by P. G. Gagnon, Sorel, Que., of the Board of Steamship Inspection.

The Weather
Montreal, Ottawa, Laurentian, St. Maurice, Lake St. John: Sunny today, becoming cloudy tonight. Wednesday cloudy with a few sunny intervals. Widely scattered showers or thunderstorms at evening and evening. Little change in temperature. Light winds today, southwest 15 Wednesday. Low tonight and high Wednesday at Montreal 60 and 80, Ottawa 55 and 80, Ste. Agathe 50 and 75, La Tuque 50 and 75, Chicoutimi 45 and 70.

Temperatures: The spell of fine summer weather continues unbroken today. Temperatures have gradually returned to seasonal values after the recent cool spell. This morning's map gives indications of the end of the settled weather. Scattered showers over the northern Great Lakes area are expected to move into Quebec late Wednesday. Little change in temperature is anticipated.

McGill Observatory Weather Record: Temperature at 11 a.m. today, 75; maximum temperature yesterday, 75; minimum, 51; maximum, same date last year, 80; minimum, 50; same date last year, 63; mean, same date last year, 70; barometer, at sea level, at 8 a.m. today, 30.16; 11 a.m. today, 30.12; lowest yesterday, 30.12 at 11 a.m.; humidity at 8 a.m. today, 76; at 11 a.m. today, 50. Sun rises tomorrow at 5:55 a.m.; sets tomorrow at 8 p.m. D.S.T.

TEMPERATURES: Min. Max. Montreal 55 71 Port Arthur 53 60 Dawson 53 63 S. S. Marie 58 70 Pt. Rupert 53 63 White River 52 72 Pt. George 43 66 Kapuskasing 57 78 Vancouver 49 70 North Bay 49 70 Victoria 54 62 Muskoka 49 77 Kamloops 58 68 Miramichi 62 70 Penticton 58 80 Windsor 62 70 Jasper 47 67 London 52 78 Edmonton 42 74 Toronto 49 73 Ottawa 50 78 Lethbridge 58 75 Quebec 57 71 Med. Hat 52 61 Saint John 54 74 Charlottetown 51 64 Moncton 54 74 Pt. Albert 47 74 Halifax 59 69 Sackville 54 76 Charlottetown 51 64 Regina 61 69 Yorkton 59 71 Winnipeg 59 71 Yarmouth 53 76 Churchill 44 51

Minimum temperatures observed between 8:30 p.m. and 8:30 a.m. EDT; maximum temperatures observed between 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. EDT.

Princess

(Concluded from Page One)

any children born to her brother, Prince Charles.

Princess Elizabeth herself was third in the line when she was born 24 years ago. The death of her grandfather, George V, and the abdication of Edward VIII—now the Duke of Windsor—put her father on the throne and made her heiress-presumptive. Edward, too, ranked third when he was born.

Elizabeth is known as heiress-presumptive rather than heiress-apparent because if a son were born to her mother, Queen Elizabeth, he would become first in line of succession. It is officially presumed, however, that there will be no further children borne to the King and Queen.

"It's a Girl,"
The King Messages

BALMORAL, Scotland, Aug. 15—(Reuters)—The King had ready in advance a batch of telegrams to flash to all Commonwealth countries the news of the birth of his latest grandchild. He left a space for the word "boy" or "girl."

As soon as the news came from Clarence House, the King's private secretary filled in the blank, and Governments of the Commonwealth were told: "It's a girl."

Official Message Sent From Ottawa

OTTAWA, Aug. 15—(C.P.)—Canada's congratulations and good wishes were conveyed to Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh today on the occasion of the birth of the Royal Princess.

Viscount Alexander dispatched a message on behalf of the Canadian people, expressing "most sincere congratulations, together with our loyal and devoted good wishes on this happy day."

Prime Minister St. Laurent, on behalf of the Government, sent a message to Princess Elizabeth, expressing "warm congratulations on the birth of your daughter."

"We send, too," he said, "our best wishes for the health of yourself and the infant Princess."

Mr. St. Laurent also sent a message to the King and Queen. Text of this message was not disclosed.

Salutes Fired By Canadian Units

OTTAWA, Aug. 15—(B.U.P.)—The 75-millimetre guns of the 30th Field Regiment boomed the Royal salute of 21 guns from Parliament Hill at noon today, marking the birth of a new British Princess.

As the last gun blast echoed away the bells of the Peace Tower carillon pealed out a musical salute to Princess Elizabeth's second child.

Similar salutes sounded across the nation. The Navy's two major ships, the aircraft carrier Magnificent and the cruiser Ontario were directed to fire salutes at a time set by their officers. Reserve units at all 10 provincial capitals and at Vancouver fired salutes at noon.

LEARNING COSTS MORE

MIDDLEBURY, Vt. — (U.P.)—Records show that one George Hyde, during his junior year at Middlebury College in 1929, spent only \$37.82, including \$20 tuition, for his education. He now spends more than \$1,000 to spend a year at the school.

New Succession To British Throne

(Continued from Page One)

The new order of succession to the Throne of England:

1. Princess Elizabeth, 24, the heiress-presumptive.

2. Prince Charles, her first-born, now 21 months old.

3. The new Princess.

4. Princess Margaret, 19, daughter of King George VI.

5. The Duke of Gloucester, 48, brother of King George VI.

6. Prince William Henry Andrew Frederick, Gloucester's first-born.

7. Prince Richard Alexander Walter George, six on Aug. 26, Gloucester's second son.

8. The Duke of Kent, 14, nephew of the King. The Duke's father, brother of the King, was killed in a plane crash in Scotland in 1942 while on war service.

9. Prince Michael George Charles Franklin, eight, brother of the Duke of Kent.

10. Princess Alexandra Helen Elizabeth Olga Christobel, 13, the Duke of Kent's sister.

The line runs on through various relatives of the King.

Chinese Reds Take 2 Islands

TAIPEI, Formosa, Aug. 15—(U.P.)—A Nationalist spokesman said today the Chinese Reds have seized two small islands off the coast of Foochow, central China.

He said the Communists evidently want to secure their coastal waters for shipment of supplies toward the staging area of any eventual attack on Formosa.

The Reds occupied Atlantic Island, at the mouth of the Min River, on Aug. 12, the spokesman said. In recent weeks, he said, they occupied Fuyin Island, a little farther north.

They are fortifying both islands, he reported, contrary to their usual practice of hitting such small islands, mopping up the anti-Communist guerrillas there, and withdrawing.

Nationalist planes patrolled the skies over Taipei last night and this morning. Chinese intelligence had received a tip that the Reds might bring out their infant air force and raid Taipei. Up to mid-morning, however, there were no signs of Red planes.

Ottawa Fireman Hurt During Storehouse Fire

OTTAWA, Aug. 15—(C.P.)—One fireman was injured early today and more than \$3,500 damage caused when fire swept through a wooden storehouse in West Ottawa.

Des Dubroy, 35-year-old fireman, suffered possible head and chest injuries when a wall collapsed. Lumber and plumbing supplies stored inside the structure were destroyed.

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CREW OF SHIP SAVED

MARSEILLE, Aug. 15—(Reuters)—All crew members of the French freighter Violent, abandoned in flames off the Arabian coast, have been rescued and landed at Aden, operators of the vessel said here yesterday.

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