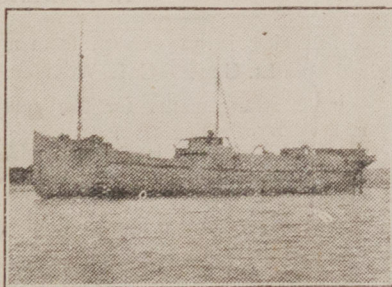


S. S. MAIN.

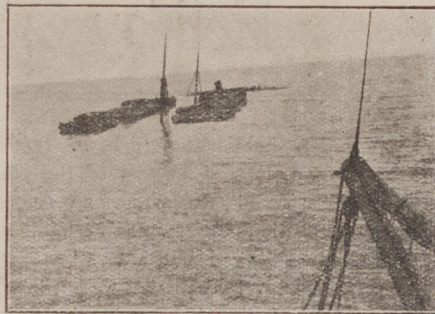


Low Water after First Lift.

The s.s. *Main*, now in the Dry Dock, was sunk by gunfire from a German submarine on the 7th August, 1917, just as she was coming to anchor in Luce Bay. All the members of the crew were drowned excepting the captain, who was washed ashore in an unconscious state, and who never recovered from the shock, dying two years later. The Ardrossan Salvage Co., Ltd., was entrusted with the work of salvaging the wreck. Mr Thomas, who was at one time manager in this shipyard, was in charge of the operations. Many obstacles were met with and overcome. One great obstacle, which for a time hindered the work, was the phosphorus stowed on board, and which had been intended to be used for making smoke-screens. The tins in which this substance had been stowed had corroded away, leaving the phosphorus exposed, with the consequence that as soon as it was dry it burst into flame and gave off suffocating smoke; another and bigger difficulty was the soft nature of the bottom on which the vessel was lying. At one period of heavy weather she sank 10 feet in 14 days into the mud.



High and Dry at Drumore.



Taking Second Lift with Barges and Submarines, one Submarine being completely out of sight.

The weather too, was very bad during the time of the salvage operations. As the ship was in light condition when she was sunk she silted up, and great inconvenience was experienced in pumping her out and floating her on her own buoyancy. The vessel was lifted in 5 lifts, from 10 fathoms of water. Old disused submarines, with two 100 ton balloons, inflated and fixed below the submarines, and light barges, were used in lifting her. After the s.s. *Main* was floated she was carried five miles, beached first at Sandhead, then floated and taken to Drumore where the necessary repairs for the passage to the Clyde were executed. The ship was taken straight to Greenock, where the main boiler and donkey boiler were removed ashore, and she was afterwards towed to Ardrossan. By a curious coincidence the vessel was sunk on the 7th August, 1917, and she arrived at Greenock on the 7th of August, 1920.

We are now repairing her, and the good work started by the Ardrossan Salvage Co., Ltd., will be carried on and finished by us.



Safely Moored in Ardrossan.

WS83-0123

Lloyd's Register
Foundation

Holiday Camp at Lamlash.

The Camping holiday, to which we were all looking forward, is now a thing of the past; but it can be truly said that we had a very good time together. The weather was certainly not all that could be desired, but, after all, we were fortunate in the lovely days that we got for the main events of the week, namely, the Sports meeting and the Inspection of the Corps. The members of the advance party should have the greatest grudge against the weather conditions, as they had a very trying time erecting the "canvas city," on account of the persistence of rain and wind. There is nothing we can do to alleviate the conditions in such circumstances, but, as I stated in addressing the Company previous to leaving Camp, we are all very grateful for the good work put in by the advance party.

We were exceptionally fortunate in the beautiful situation in which the Camp was pitched; the view from the Camp was magnificent, and, as one of our visitors remarked, the view from the camping ground was worth coming to see. The only drawback to the Camp was the limited amount of space available as a parade ground, but this did not give rise to much difficulty, as there was ample scope on the golf course adjacent for training purposes.

With regard to the question of training carried out during our stay, it is to be regretted that the inclemency of the weather interfered to a considerable extent; nevertheless some useful work was done, and when we did have rain, the dining tent was extremely useful as a lecture room. I have no doubt some of the Cadets appreciated the dining tent much more after the "cook house" bugle call than during a lecture, but we must remember that, even in wet weather, every advantage has to be taken during the yearly Camp for instructional purposes. While on the subject of training, I would just like to say that I have every reason to be gratified with the work done by both the Ardeer and Ardrossan Companies

and this work culminated in the splendid appearance of the combined companies, which was inspected by Lieut. Gen. Sir C. Woolcombe, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Inspector of Cadets, on last Friday of our stay at Lamlash. The General was extremely pleased with the appearance and general bearing of all members, and was particularly struck by the fine physique of the boys. We are all very apt to have nervous anticipations of such things as inspections, the realisation very often does not bear out previous anxieties. This can truly be said of our inspection while at Camp. General Woolcombe's splendid personality and genial disposition immediately allayed any nervous feelings, and I am sure all the Cadets were proud of the words the General said to them, and will strive their best to keep alive the real spirit of the Cadet movement.

From what I have seen of the Ardrossan Company, I feel sure that, after Capt. Hamilton and his officers have had time to impart the necessary discipline and instruction, "E" Company will be a formidable one in the battalion.

Officers and Cadets of "E" Company, before bringing these few lines to a close, I should like to express, through the medium of this paper, my pleasure in being with you all during the camping period, and to convey my thanks to all who worked so ungrudgingly for the benefit of the boys.

We were fortunate in having the Ardrossan town band with us: we are all indebted to Pipe-Major Miller and his band for their services.

A. D. BLACK

The following is an excerpt from a letter received from Lt.-General C. L. Woolcombe:

"All arrangements for the camp were satisfactory.

"The Company is camped with a full complement and shares all arrangements of the Ardeer Cadet Corps.

"The boys are a fine-looking healthy lot, and have good officers, and Capt. Hamilton will make a very fine Corps Captain."

"I recommend recognition."

