

Tragic Bereavement

Of Limerick Families

Loss of SS. "Kerry Head."

It has been learned in authoritative circles that, according to the reports of four witnesses, a vessel sank about 1.15 p.m. on 22nd October about five miles west of Sheep's Head, County Cork, following a land explosion.

The witnesses state that they saw an aircraft flying over the vessel, and that the vessel sank immediately after the explosion. The description of the vessel corresponds to that of the Kerry Head.

The Kerry Head left Limerick on the 21st for Newport, Monmouthshire, and is now presumed lost. The vessel was the property of Messrs Mullock and Sons, coal importers, Limerick. She carried a crew of 12, five of whom were Limerick men.

The following comprised the crew:—

Captain Charles Dimmond, an Englishman.

Richard Byrne, High street, Wickiow, first mate

Stephen McMahon, Scatterry Island, Co. Clare, second mate.

William Davidson, Carrickfergus, Antrim, chief engineer.

George Nicholl, do, second engineer.

Thomas Begley, Harstodge st., Limerick

George Naughton, 4 Windmill street, Limerick.

James Naughton, do.

Patrick O'Neill, 89 Henry st., Limerick.

John Tobin, 55 Distillery House, Limerick.

Michael McMahon, Scatterry Island.

James Wilson, Carrickfergus.

John Tobin, who was cook on the ship, was aged about 50. He was a married man with five children, and was well known to our men all over the country owing to his long connection as boatman to Limerick Boat Club. It was his first voyage on the Kerry Head.

George and James Naughton were brothers, unmarried, but were the main support of their family.

Begley was a young married man and had leaves a widow and three children.

The fifth Limerickman, Patrick O'Neill, was single, but was the support of his widowed mother and sister.

The two McMahons were cousins.

Richard Byrne, of Wickiow, was a married man.

News of the loss of the Kerry Head was broken to the afflicted relatives by the local clergy.

The vessel was built in 1913, and was 350 tons gross.