More about the Titanic emerges

WE HAD a remarkable response to our Limerick Chronicle article on the sinking of the Titanic.

Thank you all who contacted us on the matter.

We had carried the first-hand story of a Limerickwoman, Nellie O'Dwyer, as told at the time to a local paper in America, as researched by Des Ryan, and we asked for further information from our readers. Many people contacted us merely to say that they enjoyed the story, eighty years to the month after the

sinking of the Belfast-built vessel.

But special thanks to the eminent Limerick antiquarian on American social affairs, Steve Thompson of Lisnagry, who was in a position to provide us with exact contemporary data of the fateful day as garnered by the Marconi wireless station at Cape Race, Newfoundland. And he provides us with the unfolding story as received by the newsdesk of the New York Times from 25 minutes past midnight on the morning of Monday, April 15th, 1912. MARTIN BYRNES takes up the story:

RICHARD Attenborough made his film Raise the Titanic, the cost overrun was so great that many people suggested that it would have been cheaper to lower the Atlantic.

Yet, such is global fascination of that disaster of eighty years ago-and amazing battle greatest between the machine ever built versus the awesome force of nature in the form of an iceberg-that new information, or previously unavailable news is constantly in demand.

Particularly as there were so many Limerick people on board-two-thirds of them drowned or 'missing'.

The distress signal, C-Q-D was flashed from the Titanic as soon as the extent of the damage to the 882ftlong vessel was first suspected. The signal was detected by the Marconi station at Cape Race, and was answered by a number of ships, notably the Carpathia. That was 25 minutes after midnight.

Seventeen hours and 55 minutes later, 'Vaite Star Line, her owners finally admitted that the ship was lost and that only the 865 people picked up from boats after an eight-hour wait by the Cunarder, Carpathia, were likely to be alive, with a probable loss of about 1,250 souls.

Prior to that time, White Star infuriated the American public by refusing to admit anything other than that all on board were totally safe.

Hours after the holed leviathan was on the ocean floor, her owners were adamantly assuring anyone who would listen that the ship was unsinkable.

Not only that, but they said that she would probably make port under her own steam or, at worst, towed by the liner Virginian.

This is how the story progressed, starting with the technical difficulty of get-

ting information "As the day developed, however, with no new reports from the Titanic or any of the ships which were known to have responded to her wireless call for help, it became apparent that authentic news of the disaster probably could come only from the Titanic's sis-

ter ship. the Olympic. The wireless range of the Olympic is 500 miles. That of the Carpathia, the Parisian and the Virginian is far less and, as they neared the position of the Titanic, they drew further and further out of shore range, From the Titanic's position at the disaster, it is doubtful if any of the ships, it that many had died and presumably, Mr Franklin admitted the fear that there had been a terrible loss of life on the Titanic. - New York Times.

"A wireless message picked up late tonight, relayed from the Olympic, says that the Carpathia is on her way to New York with 866 passengers from the steamer Titanic aboard. They are mostly women and children, the message said, the message said and it concluded: Grave fears are felt

Boston, agency update.
"There were about 2,100

for the safety of the balance

of the passengers and

crew.

persons aboard the Titanic. The Leyland liner, California, is remaining and searching the position of the disaster, while the Carpathia is returning to New York with the survivors. It can be positively stated that, up to 11 o'clock tonight, nothing whatever had been received at, or heard by the Marconi station here to the effect that the Parisian, Virginian, or any other ship had picked up any survivors, other than those Carpathia." by

Marconi, Cape Race.

"Another version of the mesage from the Olympic was current last night and included the sentence: Loss likely total, 1,800 souls. This sentence was not in the message received by THE TIMES from Cape Race, nor in that sent to the White Star offices.

- New York Times.

The earliest list of names radioed to shore included first-class survivors only, many being listed as Mrs So-and-so 'and maid'. We have little reason, if any, to believe that any of the Limerick passengers were travelling in such luxury.

However, Boston later picked up an incomplete supplementary list, and there may be a couple of

The New York Lines.

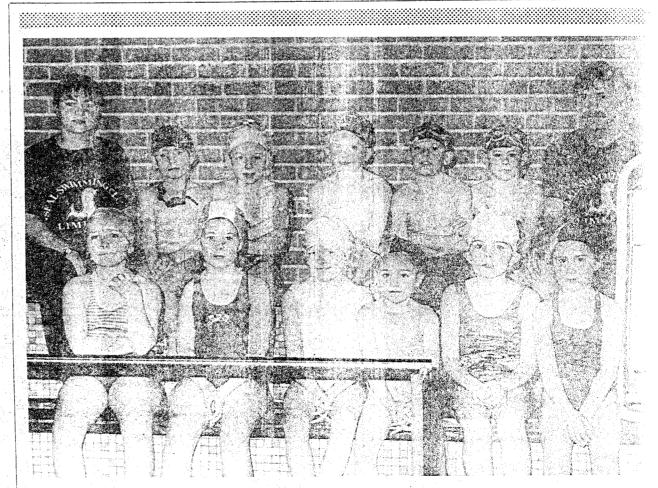
TITANIC SINKS FOUR HOURS AFTER HITTING ICEBERG 866 RESCUED BY CARPATHIA, PROBABLY 1250 PERM ISMAY SAFE, MRS. ASTOR MAYBE, NOTED NAMES MISS



Limerick names here: Mr and Mrs L Henry Mrs W A Hooper Mr Mile Mr J Flynn Miss Alice Fortune

Mrs Robert Douglas

Miss Hilda Slater Mrs P Smith Mrs Braham Miss Lucille Carter Mr William Carter Miss Cummings Mrs Florence Mare Miss Alice Phillips Mrs Paula Munge Mrs Jane -Miss Phyllis O -Howard B Case Miss Minehan Miss Bertha



Seal Swimming Club swimmers from the green class who received their awards from the National Safety Council, water safety section. Front left to right: Clara O'Meara, Jennifer O'Sullivan, Sarah Hyland, Beth Treacy, Jean Halpin, Martine Gilinane. Back left to right: Shona McNamara, Seal instructor; Rafie Keane, Jason Ryan, Cian Kelly, Liam O'Malley, Alexander McLanes, Michael McNamara, Sea: Swimming Club.

more than seven hours after the Titanic had sunk. - P A S Franklin, vicepresident and general manager, International

except the Olympic, could

establish communications with shore."

- New York Times writ-

Through the day, attempts

were being made to commu-

nicate with the three lesser

ships. This, even though

they were clearly out of

range:
"Until such communica-

tion was established, the

White Star officials refused

to recognise the possibility

that there were none of the

Titanic's passengers aboard

The master of the

Olympic was one Captain

Haddock. By nightfall he

had co-ordinated informa-

tion from the other ships

within radio range and sent

a message ashore to the

effect that the Titanic had

indeed foundered and that

655 people had been res-

cued from lifeboats by

Carpathia, which, the mes-sage said, had reached the

position at dawn. The sinking was given at 2.20 am.

Marconi, Cape Race.

It calculated that neither

the Parisian nor the Vir-

ginian could have reached

the location before 10am,

- New York Times.

Mercantile Marine. It is unbelievable that the Carpathia should have failed to have picked up every lifeboat which still floated on the waves. If they failed to pick up more than 655 passengers it was because the others of the ship's compliment had gone with her to the bottom.

first admission by White Star that 1,465 lives may possibly be lost.

"But it was not until nearly nightfall that the full extent of the disaster was realised. Before that, the reassuring nature of the bulletins issued by the White Star line was sufficient to quiet the fears of those who aboard the unfortunate ship, and to prevent widespread belief in a serious disaster,"

New York Times writ-

"Throughout the day, there had been reassurances that the Titanic was being towed to port by the Virginian, and, when Captain Haddock's message proved this to be untrue only, the admission was made at the White Star offices that the Titanic had sunk. Mr Franklin (who had absolutely refused to make Captain Haddock's message public) said that Captain Haddock's message was brief and neglected to say that all the crew had been saved. But the inference was not that all the passengers had been saved. Rather was