

TWO BRITISH VESSELS BLOWN UP AND SUNK

The Deptford Hit Without Warning Off Scarborough—Western Coast Lost in Channel.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The steamer Deptford has been sunk by a mine or a torpedo off Scarborough.

The small British coasting steamer Western Coast also has been sunk by a mine or torpedoed in the English Channel at a point off Beachy Head. The crew landed at Portsmouth today.

One sailor lost his life when the Deptford went down in the North Sea at 3 o'clock yesterday morning. The fifteen other members of the steamer's crew were saved and were landed at South Shields at an early hour this morning.

The engineer of the Deptford says he was on duty in the stoke hold at the time the explosive in the torpedo head or in the mine rent the Deptford in twain. He says he saw a flash of blue flame shoot up from the bottom of the ship and through her deck. The force of the explosion threw him down and stunned him. He managed to reach the deck, however, as the vessel was heeling and just as the lifeboat was being launched.

It was the carpenter of the Deptford who lost his life. After hours in an open and leaking boat in a snowstorm which caused them to suffer acutely, the men said they signaled a steamer, but no notice was taken of their appeal. Later, however, they encountered the steamer Fulgens, which picked them up and brought them into South Shields.

Some members of the crew said they saw the wake of a submarine after the Deptford was struck.

The Admiralty tonight issued a memorandum of the number of arrivals and sailings of overseas steamers of all nationalities at and from United Kingdom ports during the present year. The memorandum shows that from Feb. 18, when the German blockade began, until Feb. 24, 708 vessels arrived and 673 sailed.

The Admiralty also gave out the following list of British vessels which have been "sunk by German submarines":

The steamers Canbank, Downshire, Branksome Chine, Oakby, Rio Parana, Western Coast, and Harpalion.

It says that the steamer Deptford probably struck a mine.