

**WRECK OF A TORPEDO-BOAT DESTROYER
GREAT LOSS OF LIFE**

A deplorable naval catastrophe occurred on Wednesday morning. H.M.S. Cobra, turbine boat destroyer, was on her way from the contractors' yard at Newcastle to Portsmouth in charge of a navigating party under Lieut. BOSWORTH-SMITH, when she was totally wrecked on the Outer Dowsing Shoal, off the Lincolnshire coast. She broke in two very shortly after striking. An attempt was made to lower the boats but as a severe gale was blowing at the time and the sea was very heavy all of them save one, were swamped. The dinghy with 12 survivors on board was picked up by the P and O steamer Harlington on Wednesday evening and they were landed at Middlesbrough. As, including the navigating party, artificers in the contractors' employ, and stevedores, there were nearly 80 men on board the Cobra, it is feared that over 60 lives have been lost. A number of dead bodies have been recovered and brought to Grimsby.

The Cobra is described as the fastest vessel in the world, having been fitted with the steam-turbines like the Viper, which was lost in the recent manœuvres. These ill-fated sister ships were the only turbine vessels in the British Navy.

A telegram yesterday says: 67 out of 80 souls on board the Cobra have been lost, including her commander Lieut. BOSWORTH-SMITH.

This is the most serious wreck in connection with the British Navy since the Victoria went down.

Lieut. BOSWORTH-SMITH died at his post like the gallant officer and gentleman that he was.

MESSAGE FROM THE KING

The King has wired to the Admiralty "Please express my deepest and most heartfelt sympathy with the relatives of all those on board the Cobra in the grievous loss they have suffered. I trust there may yet be more survivors."

THE LOSS OF H.M.S. COBRA
To the Editor of the IW County Press

Sir, ---I feel it my duty, through the medium of your columns, to call attention to the terrible distress which must necessarily result from the loss of H.M.S. Cobra. At least 67 officers and men drowned, of whom 44 belonged to the Royal Navy. I would remind you that the scale of pensions which the Admiralty provide is altogether inadequate. They range from 6s.6d. to 3s.6d. per week for widows, with 2s. or 1.6d. per week for each child. Obviously it is simply impossible for a poor woman to maintain herself and her family respectably on such a small sum. The Admiralty pensions must therefore be augmented from outside sources, and it is to procure the money to enable this to be done that I am making this appeal to the inhabitants of this great Empire. As the loss of H.M.S. Cobra is a national disaster I feel sure that the nation will recognise its duty towards

those who have not only lost their loved ones but who will now have to face a grinding poverty unless the country in whose service their husbands or fathers lost their lives comes forward to their assistance. I shall be pleased to acknowledge any donations forwarded to me at the Town Hall, Portsmouth, and can assure you that the amount collected will be so administered as to afford the greatest relief where it is most needed. ---Yours faithfully,

A. Leon EMANUEL,
Mayor.

Portsmouth, Sept 25th 1901.

Researched by
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