

# 500 Persons Perish as Boat Sinks

## THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

THE WEATHER  
Unsettled

PART ONE  
NEWS SECTION  
PAGES ONE TO TEN

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### RUSH TO WATCH FILM MADE EASTLAND UPSET

Eye-Witnesses Tell Police Movie Operator in Launch Attracts Attention of Passengers.

### ALL SWEEP OVER TO SEE HIM

Gauge Tender Describes His Experiences Escaping from the Steamer.

### FRANTIC WORK AT THE PUMPS

CHICAGO, July 24.—That a sudden rush of persons on the deck of the Eastland to port side to look at a speeding launch caused the catastrophe, was the assertion of Jack Elbert, gauge tender of the steamer.

He said he and J. M. Erickson, chief engineer, escaped drowning by wading through water in the hatch and crawling out of a porthole into the river.

"The steamer, Eastland, was kept stable by means of a water ballast system," Elbert said. "Water is pumped into the chambers in the ship until it becomes steady. This was done before even freight is taken on board. The first thing I heard this morning was that the Eastland began to lean to starboard. Erickson, the chief engineer, was in charge of the pumps used to pump water into the chambers."

### Jump Into Water.

"He said, 'Boys, steady her up a little,' and then we pumped water into the other side until it was up even and all right. We had just evened it up when a launch came down the river and past the Eastland, and the crowd rushed to port side to look at it. The weight on one side apparently proved too much, and the Eastland began to list badly.

"We worked frantically at the pumps to try to bring it back."

Eye-witnesses informed the police that there was a man in the launch operating a moving picture camera, and that this attracted the attention of passengers on the Eastland, who rushed to one side of the boat.

Shortly after 3 p. m. the temporary Red Cross station at Reid, Murdoch & Co. was filled to capacity with bodies, the total there being estimated at 80. The Second Regiment armory at Washington and Curtis streets was also opened and a morgue and it was announced that if necessary the coliseum on South Washburn avenue would also be used.

A baby less than 1 year old was taken alive from the hull of the boat by rescuers at 1 o'clock this morning. Spectators on the Clark street bridge cheered as the infant was raised from the steamer's hold. It was said the child would live.

### All Bodies Above Water Line Out.

At 2:30 p. m. Dr. M. K. Little of the Red Cross service announced that all the bodies above the water line and within easy reaching distance had been brought out and that divers were searching the wreckage and staterooms on the side of the vessel nearest the bottom.

The Red Cross station, which for a time was used as an emergency hospital, now has been turned into a morgue and attempts to revive those brought out practically were abandoned.

The work of rescue went on with monotonous precision. Eight divers equipped with underwater suits and helmets searched the holds of the vessel, aided by a dozen or more volunteer swimmers, who, clad in bathing suits or tripped to their underwear, dived time after time into the murky water.

As quickly as a body was located it was seized with strapping hooks and brought to the surface. "There's one," would be the cry and usually this would be followed by the call "It's a woman."

Summer gowns and flimsy torn to shreds, scratched faces and clenched hands were the rule. The rescuers for several hours suffered from the heat of the hull, caused by the furnaces of the boat.

As fast as the bodies were brought out of the hull they were laid on stretchers and covered with blankets. A tug moored between the wreck and the dock worked a bridge. The stretcher bearers passed between two piers, one of whom gave attention to the bodies.

### The Weather

For Omaha, Council Bluffs and Victoria—Unsettled, probably showers; not much change in temperature.

Temperature at Omaha Yesterday:  
7 a. m. 68  
8 a. m. 68  
9 a. m. 68  
10 a. m. 68  
11 a. m. 68  
12 m. 68  
1 p. m. 68  
2 p. m. 68  
3 p. m. 68  
4 p. m. 68  
5 p. m. 68  
6 p. m. 68  
7 p. m. 68  
8 p. m. 68  
9 p. m. 68  
10 p. m. 68  
11 p. m. 68  
12 m. 68

Comparative Local Record:  
1915 1914 1913 1912  
Highest yesterday 79 80 83 87  
Lowest yesterday 56 56 55 58  
Mean temperature 68 68 68 68  
Precipitation 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00  
Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal at Omaha since March 1 and compared with the last two years:  
Normal temperature 71  
Deficiency for the day 3.1  
Total deficiency since March 1 1.5  
Normal precipitation 14.1  
Deficiency for the day 14.1  
Total deficiency since March 1 14.1  
Deficiency since March 1 14.1  
Deficiency for year period, 1914, 2.87 inches  
Deficiency for year period, 1915, 1.70 inches

## Unstable Vessel Turns Turtle at Chicago Dock, Going Down With Load of Women and Children

### Western Electrical Company's Employees to Number of 1,500 Drown Without Chance

CHICAGO, July 24.—Loaded with 2,500 excursionists, employees of the Western Electrical company and their families, the steel steamer, Eastland, capsized at its dock in Chicago river today. Six hours after the accident the police had checked 679 bodies as recovered, and best estimates were that 1,500 men, women and children had perished. By some the number was placed even higher, but evidence to substantiate such figures was lacking. Scores who escaped drowning were hurt in the panic that marked the disaster.

City, county, state and federal officials worked to learn the cause of the disaster to recover bodies of victims, trace missing persons and aid the injured. In this they were assisted by every agency that the city could summon, hospitals, mercantile concerns, physicians, churches and organized charities lending their organizations or experience to the work.

### Awful Panic on Deck.

Panic of the worst kind struck the passengers when the boat began to turn over. Best accounts of witnesses said the steamer rolled slightly twice, then turned further, and that hundreds of screaming, struggling men, women and children slid across the sloping deck, fought for room on the companion ways and clutched at companions, deck chairs, or any other object that came to hand.

Women and children by the hundreds were caught below decks and the scratched faces, torn clothing and bruised bodies of the dead bore mute evidence of the desperation with which they had fought for a chance for life.

The whole tragedy occupied less than five minutes. Members of the crew shouted warnings as the steamer first tilted and Captain Pederson ordered lower deck ports opened and all passengers ashore. There was, however, no chance for such a measure to succeed.

Some seven thousand tickets had been distributed for the excursion and five steamers chartered by the company. The Eastland was first to receive its quota, and when its chartered capacity was reached, federal inspectors ordered that no more be taken aboard. The boat was docked on the south side of the river, and when the hundreds hurrying to the boat were turned back from it they streamed across the Clark street bridge to the steamer Theodore Roosevelt, which was to take the second load.

### Near Panic on Bridge.

Screams from the Eastland halted this rush and the bridge was jammed with people until police, fearful that the structure would collapse, ordered it cleared.

Every resource of the city was turned to the rescue work. Remembering the Iroquois theater disaster, mercantile concerns in the vicinity hurried motor trucks to the scene laden with blankets to warm the living or cover the dead. Pulmonologists by the score were sent to the dock; physicians, police, firemen, government life savers and nurses were summoned and all hospitals and morgues notified to prepare for patients or corpses.

The steamer floated on its side into mid-stream and tugs, motorboats and other river craft swarmed about it. Firemen climbed on the hull, forced openings in the steel hull and through these searched the cabins for possible victims.

City fireboats, police launches and life-boats from nearby steamers in the river rushed to the rescue. A hole was cut through the side of the lower deck by firemen and the bodies of six victims, five of whom were women, were soon taken out.

### Decks and Cabins Crowded.

L. D. Gador, employed as a "candy butcher" on the steamer, was the first eye-witness to tell a detailed story of the accident.

"It was about 1:40 o'clock this morning and the boat, which had been chartered by the employees of the Western Electrical company for an excursion to Michigan City, Ind., was lying at the dock near Clark street bridge loading with passengers," said Gador. "We were to leave in twenty minutes and the upper deck and cabins were crowded with passengers. There were hundreds of women and children. I estimate that there were between 2,000 and 2,500 on the boat at the time of the accident. I was standing on the lower deck near the gangplank watching the people come aboard. Suddenly I noticed the boat list toward the center of the river. It rolled slightly at first and then seemed to stop. Then it started to roll again. I became alarmed and shouted to the crowd to keep still. Apparently a majority of the passengers were on one side of the boat and this had overweighed it and caused it to list. Suddenly the hawsers which held the boat to the dock snapped and the officers pulled the gangplank in and refused to allow any more on the boat."

Passengers Panic-Stricken.  
"At that time everybody was panic-stricken. Women screamed and men tried to quiet them. I attempted to reach an upper deck, but could not because of the crowd and excitement and ran back to the port where the gangway had been. The boat then slowly drifted away from the dock, rolling as it slipped into mid-stream, and a moment later it had turned

### Partial List of the Known Dead

- RASPAR LALINE, Jr., 9 years old.
- ROY PETERSON, 4 years old.
- CAROLINE MARY DEADDA, 20.
- MRS. CARRIE DETAMBLE, 77.
- M. W. SHARPER, 19.
- M. O. SLEICK.
- MARY C. McGLYNN.
- MISS ANNE KOMMER.
- MISS ANDERSON, N. C. 19.
- MRS. JOSEPH SCHULTZ, 20.
- HESTER V. PORTER, 24.
- FRANK RIBBING, 25.
- MRS. CLARA MILLER, 28.
- MICHAEL ROWELL, 24.
- EDWARD ARKO.
- JETHROW REEL, Jr.
- FORA SCHROEDER.
- CARRIE APPEL.
- ANNA RUDOLPH.
- ROMAN SLOVINSKY, 20.
- JOSEPH H. JONES, 40.
- WILLIAM STEINMANN, 25.
- GEORGE E. SCHMIDT.
- EMIL ST. JEAN, Cicero, Ill.
- J. McGINNLEY.
- MISS SARINA SCHULTZ.
- JOHN OLSON.
- JOHN SAKYVORSKI.
- MISS K. ALLEN.
- T. HULLIHI.
- HARRY JOHNSON.
- MADEI SHAFER.
- W. WASHINGTON.
- WALTER PRACZYNSKI.
- H. BROCH.
- IGNATY CZERNOWSKI.
- PAULINE ZATANKA.
- THOMAS STEGMA.
- J. SCHINTZ.
- MARIE K. QUINERLOCK.
- EDWARD TIEBER.
- ELINORE OWER.
- THOMAS ROBINSON.
- JOHN SAKYVORSKI.
- ROBERT DOLL.
- MISS MARGARET CHRISTIANSON.
- FRANK RYAN.
- CATHERINE SHERIDAN, 12 years.
- MISS H. GREGOROVIAK.
- MISS S. E. KASPAR.
- D. MURPHY, 12.
- MISS ROSE THOMAS, 28-Cicero, Ill.
- MRS. CLARA ORLINKIK.
- WALTER KRAHNICK.
- PATRICK O'REILLY.
- C. S. PIERCE.
- MRS. IDA JOHNSON.
- MARGARET SWANSON, 18.
- MISS ANNA VERILLA, 20 years, Cicero.
- OTTO MRIES.
- H. C. WALLER, Oak Park.
- GEORGE BOROWSKIE.
- MARTHA JOHNSON, Cicero, Ill.
- MRS. CARRIE HANSON, 20.
- MISS LILLIE NEUMANN, 11.
- MISS ANNA PESCH, 21.
- ANNA PESCH.
- MRS. HARRY ARKO.
- MISS MARY REED, 11.
- MISS MARY McLANE, 22.
- CARRIE B. DAFBLO.
- T. JOHNSON.
- MRS. MARTHA HOFFMAN, 22.
- MRS. ALBERT UNDERHILL, 20.
- MRS. JOHN SCHWARTZ.
- H. A. SAUER, 10.
- MARY COOPER.
- CHARLES BLOCK, 21.
- JAMES NOVOTNY, 24.
- F. A. DOFFERMAN, 28 years.
- EDWARD H. GARNER.
- CHARLES PETERSON, Jr., 11 years.
- MRS. MINNIE ROSE, 45 years.
- MISS CONA OSTEROTT, 22 years, Cicero, Ill.
- ROSE MOOLET.
- IDA ZOBEXEKIE.
- FRED JOHN EHRHART, 22 years.
- MRS. ANNA BRENNAN, 22 years.
- ARNOLD MARTIN GREEN, 15 years.
- LEWIS H. JOHNSON.
- THOMAS ROSE.
- JULIA SCHNOLL.
- MILLIE SCHNOLL.
- FRANK ROSE.
- MRS. JULIA JORSKA, 17 years.
- MARTIN QUVAE, 23 years.
- FRANK RYAN.
- MAMIE JUNGWITZ, 17 year.
- MAMIE JUNGWITZ, 17 years, Cicero, Ill.
- EMI HIECK.
- MRS. IDA JENSON.
- LOUISER RALANIK.
- LOUISER THEIL.
- WILLIAM FENLION, Morton Park.

### MEXICO CITY IS IN HANDS OF INDIANS

Two Hundred Reds of Zapata Forces Are in Possession of the Capital.

### ALL BUSINESS HOUSES CLOSED

MEXICO CITY, July 19. (By Courier to Vera Cruz.)—The city is in the hands of a band of 200 Indians. Zapata forces, in retreating, have torn up the railroad to Cuernavaca and Toluca. All business houses and bakeries are closed and even the well-to-do find difficulty in buying food. The relief committee is unable to help and the lack of food is being keenly felt. There is no communication with the outside world, except by courier.

### Places of Business Give Shelter to the Survivors of Horror

CHICAGO, July 24.—Stores and wholesale houses in the vicinity temporarily housed the survivors and proffered coffee and sandwiches. One big concern turned its restaurant in South Water street into an information bureau and relief station. Here came relatives and friends tearfully seeking information. Saloon keepers among the crowd obtained names of those missing and their relatives.

Dr. J. B. Murphy, Dr. John F. Golden and former Health Commissioner Evans, prominent physicians, had charge of the medical relief station at the temporary stations.

### Two Cities Searching For a Missing Child

MASON CITY, Ia., July 24.—(Special Telegram.)—A battalion from the Second regiment today joined in the search for missing baby Goldthorpe, lost, stolen or drowned. All theories are being thoroughly investigated. The parents hold to the theory that the child was kidnapped. A half hour before the disappearance of the child an auto stopped in front of the residence. Others believe the child was killed by a reckless driver and the body carried away. Two cities are joining in the search.

### Tornado Wrecks Buildings at Boone

BOONE, Ia., July 24.—(Special Telegram.)—A tornado passed through Boone county tonight, doing thousands of dollars damage. Buildings were unroofed, elevators blown over, silos and trees laid low. The roof of the Boone Gas company boiler house was torn off, carried through the air and dropped on top of the big gas holder. Men there sustained minor injuries.

### Chicago Mayor Now On Way Back Home

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., July 24.—William Hale Thompson, mayor of Chicago and his party, about eight in all, will leave on a special train late tonight for Chicago, foregoing the Chicago day celebration Tuesday at the Panama-Pacific exposition, which brought them here.

### HOLIDAY ENDS IN A DISASTER FOR MULTITUDES

Excursion Ship Eastland Rolls Over and More Than Thousand Die Few Feet from Land in Chicago River.

### 700 BODIES ARE REMOVED

Several Taken Out Alive from Cabin of Ship After it Had Lain on Side for Hours.

### BOAT FAULTY IN ITS DESIGN

CHICAGO, July 24.—Coroner Hoffman at 8 o'clock tonight estimated the number of bodies to be taken to the Second Regiment armory at 1,500. Of these he said 800 had already reached the armory from morgues and other places where they were first taken.

CHICAGO, July 24.—More than 1,000 persons, possibly 1,300, most of them women and children, were drowned today within a few feet of land by the capsizing of the steel steamer Eastland, as it was about to leave its wharf in the Chicago river with 2,500 relatives and friends of employees of the Western Electric company, for an excursion across Lake Michigan. The ship rolled on its side in twenty-five feet of water within five minutes after it began to list.

Coroner Spring tonight declared that 1,300 persons were killed, while other estimates ran as high as 2,000, but these did not agree with the statement that not more than 2,500 passengers were on board the vessel. During the day more than 700 bodies were taken from the river and the hull of the oven-turned steamer, whose sides were cut open with gas flames to admit divers.

### Wilson Will Plan National Defense

WASHINGTON, July 24.—Formal announcement was made at the White House today that President Wilson on his return to Washington will confer with Secretaries Garrison and Daniels on a program for national defense. The president has written to the heads of the War and Navy departments for reports on the subject, pointing out the necessity for working out plans for increasing the efficiency of the military arms of the government.

### Facility in Design

Marine engineers asserted that the Eastland was faulty in design, that the top deck had been removed, because of the tendency of the ship to list and also pointed to the possibility that the hull had been unevenly, or insufficiently ballasted. The Eastland used water ballast, so that it could pump out some of entering shallow lake harbors, and investigators are working on a theory that the ballast tanks were not filled and the rushing of passengers on one side of the decks caused it to roll overboard.

Under misty skies, 7,000 men, women and children went to the river wharf early today to fill five large lake steamers with holiday mirth in a trip to Michigan City. The steamer Eastland, brought to Chicago from Lake Erie, after an unsatisfactory career, was the first to be loaded.

### Does Not Judge

Then the passengers swarmed to the left side of the ship, as the other steamers drew up the river towards the wharf. A tug was hitched to the Eastland, ropes were ordered cast off and the engines began to turn. The Eastland had not budged, however.

Instead, the heavily laden ship wavered side-ways, leaning first towards the river bank. The lurch was so startling that many passengers joined the large concourse on the other side of the decks. The ship then keeled back. It turned

### The Day's War News

FROM ALL SIDES except the east Teutonic armies are continuing their concerted pressure on Warsaw, the fate of which still hangs in the balance. Direct assaults upon the fortresses protecting the city are weakening the defenses, the Germans claim. They are hammering especially hard upon Inzow.

GERMAN CAMPAIGN in Courland is admittedly progressing favorably to the invaders.

THERE IS HARD FIGHTING along the Bug near the Galician border. Both Austrians and Germans declare the results so far are satisfactory. Petrograd reports indicate a desperate resistance by the Russians.

A NEW AMERICAN NOTE to Germany was not published in the Berlin morning newspapers and the trend of German opinion regarding it is unrevealed.