

Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser - Monday 13 December 1915

Biggest British Ship

The Britannic, the biggest British ship afloat, has just reached the Mersey from Belfast, where she was built. She is of 48,000 tons, built for the White Star Line, and has been taken over by the Admiralty as a hospital ship. With the Aquitania and Mauretania, she will keep up a continuous hospital ship service of boats.

Derby Daily Telegraph - Thursday 23 November 1916

The Loss of the Britannic - No wounded on board. Only the crew and hospital staff.

The Admiralty announces:- Referring the communiqué of yesterday. There were no wounded on board the hospital ship Britannic. The number consisted solely of the ship's crew and hospital staff.

Western Daily Press - Friday 24 November 1916

Britannic Survivors - Over 200 reach Athens - Athens, Wednesday.

A destroyer arrived last night with 150 officers and other survivors of the Britannic on board. In addition, there were 80 nurses, some of whom have been sent to the Russian hospital, while others have been distributed in various hotels at Phalerum.

According to reports current here, the victims of the disaster number 100, including about 30 members of the crew. The British Minister, Sir Francis Elliot, has visited the injured.

Nottingham Evening Post - Saturday 25 November 1916

The Britannic - German Press Admits Torpedoing.

A Copenhagen telegram says:- In contrast to the statement appearing in the Lokalanzeiger, the Keiler Zeitung declares that the Britannic was torpedoed, and adds the following evidently inspired comment: "The Britannic was transporting fresh troops for our enemies. If she had not been doing so our submarine would never have torpedoed her." This comment is signed by the editor.

Western Times - Saturday 25 November 1916

The Britannic's Complement – Press Bureau, Friday, 7.50pm

The Secretary of the Admiralty makes the following announcement:- In View of the remark in the German wireless that the "large number of persons on board (Britannic) is extraordinarily striking, which justifies the forcible suspicion of the misuse of the hospital ship has now been accurately determined, and is as follows:- Crew, 625; medical staff 500; total, 1,125.

The medical staff consisted of the following: R.A.M.C. ranks and rating officers, 25; nurses, 76; sergeants, hospital orderlies, dispensers, laboratory attendants, operating-room attendants, skiographists, nursing orderlies, clerical staff, 399; total, 500. – Press Association.

German Denial - Amsterdam, Friday.

An official Berlin telegram, signed by the Chief of the Naval Staff, says the Britannic was not sunk by a German submarine. - Reuter.

Liverpool Echo - Saturday 25 November 1916

The Britannic, Admiralty reply to allegation, A German denial, Vessel not sunk by a U Boat.

It is understood, says the "Times" that a financial credit has already been given by the British Government to the Oceanic Steam Navigation Company in respect of the Britannic.

Presumably the Britannic, which was built for a particular service, would not have appreciated in value to the same extent as other tonnage since she was completed in 1915, The value place on her in shipping circles is about £2,000,000.

Liverpool Echo - Tuesday 28 November 1916

The Britannic - No Proof that it was torpedoed. Captain's ordeal in the water an hour and a half.

A report has now been received from the Vice-Admiral of the Eastern Mediterranean on the sinking of the Britannic.

The inquiry which has been held has not been able to establish whether the vessel was sunk by mine or torpedo, there being considerable conflict of evidence. The Admiral reports also that the behaviour of the crew and hospital staff was exemplary.

Captain Bartlett, who was the last to leave the ship, was 1 and half hours in the water before being picked up. The Admiral expresses his gratitude to Vice-Admiral Barriens, of the French Navy, for the assistance readily given, and also to the French vice-consul at St. Nicole, near Lazaridas, and his staff for providing clothes and refreshments.