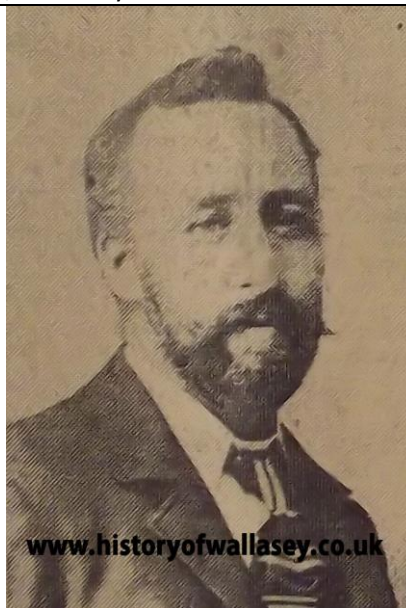


Surname	Wawn
Forename	Frank
Initials	F
Age	62
Honours/Awards	
Date died	10/04/1915
Rank	Master
Regiment	Mercantile Marine
Unit/Squadron	"Harpalyce."
Service Number	
Cemetery/Memorial	Tower Hill Memorial
Grave Reference	
Further Information	Son of Robert Splifford Wawn and his wife Elizabeth Sarah Webb; husband of Hedwig W. Wawn, of 97, Brighton St., Wallasey.



News Report

How Germany Makes War

Seacombe Captain's Fate

Germany's submarine war added another and particularly atrocious crime to its story on Saturday when the London steamer Harpalyce was torpedoed off the Dutch coast and sunk with the loss of a dozen or more lives. The vessel was commanded by a Seacombe man, Captain F. Wawn, of 97, Brighton Street, who, unhappily, is not among the survivors.

The Harpalyce, a steamer of 5,940 tons, belonging to Messrs. T. and J. Harrison, was chartered by the Belgian Relief Commission. She had discharged her cargo at Rotterdam and was making for an English port in ballast but was still protected by the Commission's distinctive flag. There could be no possibility of her being mistaken got a vessel of another character, and the crime well merits the description of "a particularly cold-blooded murder" which has been given to it.

The steamer was sunk seven hours after leaving Rotterdam, without warning of any kind. The torpedo struck the starboard side of the ship, which sank five minutes after being hit. She carried a crew of 42, of which eight were British, one Dutch, and almost all the others Chinese. The survivors number 27 or 28. When his vessel was struck, Captain Wawn was in his cabin. He immediately rushed out and ordered the boats to be lowered, but there was no time to execute the order.

Captain Wawn, who was 46 years of age, he had held commands since 1902, when he became master of the Lennox, belonging to Messrs John Warrack and Co., of which he had been chief officer for the previous seven years. In 1904 he joined the Bedouin Steam Navigation Company, commanding successively the Sheikh and Dragonman. He entered the service of Messrs. T and H Harrison two years ago as master of the Harpalyce, sailing between Melbourne and San Francisco., and retained command of the vessel when it was chartered by the Belgian Relief Commission. HE leaves a widow and two children.

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

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