

# ONE MAN LOST, 10 HURT.

## FLYING BOAT STRIKES NAVAL LAUNCH.

(From Our Correspondent.)

PLYMOUTH, Thursday

One man is missing, believed to be drowned, and ten others were injured, one seriously, when a giant R.A.F. flying boat came into collision to-day with a naval dockyard launch in Plymouth Sound.

The accident occurred near the scene of the disaster in 1931 when nine of the crew of a similar machine lost their lives. The mishap was seen by hundreds of people on the Hoe at Plymouth, and within a few moments emergency speed boats set out from Mount Batten Air Station, and fishing vessels in the vicinity rushed to the spot.

It is understood that the accident occurred when the flying boat was taking off. It had been engaged in exercises for half an hour, and had alighted on the water and was about to rise again when the tip of one wing came into collision with the launch.

The flying boat heeled over and immediately began to sink.

The members of the flying boat crew were in a closed-in cockpit. They succeeded in opening the sliding roof and in the few seconds that elapsed before the fuselage sank all but one of the crew had scrambled to safety.

### ONE MISSING, 10 INJURED.

The 'plane was an Iris aircraft of No. 209 (Flying Boat) Squadron. An Air Ministry statement says Leading Aircraftman Alfred Dore Slatter is missing, believed to be drowned, and Leading Aircraftman (Acting Corporal) F. L. Petch sustained severe injuries.

The first pilot of the machine Squadron J. H. O. Jones, and the following members of the crew sustained slight injuries: Corporal H. S. B. Mace, A.C.I. Norman William Watson, A.C.I. James Douglas Frederick Williams, L.A.C. Francis Joseph Soper, and L.A.C. Ernest Alfred Fuller.

The second pilot, Sergt. Pilot J. H. C. Saffery, was not injured.

Three members of the crew of the launch were injured. They were swept off their feet when the wing of the flying boat struck the deck of the launch. They are: W. Ellis, Grassendale Avenue, Plymouth; G.

Stibbs, Tenby Street, St. Budeaux, Plymouth; and N. Shade (coxswain), George Street, Devonport.

### "ALL OVER IN A FLASH."

An eye-witness of the accident, Mr. A. J. Widdecombe, of Constantine Street, Plymouth, said to a reporter, "The flying boat was taxiing along as though she was going to rise again, but she seemed to come into contact with some obstruction in the water. I saw her tilt over and one wing disappeared into the sea. The other wing gradually assumed a vertical position and from a distance looked like the sail of a yacht."

A passenger on board a steamer bound from London to Liverpool, which was at anchor in the harbour close to the scene of the mishap, said that less than three seconds elapsed between the time of the collision and the disappearance of the flying boat.

"It was all over in a flash," he said. "The wing of the flying boat seemed to touch the deck of the launch, and then in the twinkling of an eye the machine had heeled over and was sinking.

"As it was disappearing I saw the crew climbing out through the fuselage, and they hung on to the submerged wing until rescued by a whaler which was launched by H.M.S. Weston."

In the accident of February, 1931, the flying boat, Iris III, struck the water in a steep dive when about to alight after firing practice. Only three of her crew of twelve escaped.

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## THE FRENCH LINER FIRE.

### SMALL CANS IN CABIN AND FOUL PLAY RUMOUR.

CHERBOURG, Thursday.

The reported discovery of two small cans in cabin 232 where the fire broke out in the Atlantique has given rise to foul play rumours.

The police do not attach any importance to the discovery, similar objects being common to six other cabins.—Reuter.