

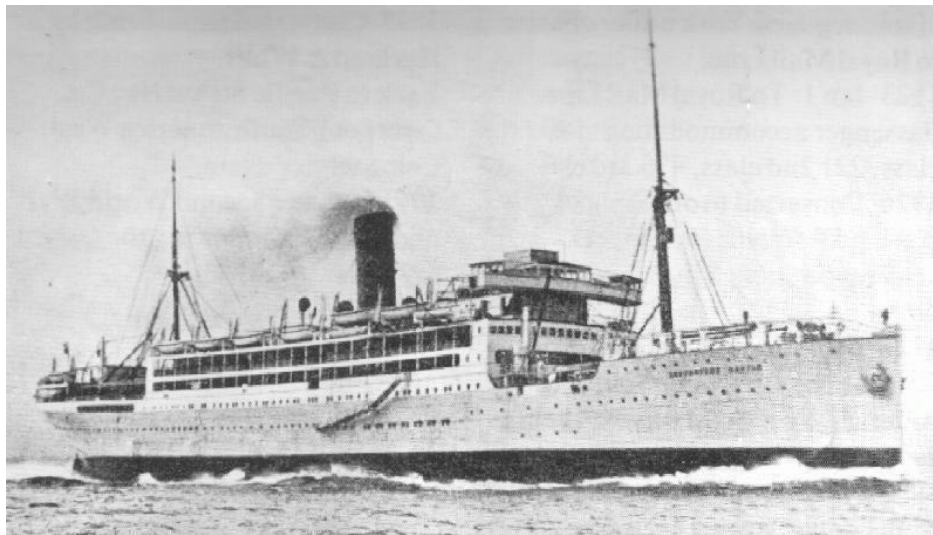
## The Tragic Sinking of the Llandoverly Castle

On June 27, 1918, the Canadian hospital ship HMHS *Llandoverly Castle* was sunk by the German submarine, U-86, off the Irish coast after delivering over 600 wounded and sick Canadian soldiers to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The torpedo hit the engine room, knocked out the radio, and prevented the sailors from making a distress call. The ship sank in less than ten minutes. 97 Canadian medical personnel, of whom 14 were nursing sisters directed by Matron Margaret Marjory Fraser, were aboard; they were only a portion of the 258-person crew.

The sinking violated international laws that protected hospital ships from attack. Protection was ensured if these ships did 3 things. First, their hull must be painted with Red Cross markings. Second, they must not travel in a convoy (a group of ships), and third, during the nighttime a hospital ship must have its bright red and green lights on. According to survivors, *Llandoverly Castle* was alone, the running lights were on, and it had a red cross painted on its hull.

The torpedo immediately killed or injured an unknown number, but the survivors launched as many as five lifeboats. One lifeboat was sucked into the sinking ship's whirlpool but at least three got away. What happened next was unimaginable. U-86 surfaced and attacked the lifeboats. Only one boat escaped; it carried the Captain and 23 crew members who were rescued two days later. The British navy search of the area recovered only corpses.

After the war the U-boat commander and two officers were charged with war crimes. The commander escaped punishment, but two lesser officers were found guilty and sentenced to prison.



For more information, see:

i- The Case of Llandoverly Castle: Was Justice Served? (Valour Canada website)

<https://valourcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Case-of-Llandoverly-Castle-v2020.pdf>

ii- Canadian Naval Review Journal Article (4 pages – Daniel Demers website)

<http://danieldomers.com/SINKING-THE-LLANDOVERLY-CASTLE.pdf>

## Lost in the Atlantic: Survival Puzzle

### The Scenario:

You are aboard HMHS *Llandoverly Castle* almost a thousand kilometres off the coast of Ireland when it is sunk by the German U-boat 86 (27 June 1918). The ship is quickly sinking. It appears that there is very little chance for you and your friends to survive.

However, after deciding not to give up so easily you and your friends split up to scavenge some gear. Within sixty seconds you have found an inflatable life raft as well as a **box of matches** and decide that you should prepare the raft for escaping from the ship once your friends return. Within moments of inflating and then launching the dinghy (raft), your friends are tossing equipment to you. One has salvaged eight items; another scored four. Your other friends return empty-handed, but perhaps there is a chance for your group after all!

**For this scenario, assume 3 things:** (i) that U-86 has departed and is not a threat, (ii) that your ship's location was unknown when sunk, and (iii) that you, your friends, and your life raft are all that's left.



### The Task:

**Part 1**, as an individual, you have 5 minutes to complete Part 1 (see over) by providing a ranking to the 12 items, with “1” being the most important, “2” being the second most important, “3” the third, and so on, all the way to the least important (ranked “12”). It may be best to write a few notes describing your reasoning beside each item.

**Part 2**, as a group, you have 15 minutes to complete Part 2 (see over) by ranking the same list of items as a Group. (Note: all members of a group should have the same rank #'s)

**Part3**, record the professional sailor ranking (Part 3). Then figure out your score (Part 4) and your team score (Part 5). (5 minutes)

**Lastly**, take a moment to reflect upon the challenges of the activity and the advantages/disadvantages of working as an individual or within a group. Be prepared to discuss.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Salvaged Items:

ITEM	Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4 (You)	Part 5 (Group)
	Your rank	Group's Rank	Pro's Rank	Difference between Part 1 & 3	Difference between Part 2 & 3
2 boxes of chocolate bars					
A shaving mirror					
A compass					
Full container of water (25 L)					
A case of army rations (food)					
Maps of the Atlantic Ocean					
Bottle of rum (80% alcohol)					
Oil/gasoline mixture (10 L can)					
Nylon rope (5 m)					
Opaque plastic sheet (6 x 6 m)					
Shark repellent (Yes, this is real!)					
An ocean fishing kit & pole					
TOTAL	NA	NA	NA		

Note: "Differences" are always a positive number.

How did you do?

Did you and your friends survive?

Did your group do better or worse than yourself individually?

**Scoring:**

**Over 62**

You are fish food!

**51-62**

You barely survived after a last second rescue. 2 in your group didn't make it.

**41-50**

Thirsty, ravenous, and many pounds lighter. 1 in your group didn't survive.

**32-40**

You're all worse for wear and tired, but the group all survived. Not bad.

**24-31**

Above average survival skills. Nice work!

**0-23**

Just another day at the office and home in time for dinner!

Adapted from:  
"Lost at Sea"  
G. Knox  
[www.insight.typepad.co.uk](http://www.insight.typepad.co.uk)

ITEM	Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4	Part 5
	Your rank	Group's Rank	Pro's Rank (Answer)	Difference between Part 1 & 3	Difference between Part 2 & 3
2 boxes of chocolate bars					
A shaving mirror					
A compass					
Full container of water (25 L)					
A case of army rations (food)					
Maps of the Atlantic Ocean					
Bottle of rum (80% alcohol)					
Oil/gasoline mixture (10 L can)					
Nylon rope (5 m)					
Non-transparent plastic sheet (6 x 6 m)					
Shark repellent (Yes, this is real!)					
An ocean fishing kit & pole					
TOTAL	NA	NA	NA	_____	_____

Note: "Differences" are always a positive number.

ITEM	Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4	Part 5
	Your rank	Group's Rank	Pro's Rank (Answer)	Difference between Part 1 & 3	Difference between Part 2 & 3
2 boxes of chocolate bars					
A shaving mirror					
A compass					
Full container of water (25 L)					
A case of army rations (food)					
Maps of the Atlantic Ocean					
Bottle of rum (80% alcohol)					
Oil/gasoline mixture (10 L can)					
Nylon rope (5 m)					
Non-transparent plastic sheet (6 x 6 m)					
Shark repellent (Yes, this is real!)					
An ocean fishing kit & pole					
TOTAL	NA	NA	NA	_____	_____

Note: "Differences" are always a positive number.