

Lebanese emigrants on board of the Titanic memorial day

The tell tale of every emigrant from every corner of the globe who took a voyage with the vision of new beginnings and new futures. Some of us made it, and made many dreams come true .But for those who embarked on the maiden voyage of the RMS Titanic in 1912 they never made it to safe shores. All our thoughts will go to them on Sunday the 11th of April at a special ceremony held in Cobh, the town that is previously known as “Queenstown” . It was the final port of call for the Titanic 123 passengers who boarded from Ireland on the 11th of April 1912 with only 44 that survived the ill fate of the ship. Cobh is an ancient strategic port that has a long sea faring tradition but in Ireland people recall Cobh as being the point where an estimated 2.5 million Irish men and women left to America from 1848 till 1950. Cobh is for this reason and from the fact that it was the port were the passengers who drowned at sea were last seen alive is the most fitting site to commemorate and reflect on the lives of all those who were lost at sea. Once again this year the Irish Lebanese Cultural Foundation will be present at the ceremony to remember the passengers who boarded from Cherbourg.

The Irish and Lebanese shared the same hall in the ship and had the same ambition to begin a new life in America. Although the movie “the Titanic” depicted the “ Craic” on board in a beautiful Irish dance scene and the Lebanese passengers were merely summed by those two words :“yalla, yalla” or “come on” in Arabic. But on board of the Titanic there we three new wed among the Lebanese and the party spirit was at peak. One can imagine the electric atmosphere when they merged with the Irish. The Lebanese were 154 passengers of whom only 29 survived. It has been reported by survivors that after the men were separated from their families they danced to the rhythm of a “Mehjwez” their national dance “Dabke” till the fatal end. The villages of Hardin lost 11, Kfarmichki 13, Tibnine 6 of its young population. Many other villages like Shweir, Zghorta, Sirhill have had their share of the loss too. This was devastating news to those villages when on the morning of the 15th of April the catastrophe made the headlines worldwide. Sunday the 11th of April the bugler will play the Last post and reveille to honour those brave men and women. A prayer will be said, a tear will be shed as their names will be read. This annual event is organised by Cobh Tourism in conjunction with Cobh Town Council and O.N.E the Irish veteran organisation that has among its members numerous peacekeepers who served in Lebanon in 58 and again from 1978 till 2001.

Compiled by : Guy Jones, Chairman of the Irish Lebanese Cultural Foundation, researcher and lecturer on Irish and Lebanese History.

Sources: Ray Hanania Arabs on Titanic: We Share the Pain But Not the Glory//Ms Leila Salloum Elias from the Australian Lebanese Historical Society//**Robert Fisk** Lebanese wait in vain for the Titanic payout//**Lebanese Army magazine** “Hardin” article. **Guy Jones** Lebanon and Ireland in History.



Figure 1 Irish Passengers on the quay in Cobh 1912



Figure 2 Lebanese Survivors

List of Lebanese passengers:

ABRAHIM, Mrs Mary Sophie Halaut	18yo	Ayn Arab	S
ALBIMONA, Mr Nassef Cassem	26yo	Shanai	S
ASSAF, Mrs Mariana	45yo	Kfar Mishki	S
ATTALAH, Miss Malake	17yo	Beirut	K
AYOUB DAHER, Miss Banoura	15 yo	Kfar Abida	S
BACLINI, Mrs Latifa	24yo	El Shweir	S
BACLINI, Miss Marie Catherine	6yo	El Shweir	S
BACLINI, Miss Eugenie	3yo	El Shweir	S
BACLINI, Miss Helene Barbara	1yo	El Shweir	S*
BADT, Mr Mohamed	40yo	Tripoli	K
BARBARA, Mrs Catherine David	45yo	Kfar Mishki	K
BARBARA, Miss Saiide	18yo	Kfar Mishki	K
BETROS, Mr Tannous	20yo	Zgarta	K
CARAM, Mrs Maria Elias	18yo	Kfar Mishki	K
CHEHAB/SHIHAB, Mr Emir Farres	29YO	Beirut	K
DOHERR ,Tannous		Kfar Abida	K (cousin of Banouna)
ELIAS, Mr Joseph jr.	15yo	Kfar Mishki	K
ELIAS NASRALLAH, Mr Tannous	22yo	Kfar Mishki	K
GERIOS THAMAH, Mr Assaf	21yo	Kfar Mishki	K
HANNA, Mr Boulos	18yo	Hardeen	K
HANNA, Mr Mansour	35yo	Kfar Mishki	K
HANNAH, Mr Borak	27yo	Hardeen	S
IBRAHIM SHAWAH, Mr Yousseff	33 yo	Beirut	K
JABBOUR,Mr Mehssen		Kfar Sghab	S
JOSEPH (SHAHIN), Mr Elias	33yo	Kfar Mishki	K
KHALIL, Mr Betros	25yo	Hardeen	K
KHALIL, Mrs Zahie "Maria"	20YO	Hardeen	K
KHABBAZ KHALIL,Ms Shahshua		Kfar Sghab	S
KARAM,Saleh		Kfar Sghab	S
KARAM,Saleh Nahnua Ms		Kfar Sghab	S
LAHOUD ISHAQ MOWAD, Mr Sarkis	30yo	Zgarta	K
LAHOUD HADDAD,Ms Karima		Kfar Sghab	S
LEENI, Mr Fahim ("Philip Zenni")	22YO	Tula	S
MAMEE, Mr Hanna	20yo	Tripoli	S
MOUBAREK, Mrs Omine	24yo	Hardeen	S
MOUBAREK, Master Gerios ("George _")	7yo	Hardeen	S
MOUBAREK, Master Halim Gonios	4yo	Hardeen	S
MOUSSA, Mrs Mantoura Boulos	35yo	Hardeen	S
MOUSSELMANI, Mrs Fatima	22yo	Tibneen	S
NAJIB KIAMIE, Miss Adele "Jane"	15yo	El Sweir	S
NAKHLI, Mr Toufik	17yo	Hardeen	K
NAKID, Mr Sahid	20yo	Zgarta	S
NAKID, Mrs Waika "Mary"	19yo	Zgarta	S
NAKID, Miss Maria	1yo	Zgarta	S*
NASR ALMA, Mr Mustafa Farm	20yo	Tibneen	K
*NASRALLAH, Mr Niqoula	40yo	Zahleh	K
NASRALLAH, Mrs Adele 2nd Class	14yo	Zahleh	S
NASSR RIZQ, Mr Saade	20yo	Ser'al	K
NICOLA YARRED, Miss Jamila ("Amelia Garrett")	14yo	Al Hakur	S
NICOLA YARRED, Master Elias ("Louis Garrett")	14yo	Al Hakur	S
NOFAL, Mr Mansouer	20yo	Kfar Mishki	K
PETER / JOSEPH, Mrs Catherine (Rizk)	24yo	Ser'al	S
PETER / JOSEPH, Master Michael J.	4yo	Ser'al	S

PETER / JOSEPH, Miss Anna ("Mary Joseph")	2yo	Ser'al	S
RAZI, Mr Raihed	30yo	Tibneen	K
SAAD, Mr Amin	30yo	Tibneen	K
SAAD, Mr Khalil	27yo	Tibneen	K
SAMAAN, Mr Hanna	40yo	Hardeen	K
SAMAAN, Mr Elias	17yo	Hardeen	K
SAMAAN, Mr Youssef ("Joseph")	15yo	Hardeen	K
SEMAN, Master Betros	10yo	Hardeen	K
SHUMAR, Ms Ghalia		Kfar Sghab	S
SHUMAR, Ms Habbouk		Kfar Sghab	S
SHUMAR, Mr Elias		Kfar Sghab	S
SHUMAR, Ms Martha		Kfar Sghab	S
SHAHINE, Mr Peter		Kfar Sghab	S
Shawneene Mr George Whabee		Kfar Abida	K (cousin of Banouna)
THOMAS, Mr Charles R'ad	31yo	Hardeen	K
THOMAS, Mrs Thamine "Thelma"	16yo	Hardeen	S
THOMAS/TANNOUS, Master Assad Alexander	5months	Hardeen	S
TORFA, Mr Assad	20yo	Tibneen	K
TOUMA, Mrs Hanna Youssef	27	Tibneen	S
TOUMA, Miss Maria Youssef (Thomas)	9yo	Tibneen	S
TOUMA, Master Georges Youssef (Thomas)	8yo	Tibneen	S
WAZLI, Mr Yousif Ahmed	25yo	Tibneen	K
YASBECK, Mr Antoni	27yo	Hardeen	K
YAZBECK, Mrs Selini "Celiney"	15yo	Hardeen	S
YOUSSEFF (ABI SAAB), Mr Gerios	45yo	Hardeen	K
YOUSSEFF (SAM'AAN), Mr Gerios	28yo	Hardeen	K

K=Killed

S=Survived