

BREST EXPLOSION

The great port of Brest, ravaged by war, suffered another catastrophe when the cargo of Ocean Liberty went up in a tremendous explosion. Loaded with nitrate the vessel was on fire in the hold. She was ~~at once~~ taken in tow, to get her out of the harbour, lest there should be a repetition of the Texas City disaster. But before she was out of harm's way the thing happened. / ^{Temporary} Harbour installations, only

~~recently put up to replace war damage, were laid flat.~~

The port looked as if it had a saturation air raid.

For miles round windows were shattered, and the explosion-shock was felt in Cornwall, a 120 miles away.

Parts of the ship were hurled into streets far from the dockside. Twenty one people were killed, two hundred and fifty injured.

Five thousand temporary houses were destroyed. It was a cruel blow for Brest, just ^{beginning} ~~starting~~ to recover from the war.