

26 DIE IN LEBANON SHIPWRECK

Off the coast of Lebanon the French ship "Champollion" lies wrecked on a sand bank, and ashore work begins to bring off the 328 people on board. The ship's captain tells the passengers and crew to swim ashore if they wish. Twenty-six are drowned in the attempt but many manage to reach safety through the raging seas.

Small boats set out through the huge breakers to try and rescue those still aboard the stricken ship, many of whom are pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land.

The "Champollion" is already cracking in half as passengers desperately swarm down rope ladders to the launch which, through the day, makes repeated trips while other boats pick up those who still attempt the swim ashore.

At last all the survivors are brought to safety. The inspiring heroism of the seamen who went out to the rescue saved hundreds who, otherwise, might have perished in one of the worst shipwrecks in the Mediterranean in recent years.

SHIPWRECK

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Off the Lebanese coast giant waves pound the French cruise ship Champollion, capsized on a sand bar. Rescue operations begin on shore to save the three hundred and eighteen people aboard. The ship's captain tells passengers and crew they can swim ashore if they wish. Twenty six lose their lives in the attempt, but dozens others survive the turbulent waters and reach safety.

Small boats brave breakers and hidden rocks to find survivors ~~from the~~ from the Champollion, loaded with pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land. Only one boat, a motor launch piloted by a heroic Lebanese seaman, reaches the Champollion, now cracking in half from the relentless sea.

You can see passengers climbing down a rope ladder to the launch. All day the motor launch makes repeated trips to the ship, while other boats pick up dazed and exhausted swimmers. At last the remaining passengers and crewmen are brought to shore, but the twelve thousand five hundred ton Champollion is one of the worst wrecks in the Mediterranean in recent years.