

LIFESAVING MEDALS



Stewardesses of the *Carpathia* after presentation of their medals (Julia Cservenka is second from left)

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A well-documented pair of Carpathia Medals, 1912, both in bronze, presented to **Julia Cservenka** and to her future husband **Vernon Livermore**, who subsequently survived the sinking of the *Lusitania* and served in both World Wars; together with Vernon Livermore's campaign awards, comprising: Carpathia medal, in bronze, unnamed as presented to the crew of R.M.S. *Carpathia* "from the survivors of the S.S. *Titanic*"; with ring for suspension, *very fine*; another similar, also in bronze and unnamed, *well worn, only fair*; British War and Mercantile Marine Medals (**Vernon Livermore**); and 1939-45 Star, Atlantic Star, Italy Star and War Medals, unnamed as issued, *service medals all virtually mint state and WW2 awards never ribboned, in original envelopes* (8) £2,500-3,500

The lot is offered with the following associated items:

A R.M.S. *Carpathia* dinner menu, for 10 September 1910;

A signed portrait postcard photograph of Captain Rostron, R.M.S. *Carpathia*;

A group photograph of seven *Carpathia* stewardesses (Julia Cservenka second from left) wearing their Carpathia medals, 200 x 250 mm.. believed to have been taken to mark the award ceremony on 29 May 1912 (*illustrated*);

Two photographs of Julia Cservenka and Vernon Livermore taken aboard the *Carpathia*, both 60 x 80 mm *approx.* (*one illustrated*);

A photograph of a "Votes For Women" rally held aboard R.M.S. *Carpathia*, including Vernon Livermore as Bugler, 80 x 140 mm *approx.* (*detail illustrated*);

Three unused postcards depicting the sinking *Titanic* (2, both entitled "Nearer My God To Thee", Bamforth & Co. nos. 24 and 25) and the *Carpathia* off Gibraltar (trimmed);

A telegram dated 18 May 1915 from Vernon Livermore's brother Laurie "Thank God for safety..." (*illustrated*);

A letter in pencil from Vernon Livermore to his parents reassuring them of his safety, sent from Kinsale (stamp and postmark removed);

Original Mercantile Marine issue card and "Authority to Wear..." relating to Vernon Livermore's Great War medals, WW2 forwarding slip, and a copy of an official "Campaign Stars" notice no. M.279 to the Merchant Navy;

Several related original newspaper cuttings (one framed), photocopies, and a file of further research.





Aboard *Carpathia*



Vernon Livermore



Laurie Livermore's telegram dated 18 May 1915

JULIA CZERVENKA (1886-1961), one of a number of Hungarians serving aboard the *Carpathia*, was a stewardess while VERNON LIVERMORE (1880-1964), a Mancunian, was a waiter on the ship. They both received the *Carpathia* medal in bronze and were married following the events of April, 1912. Julia's sister Ethel was also aboard the *Carpathia* and she also married a seaman, Percy Penny; the two couples subsequently settled in Liverpool, occupying houses which backed onto one another.

In May 1915 Vernon Livermore and Percy Penny were both serving aboard the R.M.S. *Lusitania* when she was torpedoed and sunk. Vernon was the ship's bugler and a waiter in First Class, while Percy was a cabin steward in Saloon Class. Fortunately both men survived, although one was initially listed as missing. Vernon was landed at Kinsale with eight other survivors and five bodies, while Percy had a very narrow escape. Reportedly he was drawn down into the water by the foundering *Lusitania's* vortex before the counterforce of her exploding boilers blew him back to the surface. The men's wives received simultaneous but independent news that their brothers-in-law were safe, resulting in a joyful reunion between the two sisters on a Liverpool tram.

Vernon and Julia Livermore's daughter Catherine carried one of her parents' two *Carpathia* medals on her key-ring for a number of years, explaining the worn condition of the second piece. For the medals awarded to Vernon's brother Laurie (William St. Lawrence Livermore, M.M.), see lot 150.

See also front cover colour illustration.



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Carpathia Medal, 1912, in silver, as awarded to junior officers, by Dieges and Clust of New York, reverse stamped 'Sterling', engraved in capitals between the date and the maker's name **D. Colquhoun**, good very fine, a rare named award in silver £3,000-4,000

D. N. COLQUHOUN was born in North Shields and was 7th Engineer of R.M.S. *Carpathia*. He was 29 years old at the time of the rescue of the *Titanic* survivors.

The medal was given to the present owner in 1958, when he was working for the Rank Organisation's publicity department, and it was used to publicize the film "*A Night to Remember*".

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A Silver Life Saving Medal of the Order of St John Group awarded to a 1914 Casualty Captain Beauchamp Oswald Duff, 1st Gurkha Rifles, eldest son of General Sir Beauchamp Duff, C-in-C India; Four, Life Saving Medal in Silver of the Grand Priory of the Order of St John of Jerusalem in England, type 2 (post 1886) (Lieut.), India General Service 1895-1902, 1 clasp, Waziristan 1901-02 (2nd Lieut. 23rd Pioneers), Africa General Service 1902, 2 clasps, Somaliland 1902-04, Jidballi (Lieut.), British War Medal, first three mounted for wearing, very fine or better, sold with two silver helmet plates for the Prince of Wales' own Gurkha Rifles and King George's Own Gurkha Rifles (6) £1,800-2,200

Life Saving Medal in Silver of the Grand Priory of the Order of St John of Jerusalem in England:

"For gallant conduct displayed on 4 April 1905 at Dharamshala, Punjab, India during an earthquake that took place there on that day. The heroic named officers and non commissioned officer of the 1st and 7th Gurkha Rifles who, at great difficulty and at imminent risk to their own lives, rescued several of their comrades who were buried under the ruins of the barracks that were destroyed by the first shock felt at 6.15 am.