

Mrs Thorneycroft's Account

Utica Herald-Dispatch

Saturday 20 April 1912

'Mrs. Thorneycroft was in the tenth life boat which carried 55 survivors, the number later increased by six men who were picked up from bits of wreckage and who were nearly exhausted when found. The boat was manned by three oarsmen. They, with a Frenchman, who was found hiding in the bottom after it had started were the only men taken in this boat from the sinking ship.

"..Owing to the fact, as stated, that she was rather seasick, Mrs. Thorneycroft was not wholly prepared to retire. She felt the sudden jar and noticed the stopping of the engines and told her husband that the boat had struck something....they were told to get on their lifebelts and go to the second deck.

The men started to follow, but were ordered back in harsh terms, being told that unless they went back they would be shot. Mrs. Thorneycroft thought at the time that the men would all be cared for later and did not think it was the last she would see of them. The women, she said, were thrown into the lifeboats as if they were bundles, and if they landed on their feet, all right. The boat was quickly lowered over the side and rowed away, but was in full sight of the Titanic when it went down.

The survivors in the lifeboats were compelled to stand up the entire time until picked up the following morning by the Carpathia....water came into the boat quite freely. Mrs. Thorneycroft was packed in next to one of the oarsmen in such a position that every time he pulled an oar it struck her so that she was bruised and lamed. There were no lamps or lights in the lifeboats, although there was a quantity of water and biscuits. Three lifeboats were tied together and remained in this condition all night.

The occupants of the boat in which Mrs. Thorneycroft was in were the last ones to be taken aboard the Carpathia....In the boat in which she was were women passengers from all classes of the boat....

They were obliged to remain standing in the the lifeboat for seven or eight hours until picked up. Among those in the boat were a Mrs. Dean with a seven weeks old baby a little two-year-old boy, who was clad only in his night dress. Although having to go through such an experience the little chap suffered no serious after results, but the mother who was compelled to stand for so long and hold the little babe, was practically exhausted....Mrs. Thorneycroft

spoke in the highest terms of the men who manned the boat in which she was....During the night and in the early morning many pieces of wreckage were seen in the water, but no bodies were seen by those in her boat.

Courtesy of Peter Engberg

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