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TITLE.:- GREAT AIRSHIP DISASTER.

Picture. :- With deepest sorrow we are privileged to show you these last pictures taken of the R.101 and the gallant band of Britons who set forth in her from Cardington on her ill-fated voyage to India.

All unsuspecting of the awful fate in store for them, these young fellows --

--some of the flower of Britain's youth, eagerly looked forward to the trip.

Smiles and quips passed between them as they entered the mooring-mast lift.

In all the tragic history of the air, no more terrible story has ever been told than that of the swift and awful destruction of Britain's mighty airship. Overnight she was the nation's pride -- a true leviathan of the air -- to become, only a few hours later, a mass of tangled wreckage lying on a hill-side not far from Paris.

SUBTITLE.LORD THOMSON ETC.

Sir Sefton Brancker is the second from the left of this group --

--and this is Lord Thomson, the Air Minister.

As dusk fell, these and many other brilliant men made their way up to the airship, full of confidence that the flight would add another and glorious page to air history. At the top of the mast before entering the ship, Lord Thomson kindly consented to pose for what was destined to be his last photograph; an all too tragic memento of the most appalling disaster of the present decade.

As the R.101. was bound for India, the crew were -- equipped with sun helmets and other tropical gear.

It was thought by some that the airship seemed rather heavy, and --

--one of her engines gave some trouble in starting.

Here, mechanics are seen working on the troublesome engine.

Finally, she started up, but caused some consternation by throwing out sparks.

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SUBTITLE. EXCLUSIVE PICTURES ETC.

She was due to leave at seven o'clock, but last minute adjustments caused delays, so that it was actually 7.36 before she got away.

SUBTITLE. BEAUVAIS, FRANCE ETC.

The English language seems inadequate to describe the terrible happenings which preceded these scenes. Such a short while ago, she was as beautiful a thing as could be wished for, carrying fifty-four souls on what was to have been a great adventure. Now she lies, a mere skeleton on the side of a hill in France.

Probably the real reason the R.101 crashed to earth and burst into flames will never be known --

--as not one of the navigating staff survived. Seven only of the crew were saved, due to the water tanks breaking, and the flood washing them away as the great ship hit the ground.

The pity of it !

MUSIC DIRGE - DURING COFFIN SCENE.

So sooner was the awful news of the tragedy received in London than Air Chief Marshal --

--Sir John Salmond, Chief of the Air Staff, centre of this group, flew to the scene --

--to examine the remains and conduct a preliminary investigation on the spot. Here he is seen with other officers examining the wreckage and gathering all possible information for the enquiry which must be made into the cause of the disaster.

A tragic relic -- the airship's flag, the only unburned thing carried by the R.101.

So ends a tale of dauntless courage and pioneer adventure that, taken to its full and happier conclusion, would have been written in letters of gold in the history of our Empire.

TRADE MARK :- UNIVERSAL TALKING NEWS ; FANFARE OF TRUMPETS.