



The Lifeboat 'MONA' Disaster 8th December 1959



THE FATE OF THE MONA

The 'Mona' was pulled off the Buddon Sands by the Arbroath Lifeboat the 'Duke of Montrose' and taken to Granton, near Edinburgh for a technical examination.

DISASTER LIFEBOAT DIES IN SECRET.



YESTERDAY—THE END OF THE MONA

Disaster lifeboat dies in secret

MONA, the Broughty Ferry disaster lifeboat in which eight men died, was burned secretly on a dark beach at 4.30 a.m. yesterday.

Only a handful of men saw the "ironclad" perfectly sound and seaworthy—destroyed on confidential orders phoned direct from London by a senior R.N.L.I. official.

Few people in the Port Seaton holiday resort on the Forth Estuary near Edinburgh knew about it.

Flames crackled as families slept in a tenement only 50 yards away—unaware of the funeral pyre.

They only learned about it when they saw the smoking ruin on the rocks at daybreak. After dark on Thursday night the Mona was taken across the harbour basin and moored just inside the protection wall.

Then about 4 am she was moved round the sea wall secured by two chains and left to settle on the rock-strewn foreshore as the tide ebbed.

By **JOHN McLEOD**

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She was set alight and by daybreak all that was left was part of the stern and superstructure – twisted charred metal, still smoking.

Four men stripped the last of her metal fittings in the afternoon. And inquisitive youngsters were curtly told to leave the shore.

In his office overlooking the harbour. Mr Bruce Jones of the ship repair-firm, said he could not discuss the matter.

The R.N.L.I. officials in London did not want it publicised. The shipyard got all the instructions verbally.

Was it really a funeral pyre “well it is not uncommon for this to happen after a disaster” said the senior Lifeboat official in London, “It would be rather unpleasant to put a new crew in a disaster boat.

