From those who were trapped, a tale of bravery and shame

THE 'LAKONIA' BURNS AT SEA

After put off reckoning, the creature that was to become man came gaping out of the sea. Never could he forget his home, his blood and tears are still in water he seeps, his children, in all his tongues are physicians which mean wiser of life. Yet man is morally afraid of the sea—ever though he expects in a desert, it is wild that he knows in death. Man thinks of fire with equal immunity and revulsion on living warmth and on destruction.

Sea-borne, burning, man is an eternal voyager. His most ancient and his greatest tales are of ships and fire.

The Greek cruise ship Lakonia are forth on the Atlantic from England on Dec. 19, burdened with 1,837 human beings, children and aged, of nacionalities, races and languages. Three days later fire and water swept them and 129 of them perished. Now these voyagers lie among Phoenicians and Spaniards and Portuguese who long ago ventured forth and were drowned. What remains to be said in mourning or in reverence?

The name Lakonia is that of a province in Greece. After the battle of Marathon in 490 B.C. it was a legendary Lakonian soldier who ran 26 miles to Athens to tell his countrymen of the outcome. He said only what needed to be said: "We won," and fell dead. From this Spartan heroism is derived the word "Lakonia." There is gallantry in that word. Some of those aboard the Lakonia beheld and dealt gallantly, and over them neither rain nor fire can claim the smirch of crying. But of some who perished and cremated the evidence, there may be no word vile enough to utter.
The only man known to have taken pictures while on board the <i>Fuji Maru</i> was passenger Tetsuo Harada of London. These are the scenes he took in the first word of fire until the passengers were safely down on deck. Text from The New York Times, December 17, 1966.
Salvation by Air and Water, and Death Beneath the Stern

In the hope of saving the men from certain death, the U.S. Navy attempted to rescue those on board the sinking ship. However, the efforts were unsuccessful, and many lives were lost. The incident serves as a reminder of the risk and danger associated with such situations.

Images depict scenes of distress, with smoke rising from the water and people struggling to stay afloat. Emotions range from hope to despair as the rescue mission comes to an end.

The photos capture the chaos and urgency of the moment, highlighting the human element in such tragic events. Despite the efforts, the outcome was not favorable, leaving a sense of loss and sadness.
CHAOS, DRUNKENNESS — A FEW COOL HEADS

Aviva Laborit’s service commandant at the Côte d’Azur, Bernard Andrieux was a tough customer. A former ‘rue de Paradis’ gangster, Andrieux corresponded with Alain Resnais, Jean Cocteau and Jean-Pierre Melville. He wrote several books, including "La Nuit des Voleurs," a memoir of his life in prison.

It was the fourth night of the Laborit family vacations on the Lagoon of Venice, Italy. The family was staying at a villa in the village of Caorle in the town of Chioggia. The house was a typical Venetian villa with a large garden and a view of the lagoon.

The Laborits were a well-to-do family, with a reputation for living in style. The villa was decorated with frescoes and antiques, and the grounds were landscaped with exotic plants.

In the evening, the family gathered around the central living room, where a large fireplace was burning. The room was filled with the sound of music and the smell of fine food.

Aviva Laborit, the matriarch of the family, was seated in a comfortable chair, sipping a glass of wine. She was wearing a pearl necklace and a diamond ring on her left hand. Her hair was styled in loose waves that fell over her shoulders.

"My family is very important to me," she said, "and I enjoy being with them. But we are all very busy, and we don’t have much time to spend together."

She turned to her husband, who was sitting next to her in a handsome blue velvet armchair.

"I agree," he said. "But we try to make time for each other. We go on holidays together, and we have dinner parties every week."
STOIC, TEARFUL SURVIVORS Emerge FROM LONG ORDEAL

SAFE ON LAND. Dugald Macdonald, the former astronaut, comforts his son, a 9-month-old son of one of the astronauts, as he holds a letter from home. Opposite, holding his son, a 9-month-old baby, he is comforted by a friend.