

The 1919 season was also a notable one for GLENLYON in that she engaged in a very special trade. The Playfair upper lake package freighters, notably GLENCAIRN, GLENFINNAN, GLENLYON and GLENSTRIVEN, carried newsprint from the Canadian Lakehead to Chicago on a fairly regular basis. The Ontario Paper Company Ltd., however, had begun to experiment with the idea of transporting newsprint by water from its Thorold paper mill to Chicago, where the "Chicago Tribune" was published. (The Tribune owned the Ontario Paper Company.) For a while, the steamers of the Rutland Transit Company were used to carry newsprint in rolls on their upbound trips from Thorold, and then an attempt was made to use the steamer CHARLES S. NEFF for this purpose. The NEFF, however, could not carry enough newsprint per trip to make such service economical, and the Paper Company looked for a more suitable ship. This was, of course, in the years before the construction of THOROLD (II), which later became (b) CHICAGO TRIBUNE (II) and which was especially designed for the newsprint service from Thorold to Chicago.

In 1919, therefore, the Ontario Paper Company Ltd. arranged to charter the GLENLYON, and it developed that she could carry 1,704 tons of newsprint per trip. She was relatively well suited for the trade in that she carried the two elevators which assisted with the loading and unloading of the big rolls of paper. Still, the handling of the paper was sufficiently awkward and slow that there was very little advantage to shipping paper by water instead of by rail, and the shipments from Thorold in GLENLYON were not continued beyond 1919.

One might well ask how a vessel of GLENLYON's size could pass down the old Third Welland Canal to pick up the newsprint rolls. The small locks of the old canal could not accommodate GLENLYON, but the control lock at the top end of the "long level" at Port Colborne was larger than the rest and she could fit through it. It is not, however, clear whether GLENLYON passed all the way down to Thorold to load her newsprint, or whether she only went as far as Welland and loaded it there.

GLENLYON seems to have operated without untoward incident until late in the 1924 season. The Playfair fleet experienced a run of extremely unfortunate luck in 1923 and 1924, losing by accident three of its upper lakers. The package freighter GLENSTRIVEN, (a) AMERICA (19), stranded on South West Shoal off Cove Island on November 16, 1923. She finally was refloated on December 5th, but she had been so badly damaged in the incident that she was scrapped in 1924. Then, on October 29, 1924, the bulk carrier GLENORCHY, (a) A. E. STEWART (18), was sunk in collision with the steamer LEONARD B. MILLER off Harbor Beach in Lake Huron during a dense fog. GLENORCHY foundered in deep water and never was recovered.

Just three days after the loss of GLENORCHY, disaster struck the Great Lakes Transportation Company Ltd. again. On Saturday, November 1st, 1924, GLENLYON was downbound on Lake Superior, en route from Fort William to Port Colborne with a cargo of 143,000 bushels of wheat. There were winds of some 62 miles per hour blowing out on the lake, kicking up heavy seas. When the steamer was some fifteen miles off Passage Island, which lies off the northeasterly tip of Isle Royale, the seas became so treacherous that GLENLYON's master decided to turn back and seek shelter in Siskiwit Bay, a large inlet located along the southeasterly face of Isle Royale. Siskiwit Bay has long been known to have certain areas of good holding ground (for anchorage) and to provide refuge from all winds except those from the northeast or the east.

According to the Great Lakes Pilot, "the bay is enclosed on the south by the peninsula terminating in Point Houghton and by a double line of islets and reefs stretching from the point eight miles northeasterly, about parallel to the south shore of Isle Royale; in general, no attempt should be made to enter between the islets... Isle Royale Light, 72 feet above the lake on a white octagonal tower, is on Menagerie Island, the outermost island of the islet chain on the south side of Siskiwit Bay."