



SS General Chanzy



The *SS General Chanzy* was a 2257 tonne French steamer, which left Marseilles for Algiers on 9th February 1910. The weather was not good, a fierce storm gave no time to the propellers to react. A strong wave wrenched the railing off the deck, throwing many passengers into the sea. The ship's boiler exploded, causing the ship to blow up.





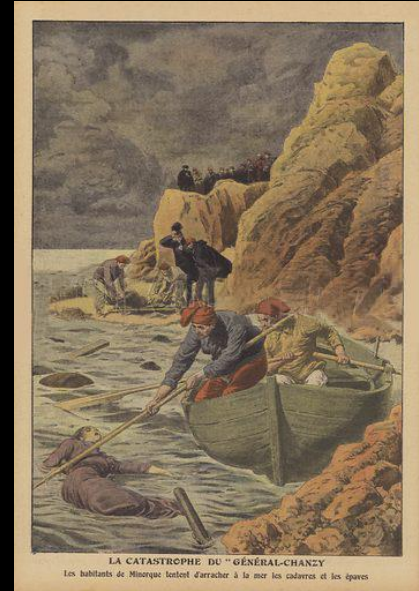
Only a single passenger, Marcel Badez, out of the 160 on board survived, by clinging on for dear life to one of the debris of the ship, and was washed ashore in a cave. With the help of timber from the ship, he built a refuge to survive the storm. He later managed to climb the cliff and reached the fields where he was aided by a farmer who found him wandering in the midst of a storm. This incident took place on the 10th of February 1910, off the coast of Menorca.



Badez being tended to in a hospital in Menorca



The explosion and Badez's miraculous escape made headlines

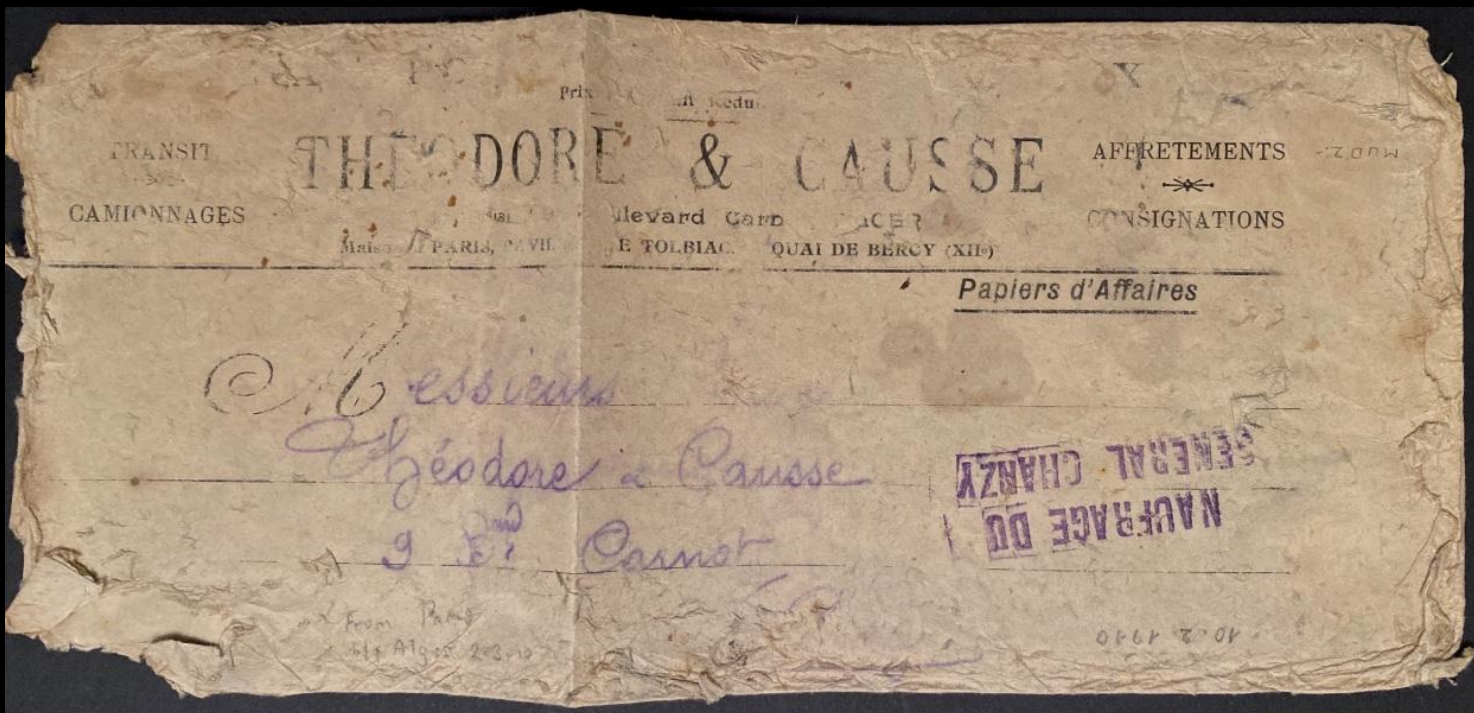


Pictures of The Rescue Operation

Another interesting story relates to a lady named Edith Russell, who was supposedly booked on the ship, but cancelled at last minute. While having tea at a hotel, she had a premonition that the ship would explode in mid-ocean, and subsequently begged her fiancé to cancel their tickets. This lady had survived a train disaster in 1889, survived a tornado in 1890, and was even said to have booked a ticket on the last voyage of *RMS Lusitania* (torpedoed), which she allegedly cancelled.



There are around 10-15 covers known, which were salvaged from this ship.
The cover shown is one of these salvaged covers, and is now a part of *The Rudraksh Collection*.



(This Cover is a part of Rudraksh Collection)