

DREADFUL ACCIDENT

Collision Between Steamboats on the Potomac.

FIFTY LIVES LOST.

BALTIMORE, Wednesday, April 26.

Yesterday morning, at 12:30 o'clock, the steamer *Massachusetts*, with a load of soldiers, the greater part of whom were exchanged and paroled prisoners, collided with a steamer named the *Black Diamond*, a small barge propeller in the Potomac River, one mile from Blackstone Island, which was acting there as a packet boat, and had on board a guard of some twenty men.

The *Massachusetts* struck the *Black Diamond* on the port side, about the boiler, sinking her in about three minutes.

In the excitement attending the collision of the two boats many of the soldiers became panic-stricken and beyond the control of discipline, and seized planks and whatever they could find that would float and hastily jumped overboard, and many of them were thus drowned.

The *Massachusetts* lay near the spot till daylight picking up about a hundred men, who either jumped or were thrown by the force of the collision on to the wreck of the *Black Diamond*.

The bows of the *Massachusetts* were badly stove in and it was with difficulty that she could be kept afloat.

Later in the morning, the steamer *Marion*, Capt. Morr, happened to be passing the spot, and relieved the *Massachusetts* of a large portion of the soldiers on board of her, and reached this place with them at 10 o'clock last night.

The *Massachusetts*, it is said, had her running lights burning, but the *Black Diamond*, being anchored, showed but one.

Capt. J. M. HOLMES, of the Third Veteran Reserve Corps, was the officer in command of the troops, and from a statement made by him, it appears that the loss of life, as near as can be ascertained at present will exceed fifty.

The night was clear but dark, there being no moon. It is impossible to say, at present, where the blame for this disaster is to rest.

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