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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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U.S. congressional aid results in hospital mergers, pricey medical care: media

WASHINGTON, May 22 (Xinhua) -- Generous COVID-19 aid from Congress has enabled some of the largest U.S. hospital chains to merge weakened competitors, inflating medical expenses and making it harder for ordinary people to receive treatment, reported The New York Times on Saturday.

“More consolidation by several major hospital systems enhanced their market prowess in many regions of the United States, even as rural hospitals and underserved communities were overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients and struggled to stay afloat,” the report said.

“The buying spree is likely to prompt further debate and scrutiny of the Provider Relief Fund, a package of 178 billion U.S. dollars in congressional aid that drew sharp criticism early on for allocating so much to the wealthiest hospital systems, and that had no limits on mergers and acquisitions,” it said.

“It was not the intent to be a capital infusion to the largest and most financially stable providers to allow them to simply grow their slice of market share,” House Representative Katie Porter, Democrat of California, was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, hospitals say the COVID-19 aid played no role in these deals, some of which were in the works before the pandemic. Major hospital chains also argue that their size and reach helped them better care for patients, allowing them to divert supplies and people to hard-hit areas during the health crisis, according to the report.

Lawmakers are pushing for greater oversight of hospitals. In a hearing on Wednesday, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Democrat of Minnesota, asked for more resources so regulators could tackle “the vicious cycle” of hospital consolidation. “When mergers are anti-competitive, they must be stopped,” she said.

According to the report, major fund receivers are all buying or already bought some smaller hospitals. The relief money they won from Congress was usually counted in billions of dollars.



Death toll from adverse weather in Sri Lanka rises to 10, nearly 220,000 affected

COLOMBO, June 5 (Xinhua) -- The death toll from Sri Lanka’s inclement weather conditions rose to 10 Saturday evening while 219,027 people were affected, the country’s Disaster Management Center said. According to the latest official statistics, eight districts had been severely affected by days of heavy rains and strong winds while 15,499 people had been moved to safer locations.

The Navy said earlier on Saturday that navy teams which had been deployed for emergency rescue operations had rescued 29 people trapped by floods in the Puttalam District in northwestern Sri Lanka.

According to the Navy media unit, the 29 people including women and children were from 10 families. They were trapped by rising flood waters in their areas and had sent out a distress call.



landslide warning also had been issued for some districts.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has instructed officials to provide immediate relief for all people affected by adverse weather conditions while the Irrigation Department has issued a flood

warning in several districts.

The Meteorology Department in the latest weather report said that heavy falls of 150 mm could be expected over the weekend and the public were urged to be cautious especially from heavy lightning.

The department further said wind speeds were expected to increase up to 50 to 55 km per hour in northern, north central and northwestern provinces.



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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

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Biden's First Overseas Trip

President Biden will make his first overseas trip beginning next week which will include a meeting with Turkey's President Erdogan and an audience with England's Queen Elizabeth.

Starting next Monday President Biden also plans to participate in the G7 summit and the

NATO summit. Biden will try to reinforce the U.S. commitment to multilateralism and demonstrate solidarity among the member nations.

Today the whole world is facing big challenges, especially in this coronavirus pandemic period when many countries are



also having difficulty with their economic issues.

We want to remind President Biden that he should visit Asian in the near future. So many global issues just cannot depend on one region or area. All of the world's leaders need to be united to solve all of the global problems.

In the past several years, Asian countries have already played a very important role in many ways. We just cannot ignore the new developments in that region.

We hope the president's trip will be successful and bring new relations together with European countries.



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Spectators react as drivers take their first lap at the Indy 500, the largest attended sporting event in the world since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 30, 2021. REUTERS/Cheney Orr



People are reflected in a puddle as they watch the sunset in Moscow, Russia May 27, 2021. REUTERS/Maxim Shemetov



A Palestinian demonstrator hurls back a tear gas canister fired by Israeli forces during a protest against Israeli settlements in Beita, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. REUTERS/Raneen Sawafta



Participants dance during the 18th annual Viennese Ball charity event at Gostiny Dvor in Moscow, Russia, May 29, 2021. REUTERS/Evgenia Novozhenina



Kate Munson, 18, reacts on her family's ranch after her graduation ceremony at Shallowater High School in Shallowater, Texas, May 21, 2021. A seventh-generation rancher on the arid southern Plains, Munson wants to become a voice for rural America by studying agricultural communications and business, and then possibly getting a law degree. REUTERS/Go Nakamura



A poster depicting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is seen as his supporters celebrate after the results of the presidential election announced that he won a fourth term in office, in Damascus, Syria, May 27, 2021. The win, dismissed by the opposition and the West as a farce, delivers Assad seven more years in power and lengthens his family's rule to nearly six decades. REUTERS/Omar Sanadiki

Movie Reveals Story Of Asian Survivors Of "Chinese Titanic"



(Editor Note: At this time of social divide and unwarranted and unjust racial attacks on members of the Asian community, we believe that this story of Chinese survivors of the Titanic ship disaster of 1912 portrayed in a new movie by the original Titanic movie director will be: #1 a story most of us have never heard about, and #2 will open our eyes to the strength and bravery of our brothers from the past and leave us with so much pride and confidence to face our future.)

Key Points

Six of eight Chinese men who boarded the Titanic in 1912 survived the sinking

Five escaped on lifeboats and one was rescued while clinging to a wooden plank

Filmmakers Arthur Jones and Steven Schwankert explore their story in their movie, "The Six"

After they were discovered, the men were immediately sent away from the U.S. despite surviving

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

In the movie, "Titanic," the tale about Jack, Rose, and the Heart of the Ocean have become almost as well-known as the story of the Titanic itself. But there is one scene in James Cameron's iconic film that didn't make the final cut, of a boat rescuing a Chinese man still clinging to life on a wooden plank. While the scene was never seen in the Oscar winner, it depicted a real moment in history that few knew about. Filmmakers Arthur Jones and Steven Schwankert are hoping to correct that with The Six, a documentary about the Chinese men who survived the sinking of the Titanic. The story of the Titanic was legendary long before Cameron immortalized it in film form.

About 1,500 people were killed when the RMS Titanic - nicknamed 'The Unsinkable Ship' - struck an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean on April 14, 1912. Only around 700 people survived, most in lifeboats while a rare few managed to cling to the wreckage and wait for help to arrive in freezing waters. But almost nothing is known about the eight Chinese men who boarded the Titanic, and the six of them who survived. Their names can still be found on a single ticket for third-class passengers: Ah Lam, Fang Lang, Len Lam, Cheong Foo, Chang Chip, Ling Hee, Lee Bing and Lee Ling.



The Titanic leaves Southampton on her ill-fated maiden voyage on April 10, 1912. (Photo: AFP)

Jones and Schwankert determined that it was likely all eight men, who were professional sailors working in Britain, knew each other before boarding the Titanic. They discovered that the men were on the Titanic en route to Cuba, scheduled to board a freighter boat known as The Annetta in New York.

'The reason they were traveling on Titanic in the first place is for work,' Schwankert told The Washington Post.

'They were professional mariners, and they were being seconded from their company in the UK to go and work on the companies in North America.'

The men were bunked up in the steerage, the lowest class of the cabins. Only 20 per cent of non-British men in the steerage survived the sinking.

Five of the eight men escaped the ship on lifeboats, and four of them were in 'Collapsible C'.

Collapsible C was a backup escape vessel and one of the last lifeboats to leave the ship. It was not full when it was found by rescuers.

Also inside the lifeboat was Joseph Bruce Ismay, the chairman of the company which owned the Titanic, as well as George T Rowe, the ship's quartermaster.



A still from "The Six," an upcoming documentary about the little-known Chinese survivors of the Titanic. (LP DOCS/Merryman Films)

Both men later testified to the presence of the four Chinese men in their lifeboat.

The sixth surviving man, as seen in Cameron's cut clip, was found in the sea by a lifeboat which had returned to the wreckage to search for survivors.

Jones and Schwankert then discovered that, despite surviving the horrific experience, none of the six men were permitted to enter the United States.

Just a day after arriving in New York, the men were forced to board the Annetta and head straight for the Caribbean to work on fruit ships.

This was due to the Chinese Exclusion Act, a law passed in 1882 by President Chester A Arthur that forbid all Chinese laborers from immigrating to the country.

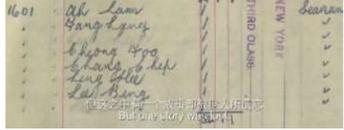
Unlike other survivors, the Chinese men were not allowed to bypass screening at Ellis Island and they received no medical aid.

'They were not treated humanely,' Jones said. 'We know they lost close friends on board. And yet they weren't given the option of staying.'

'Not only did they have to leave in 24 hours, they were held overnight in custody. They were detained.'

Even stranger is that, after the men boarded the Annetta, they seemed to completely vanish from history.

'It really started to bother me. Like, why don't we know?' Schwankert said.



A still from "The Six," an upcoming documentary about the little-known Chinese survivors of the Titanic. (LP DOCS/Merryman Films)

Jones and Schwankert have spent more than two years trying to find the answer, traveling everywhere from the US to the UK, Cuba to China, and the Caribbean as well.

The filmmakers launched a website, whoarethesix.com, to try and find tips regarding the survivors for the documentary, which is still in production.

They have since found descendants of the six men, many of whom had no idea they had any connection to the Titanic.

And, as the film's trailer shows, there are reveals of 'family secrets' and people who 'carried to their grave the secret of their true identity'.

But for Jones and Schwankert, the documentary has not just been about solving a mystery.

'We're trying to give them that place in history,' they said. 'This is who they are.' (Courtesy https://www.dailymail.co.uk/)

In the early hours of April 15, 1912, a lifeboat navigated the frigid waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, its skeleton crew scanning the dark, debris-littered surface for any sign of life.

Hours earlier, the unthinkable had happened: The RMS Titanic, a majestic ocean liner deemed "unsinkable," had struck an iceberg and slowly disappeared into the sea on its maiden voyage.

Hundreds of passengers fled in lifeboats. Hundreds more perished, going down with the ship or freezing to death in the icy water. The only one of Titanic's lifeboats to

turn back to the wreckage found body after body — until it discovered a young Chinese man, still alive, clinging to a piece of wood.

That man would be one of six Chinese passengers who survived the Titanic, a little-known fact about the historic disaster that has largely remained untold or distorted, owing to a racially hostile environment toward Chinese people in the West at the turn of the 20th century.

Of the six survivors, five made it onto lifeboats and one man was rescued while clinging to a wooden plank out at sea.



Of the six survivors, five made it onto lifeboats and one man was rescued while clinging to a wooden plank out at sea.

Now, the lives of these men — who they were, how they survived that fateful night and why they were barred from entering the United States — are being examined in a new documentary, "The Six," by Arthur Jones and Steven Schwankert.

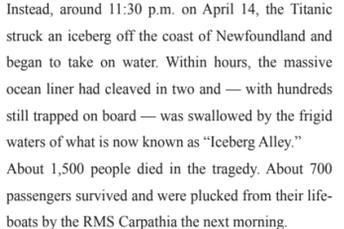
'There were something like 700 Titanic survivors. They've all been so 'claimed,' if all the claims to be believed,' Jones, a Shanghai-based filmmaker, told The Washington Post.

'These were the only guys amongst those 700 that no one had ever claimed. They just completely disappeared. Why did they get ignored?'

On April 10, 1912, the Titanic set off on her maiden voyage to the United States from Southampton, England, with 2,229 passengers and crew members. The ship was supposed to arrive a week later at its transatlantic destination: New York City.

Instead, around 11:30 p.m. on April 14, the Titanic struck an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland and began to take on water. Within hours, the massive ocean liner had cleaved in two and — with hundreds still trapped on board — was swallowed by the frigid waters of what is now known as "Iceberg Alley."

About 1,500 people died in the tragedy. About 700 passengers survived and were plucked from their lifeboats by the RMS Carpathia the next morning.



(Article Continues Below)

The ill-fated voyage has been immortalized in countless documentaries, books and museums — and in the tin-whistled opening bars of a certain Celine Dion song now indelibly associated with the shipwreck, thanks to James Cameron's 1997 blockbuster film. Over the past century, volumes have been written about hundreds of the Titanic's victims and survivors, their life stories preserved in astonishing detail by history books and their descendants.

Movie Reveals Story Of Asian Survivors Of "Chinese Titanic"

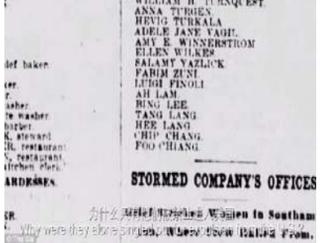


One of the young men who survived. However, for six Chinese passengers who survived the sinking, their ties to the Titanic have all but vanished. Schwankert first brought up the possibility of a Titanic project to Jones in 2014. Jones dismissed the idea at first. For starters, the longtime documentary partners were in the midst of another project. But also: It was the Titanic, Schwankert recalled Jones saying. "Everything's been done," Schwankert said they thought. "There's nothing new to say about it. And this was not so long after the 100th anniversary" of the 1912 voyage.

Still, he pressed on. The New Jersey native, who has lived in China for 22 years, had recently researched the Titanic and come across a brief mention of six Chinese survivors. But the more he tried to find out about the six, the more dead ends he hit. "It really started to bother me. Like, why don't we know?" Schwankert said. "Like any history project, you start pulling the threads, and it just seemed like the thread didn't lead anywhere."

to abandon their original project and launch "The Six."

The men's names are seen her listed



in a newspaper report of who survived the wreckage

With little to go on at first but the passenger manifest and list of survivors, the team set up a simple website, whoarethesix.com, to crowdsource tips.

The invisibility of the six Chinese survivors is such that, even in China, Jones and Schwankert find themselves telling people: Yes, there were, in fact, Chinese passengers on the Titanic.

Eight Chinese nationals boarded the ship at Southampton, to be exact. Their names appear in rigid cursive on a single ticket for third-class passengers: Ah Lam, Fang Lang, Len Lam, Cheong Foo, Chang Chip, Ling Hee, Lee Bing and Lee Ling.

Through two years of painstaking documentation, the filmmakers determined that the men in the group probably knew one another beforehand, having worked together as professional sailors on various ships in Britain. Because of an ongoing coal strike there, the men were being transferred by their company to a freighter docked in New York, the Annetta, which was to take them to Cuba.

"The reason they were traveling on Titanic in the first place is for work," Schwankert said. "They were professional mariners, and they were being seconded from their company in the U.K. to go and work on the companies in North America."

Their trip would not go as planned, of

(Article Continues From Above)

Movie Reveals Story Of Asian Survivors Of "Chinese Titanic"

course. How the eight men responded as the Titanic began taking on water may never be known. They would have been traveling in steerage, the lowest class of cabins, where the survival rate for non-British men was only about 20 percent.

Five of the eight men escaped the ship on lifeboats, and four of them were in 'Collapsible C', a backup escape vessel (depicted in The Six).

What was documented is that one of the Chinese men was later found clinging to a large piece of floating wood by the one main lifeboat that chose to return to the wreckage to search for signs of life. Five others escaped in lifeboats. Notably, four were in "Collapsible C," a backup escape vessel with canvas siding that was one of the last lifeboats to be lowered from the ship.



Five of the eight men escaped the ship on lifeboats, and four of them were in 'Collapsible C', a backup escape vessel (depicted in The Six).

They happened to share the same lifeboat as Joseph Bruce Ismay, the chairman of the White Star Line, which owned the Titanic. Ismay, who was later pilloried for saving himself instead of going down with the ship despite being such a high-ranking official, testified in official inquiries that "four Chinamen were in the boat" in which he had escaped. The ship's quartermaster, George T. Rowe, was on "Collapsible C" as well and also testified to the presence of the Chinese passengers, though he suggested they had "found" the four men "between the seats" only at daybreak.

Schwankert noted that the official testimony was instrumental in getting their research started on the Chinese survivors.



Of the six survivors, five made it onto lifeboats and one man was rescued while clinging to a wooden plank out at sea.

More than a century after the Titanic sank in April 1912; few new stories surface from the wreck. When documentary filmmaker Arthur Jones and his team started work on "The Six" — their film about the ship's six Chinese survivors — in 2012, they kept expecting to find that someone else had already told the story.

When RMS Titanic sank in April 1912, its 700 survivors were welcomed into New York with open arms...save for six Chinese men. This new documentary traces their remarkable untold story and the history of the anti-Chinese immigration laws which swept Europe and North America in the 20th century.

When documentary filmmaker Arthur Jones and his team started work on "The Six" — their film about the ship's six Chinese survivors — in 2012, they kept expecting to find that someone else had already told the story.

HISTORY FORGOTTEN Yet the history of the Chinese passengers who escaped the Titanic has largely been forgotten, even in their homeland, as discriminatory U.S. immigration policies and a cultural imperative of self-effacement combined to obscure their tale.

A still from "The Six," an upcoming documentary about the little-known Chinese survivors of the Titanic. (LP DOCS/Merryman Films)

ODDS OF SURVIVING The odds were stacked against them: The average survival rate for men in third class was just one in six. But when dis-

aster struck, being a poor sailor with

limited English turned into an advantage for the eight Chinese men on board — and six of them survived.

All eight Chinese men hailed from southern China. They had previously worked on cargo ships traveling between China and Europe, and they likely intended to migrate to the U.S. to start a new life.

They boarded the Titanic in Southampton, England, on a single ticket listing eight names — a common practice for third-class passengers. Like other unmarried third-class men, they were housed in windowless cabins in the bow of the ship.

Their names vary on a number of manifests, but U.S. Immigration recorded them as Ah Lam (or Ali Lam), Len Lam, Bing Lee (or Lee Bing), Fang Lang, Chip Chang (or Chang Chip), Foo Cheang (or Cheong Foo), and Ling Hee. They all traveled on a single ticket, number 1601 (£59, 9s, 11d).

Schwankert noted that the official testimony was instrumental in getting their research started on the Chinese survivors.

Photo provided by QC Media shows a scene from The Six.

(Courtesy www.washingtonpost.com, www.scmp.co, variety.com, www.maritime-executive.com, www.globaltimes.cn, www.xinhuanet.com/english)

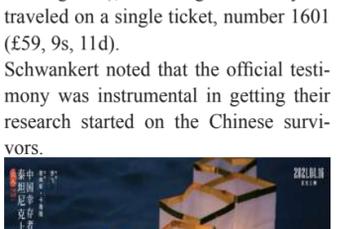


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