



Dear Team,

I thought you might be interested in the attached photos. I recently found this receipt in a box in my mother's attic! The story behind it may also be of interest.

Avis Dolphin was my grandmother and she was a survivor of the Lusitania tragedy off the Old Head of Kinsale on 7th May 1915. She was just 12 years old and was travelling to England in the care of two young nurses so that she could stay with her grandparents and be educated in England. She was put into a life jacket as the ship sank by a man called Professor Ian Holborn who had befriended her on the voyage from New York. He then put her and her two companions, into a lifeboat. Unfortunately, as it was being lowered, several men jumped in and capsized the boat throwing all into the sea. When Avis resurfaced, she noticed her glasses floating away, but thought she would drown and never need them again. However she was pulled into another life raft and then worried as she thought her mother would be cross with her for losing her specs!

Avis was rescued into Cobh (then Queenstown), but the two nurses drowned. Professor Holborn was also saved and a few days later, once fit to travel, he took Avis back to England via Dublin and Liverpool. Whilst in Dublin he took her to 'Dixon and Hempenstall' to be refitted for new glasses!

Best wishes,
Cathy Tyrrell

