A ghastly day in the Arabian Gulf

April 8, 1961: Riding out a dangerous storm off Dubai, the MV Dara was carrying nearly 700 passengers and crew. But an explosion and fire that claimed the lives of at least 236 people left her resting on the bottom of the sea. Jonathan Gornall tells the story of the Gulf's worst maritime disaster.

Few of the many passengers thinking the water was safe to swim in the sea during the storm. They were unaware of the danger as the ship was already adrift. Suddenly, a loud explosion was heard, followed by another and then by a deadly, choking smoke. The ship began to sink, taking with it the lives of more than 236 people. The MV Dara was a passenger ship that was destroyed in the storm. It was one of the worst maritime disasters in the Gulf.

Then disaster struck. It was terrible. Many passengers were forced to abandon ship and swim in the water, which was filled with smoke and debris. Some passengers managed to reach the shore, while others were rescued by passing ships. The MV Dara was a passenger ship that had been carrying passengers and crew when it exploded. The explosion was caused by a fire that had started in the engine room. The fire quickly spread throughout the ship, causing it to sink. The MV Dara was a passenger ship that was carrying passengers and crew when it exploded.
Raja Qaiser’s mother and four siblings perished on the Dara.

On the day of the disaster, Raja Qaiser was in Karachi, Pakistan, with his family, who were on a visit to visit his father. He had just graduated from university and was working as a teacher. The family had been planning a trip to Dubai, where they hoped to spend some quality time together.

Unfortunately, the trip was cut short when the ship sank. Raja Qaiser made it to safety, but his family was lost at sea.

In an interview with The National, Qaiser recalled the heartbreak of losing his loved ones.

"I still remember the night my father died. He was not with us when we arrived in Dubai, but I knew something was wrong. I woke up and saw blood on the floor. I ran to his room, and there he was, gone."

Qaiser’s family was one of many affected by the tragedy. The sinking of the Dara resulted in the loss of over 1,100 lives, making it one of the deadliest maritime disasters in history. The cause of the sinking was determined to be an explosion caused by a collision with a rock or a mine. The ship was carrying a large amount of oil, which contributed to the severity of the disaster.

Qaiser’s story is just one of many that have come to light since the sinking of the Dara. The disaster has sparked a renewed interest in maritime safety and has led to calls for stricter regulations and improved safety measures.

While the loss of his family is still fresh in his mind, Qaiser is determined to honor their memory. He plans to pursue a career in maritime safety to help prevent such tragedies from happening again.

"I want to make sure that something like this never happens again," he said.

Qaiser’s story is a testament to the resilience of human spirit in the face of tragedy. It reminds us of the importance of family and the sacrifices we make for those we love.