

LIFE-BOAT WAR BULLETIN No. 18.

DECEMBER, 1944

FIVE YEARS AND THREE MONTHS OF WAR

In five years and three months of war our life-boats have rescued 5,895 lives from ships and aeroplanes. That is an average of 21 lives every week, or three lives rescued for every one during the 20 years of peace between the two wars.

TO THE HELP OF THE INVASION PORT

Several life-boats have been to the help of sections of the great invasion port, built at Arromanches on the coast of Normandy, when they were being towed to France. Dungeness took out a relief crew and food to a "phoenix", or caisson, which had neither food nor water. Two days later the caisson's anchors were dragging and the life-boat went out again, in a gale at 60 miles an hour, and rescued the relief crew.

A caisson which was on her way from Liverpool to Normandy, broke from her tugs at the entrance to the Bristol Channel and was driven up channel by a south-westerly gale. The Appledore life-boat rescued her crew of seven. On the next day in the same gale the Clovelly life-boat rescued the crew of eight of another caisson. These caissons were used to form the breakwater of the harbour.

AN AMERICAN AIR AMBULANCE

On July 27th. an American air ambulance struck the cliffs of the Mull of Galloway and crashed on the shore. She was going to America, by way of Prestwick, and she had wounded soldiers from Normandy and nurses on board. The first to come to her help was the Portpatrick life-boat. Her crew wirelessly for a doctor and gave aid to the one man still alive of the 22 men and women on board. Then, as it was impossible to move the bodies by land, she took them away by sea.

CONVOY'S PAPERS SAVED

The Southend-on-Sea life-boat has rescued from a tug, which had gone ashore in a dense fog, the commodore of a convoy and all the convoy's papers.

AEROPLANES IN THE SEA

In the past three months the Institution has made rewards of over £400 to its crews for going to the help of aeroplanes down in the sea.

MIXED RESCUERS

The Institution has made rewards to seven people who went out in two fishing boats from North Berwick to the help of an aeroplane. In one boat was the owner, his wife, a policeman and a chemist's apprentice; in the other a fisherman, a coastguard and a grocer's assistant.

FATHER AND DAUGHTER SAVE SEVEN

The Institution has also made rewards to a fisherman and his daughter at St. Andrews who rescued seven lives from a capsized sailing boat in a strong squally wind and choppy sea.

REWARDS FOR BELGIAN FISHERMEN

Two Belgian fishermen at Lytham-St. Annes went out to the help of a capsized dinghy and, with great difficulty, rescued three men clinging to the keel. They have been rewarded.

AMERICAN AIRMEN'S GRATITUDE

In sending the Institution £12 the commanding officer of a squadron of the American Air Force writes: "The fine work being accomplished by the men in the Life-boat Service, has on several occasions been brought to my personal attention and the attention of the men in my command. It is with deep gratitude that the enclosed money is forwarded."

36 YEARS AFTER

The Institution has just received two legacies of £200 each, one for its general funds the other for its Selsey station, left it in gratitude by a Birmingham woman. In August 1908 she was on board the steamer "Queen" of Southampton on a day trip to Brighton. A gale blew up and on her return journey the steamer ran on a sand-bank. The Selsey life-boat landed her 57 passengers.

REWARD RETURNED

Two men serving in the merchant navy took the places of two absent men in the Maryport life-boat when she put out in a gale to search for an aeroplane. They were given the same rewards as the life-boatmen, nineteen shillings each. One of them at once sent a pound to the Institution saying: "As I am a fisherman I do not know the day, when I might be glad of the life-boat. As I know how much the life-boats, have done and still doing, towards us all".

AN EXHIBITION OF OLD BIBLES

An exhibition of early English bibles, belonging to Mr. E. Newgass, honorary secretary of the Steyning branch, was held in Worthing for the Institution by Mr. J. R. Aldridge, for many years the honorary secretary at Worthing. No charge was made, but over £6 was put in the collecting boxes.

82 WORKS FOR THE LIFE-BOATS

The mother of Mr. Selby Davidson, the honorary secretary of the Tynemouth branch, who is now in her 82nd. year, has made over £5 for the branch by making and selling dish-cloths.

A FISHING FLEET CALENDAR

Mr. Ford Jenkins has published a fishing fleet calendar for 1945. It has eight beautiful photographs of ships and the sea. Price 5s. including postage, from H. Jenkins Ltd., 2 Pier Terrace, Lowestoft, not from the Institution.

FOR QUIET NIGHTS

Four people in Leeds, two husbands and wives, sent the Institution a pound in July 1941. It was a penny from each of them in gratitude for each night that they had had free from air-raids. They continued that thankoffering for every quiet night for over three years. Then on November 6th, 1944, they sent their last gift and "said farewell to their little scheme for helping the Life-boat Service". They had then given it £20.