

LIFE-BOAT BULLETIN No. 26.

DECEMBER 1946.

569 LIVES RESCUED

Life-boats have rescued 569 lives this year up to the end of November. The summer was the busiest the Service has ever had except in the year of the Battle of Britain, and September was the busiest September on record.

SILVER MEDAL FOR PADSTOW

On the 12th of August the Padstow No.1. life-boat rescued the crew of ten of the steamer "Kedah" close under St. Agnes Head, in a full gale and huge, confused seas. It was only at the third attempt, after being twice damaged, that the life-boat got alongside. The Institution awarded Coxswain John Murt its silver medal.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was held in London on October 18th, and the seven life-boatmen who have won medals for gallantry since the end of the war were present. Sir Godfrey Baring, Bt., chairman of the Institution, presided and read a message from the President, H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent. The other speakers were, the Right Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P., until a short time before the meeting First Lord of the Admiralty, and new Minister of Defence designate, Commodore the Earl Howe, the Bishop of Portsmouth and the Duke of Montrose. Silver medals were presented to Coxswain William Peters, of St. Ives, Cornwall, Coxswain John Murt, of Padstow and Robert Harland, of the Whitby crew; and bronze medals to Coxswain James Watkins, of Angle, Coxswain Thomas Bloom, of Walton and Frinton, Coxswain Murfield, of Whitby, and Coxswain Duncan Newlands, of Campbeltown.

COLONEL SATTERTHWAITE

Lieut.-Colonel C. R. Satterthwaite, O.B.E. who came to the Institution as deputy-secretary in 1924, and has been secretary since 1931, retires at the end of this year. In announcing it at the annual meeting Sir Godfrey Baring, Bt., said: "Upon him fell the chief responsibility of the busiest and most anxious years that the Life-boat Service has ever known, the years of war. Though they were the busiest years their work had to be done with a depleted fleet, and a much depleted and continually changing staff, in circumstances often of great difficulty. The work was done, and I hope that it will always be a pride and a pleasure to Colonel Satterthwaite to remember that it was done under his leadership."

COLONEL BURNETT BROWN

Colonel A. D. Burnett Brown, M.C, T.D., M.A., who has been deputy-secretary since 1931, succeeds Colonel Satterthwaite as secretary. Colonel Burnett Brown, after serving through the war of 1914 to 1918 and being twice wounded, served again throughout the second war. He was mobilised before war was declared and went out to France in command of his battalion in January 1940. He was invalided, and then held command of various other units. He was garrison commander in the Scilly Isles for a year; in charge of a school in South Wales; and finally in command of the troops at a Welsh seaport in connexion with the preparations for D-Day.

THE NEW DEPUTY-SECRETARY

The new deputy-secretary is Lieut.-Col. C. Stewart Watson, of the Royal Marines. He was educated at Cheltenham College and has specialised in naval gunnery. First as head of the School of Naval Gunnery at Portsmouth, and then as Superintendent of Naval Gunnery on the staff of the Commandant General of the Royal Marines, he has had a wide experience of administration. During two years in Malta, when he was assistant-provost marshal, he raced international dinghies and is a member of the Royal Naval Sailing Association.

NAMING CEREMONY AT RHYL

Two naming ceremonies of new life-boats have been held, the first since July 1941. On September 14th Lady Scarisbrick named the Rhyl life-boat, "The Gordon Warren", which went to the station in 1939. The boat has been built out of a gift from the executors of the late Mr. H. G. Gordon Warren, of Liverpool and Kensington, made at the wish of his widow, the late Mrs. Gordon Warren. Lieut.-Col. C.R. Satterthwaite, secretary of the Institution, received the boat on behalf of the Life-boat Service, and presented her to Mr. Leslie H. Pickersgill, chairman of the branch.

NAMING CEREMONY AT MONTROSE

At Montrose on October 26th the Earl of Airlie, Lord Lieutenant of Angus, presided at the naming ceremony of two life-boats, "The Good Hope" which went to the station in 1939, and the "Norman Nasmyth" which went in 1940. "The Good Hope" was presented to the Institution by Mr. J. R. Barnett, its consulting naval architect, on behalf of the donors who wished to remain anonymous, and was named by Mrs. Barnett. The "Norman Nasmyth", built out of a legacy from the late Mr. Norman Nasmyth, of Glenfarg, was presented by Mr. G. M. Taylor and named by Ex-Provost W. D. Johnston. Colonel A. D. Burnett-Brown, deputy-secretary of the Institution received both life-boats and they were handed by him to Provost A. W. Ritchie, chairman of the branch, and the Countess of Airlie, president of the Montrose Ladies' Life-boat Guild. The Duke of Montrose, chairman of the Scottish Life-boat Council, and Captain the Hon. Sir A. D. Cochrane, R.N., chairman of the executive committee of the council, also took part in the ceremony.

A BOOK ON THE LIFE-BOATS IN THE WAR

The story of the Life-boat Service in the war of 1939 to 1945 is told in "Storm on the Waters" by Mr. Charles Vince, publicity secretary of the Institution. It will be published on December 16th by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton, price 6s. Honorary Secretaries who would like copies to sell on behalf of the funds of their branches can get them from the Institution.

DETAILED SPECIFICATION FOR A LIFE-BOATMAN

From a boy's essay: "A life-boatman must possess great courage, a spirit of self-sacrifice, and a water-proof."

THE LAST BULLETIN

This is the last life-boat bulletin. The first appeared in September 1940 and it has appeared quarterly since then. Of the twenty-six bulletins published nearly a quarter of a million copies have been printed. The Institution's quarterly journal "The Life-boat" will appear again next spring.