

LIFE-BOAT WAR BULLETIN No. 5.

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TWO YEARS OF WAR

In the first two years of war life-boats have rescued 4058 lives. They have rescued more lives in these two years of war than in the last eleven years of peace. They have rescued 39 lives each week. They have rescued a life every 5 hours.

MESSAGE FROM THE DUKE OF KENT

At the annual meeting, held on 10th. July, Sir Godfrey Baring, Bt., chairman of the Institution, read a message from H.R.H. the Duke of Kent, K.G., President of the Institution, in which His Royal Highness said: "I want to convey my very sincere congratulations to all engaged in the life-boat service on their wonderful work during the past year. --- When the full record of these months of devotion comes to be known it will show once again that our life-boat service is based on a spontaneous desire to save human life whatever the risks and difficulties; it will be an inspiration for the future as well as a glorious record of past achievement".

BRONZE MEDALS FOR IRISH LIFE-BOATMEN

Bronze medals for gallantry have been awarded to two Irish life-boatmen, Coxswain Samuel Nelson of Donaghadee and Second Coxswain Patrick Power, of Dunmore East. Coxswain Nelson won his medal for two services, one on 21st. November and the other on 6th. December, 1940, for going to the help of two steamers which had stranded among rocks, in gales, with very heavy seas running. David Nelson, the motor mechanic and Alexander Nelson, the bowman, brothers of the coxswain, were awarded the Institution's thanks on vellum.

Second Coxswain Power won his medal on 28th, February, 1941. He was at the wheel all the time when the Dunmore East motor life-boat rescued seven lives from a trawler, which had anchored in a gale, dragged her anchors for seven miles, and was within 200 yards of a rocky shore, with the seas breaking right over her, when the life-boat came to her help.

THREE M.B.E'S

Three honorary secretaries of life-boat stations, Mr. Walter Riggs, of Aldeburgh, Mr. G. Scantlebury, of Plymouth, and Mr. G. L. Thomson, of Stromness, Orkneys, were made *Members of the Order of the British Empire in the Birthday Honours* in recognition of their work for the life-boat service.

"THE PRINCESS ROYAL"

H.R.H. the Princess Royal named the new Hartlepool motor life-boat "The Princess Royal" on 21st July. The boat is of the 46-foot Watson cabin type, was finished in 1939 and went to her station a month after the outbreak of war. She has been out on service 20 times and has rescued 42 lives. She is a gift from the Civil Service Life-boat Fund. There are now eight Civil Service motor life-boats in the fleet.

£1500 FROM SOUTH AFRICA

At the end of January, 1940, a letter from Sir Godfrey Baring, Bt., chairman of the Institution, was published in "The Times" calling attention to the work of the life-boat service during the first five months of war. The letter was read in Cape Town by Miss Pattie Price, the South African singer and diseuse. She wrote at once offering to appeal in South Africa on behalf of the Institution. Her offer was gratefully accepted. She enlisted the help of the South African papers, which published articles

by her on the work of the service; she enlisted the help of the Navy League of South Africa, which undertook to receive contributions; and within a year of the launching of the appeal the Institution received £1500 from the Navy League "as the first two instalments." Miss Price has been awarded the Institution's gold badge in gratitude for her help.

A TORPEDOED COLLECTING BOX

The chief engineer of one of the steamers of the Holt Line who regularly brings to the office of the Institution's Port of Liverpool Branch a life-boat collecting box to be emptied, called a short time ago, full of apologies, because the ship had been torpedoed and the box lost. He said "I went back for it. I did really. And then I thought it was so full of copper it would surely sink me. It had nearly four pounds in it and that is a lot to lose, so I have sent in a claim for it." He also said that one of the crew had said to him some time before: "Remember chief, if you are torpedoed save the life-boat box. It has got a shilling of mine in it."

IN GRATITUDE FOR QUIET NIGHTS

A number of people are showing their gratitude for nights without air raids by giving a penny to the life-boat service for each quiet night. Among such gifts received are £11 from the staff of a post office sorting office in Dulwich and thirty shillings from two families in Leeds.

FISHERMEN AT WAR

No one knows more intimately the fishermen and life-boatmen of Whitby than Mr. Leo Walmsley, author of "Sally Lunn" and "Three Fevers," from which the film "Turn of the Tide", with its life-boat scenes, was made. In "Fishermen at War" (Collins 10s 6d) which has just been published, his chapter describing, from the stories of the men themselves, two of the war services of the Whitby Life-boat (in one of which two of her crew were washed overboard in the darkness and drowned) is as vivid and moving an account as has been written of the Life-boat Service at work, of its peculiar difficulties and dangers, and of the coolness and courage with which its crews meet them.

LIFE-BOAT DAYS IN 1941

So far 353 Branches have sent in the results of their flag days for this year. In the whole of last year 771 days were held. These 353 days have raised £52,726. That is £13,867 more than the same days raised in 1940, and of those 353 days no fewer than 245 raised more than ever before.

Greater London contributed £14,235. That is £1,702 more than in 1940, and it is the largest sum that has ever come from London.

Of other cities and towns which have suffered heavily from air raids, Birmingham, Bristol, Portsmouth, Southampton and Tynemouth have all contributed more than ever before.

GIFTS FROM OVERSEAS

Among places overseas from which the Institution has had gifts recently, are King Williams Town (South Africa), Northern Rhodesia, Kenya, New Zealand, Basutoland, Melbourne, Texas, Guatemala, New York and Buenos Aires.

LIFE-BOAT CALENDAR FOR 1942

The life-boat calendar for 1942 will shortly be ready. It will have on it a reproduction in colours of a painting of life-boats of the Institution helping to bring off men of the B.E.F. from the beaches of Dunkirk. The calendar costs a 1/- including the envelope, or 12 for 10/-, and it can be sent through the post open, for 1½d.