

LIFE-BOAT WAR BULLETIN No.6.

DECEMBER 1941.

27 MONTHS OF WAR.

In the first 27 months of war life-boats have rescued 4325 lives. They have rescued more lives in these 27 months than in the last twelve years of peace.

TWO TO ONE.

On October 11th., 1941, the total number of lives rescued by life-boats since the beginning of the war was 4131. That is the exact number which they rescued in the whole of the last war, from 4th. August 1914 to 11th. November 1918. In 110 weeks of this war life-boats had rescued as many lives as in the 223 weeks of the last war -- two lives rescued now for every one rescued then.

20 MEDALS FOR CROMER & GORLESTON.

The famous life-boat stations at Cromer and Great Yarmouth and Gorleston have won for two services in August and October 20 medals, 25 vellums and £234 in money awards. The first service was to six steamers wrecked close together on the Haisborough Sands. A very heavy sea was running and the steamers were going rapidly to pieces. The two Cromer life-boats and the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston life-boat rescued 119 lives from them.

Eighty-eight of these lives were rescued by the Cromer No. 1 life-boat. Coxswain Henry Blogg twice took her over the submerged decks of the steamers, and she came away with three holes in her side and the greater part of her stem torn away.

Coxswain Blogg was awarded the gold medal for the third time; Coxswain C. A. Johnson of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston and Second-Coxswain J. J. Davies, in command of the Cromer No. 2. life-boat, were both awarded silver medals. Bronze medals and vellums were awarded to the crews. The commander-in-chief at the Nore thanked the life-boatmen for their "superb seamanship and courage"

In October Cromer No. 1 and Great Yarmouth and Gorleston went out in a very rough sea to a steamer wrecked on the sandbank called Hammond Knoll. Cromer made two attempts to get alongside and at the second Coxswain Blogg and four of his men were washed overboard. All were rescued, but the signalman E. W. Allen, after being revived, collapsed and died. Great Yarmouth and Gorleston made five attempts.

All seven attempts had failed, but early next morning the Cromer life-boat went out again. Wind and sea were less, and she rescued the 44 men on board the steamer. Coxswain Blogg was awarded the silver medal and Coxswain Johnson the bronze medal. The widow of the signalman has been pensioned as if he had been a sailor, soldier or airman killed in action.

COXSWAIN HENRY BLOGG, G.C., B.E.M.

Coxswain Blogg has now won, since the outbreak of war, the Institution's gold medal for the third time and its silver medal for the third and fourth times. He has also been awarded, by the King, for the rescue of those 88 lives on the Haisborough Sands, the British Empire Medal. Shortly before this medal was awarded to him he received the George Cross in substitution for the Empire Gallantry Medal which, with the seven other living gold medallists of the Institution, he had been awarded in 1924, when the Institution celebrated its centenary.

Coxswain Charles Johnson, of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston, and Second-coxswain J. J. Davies, of Cromer, have now each won one silver and four bronze medals.

MEDALS FOR FLEETWOOD AND SHERINGHAM.

Coxswain Jeffrey Wright, of Fleetwood, and the motor mechanic, Sydney Hill, have been awarded the Institution's silver medal, and each of the other four members of the crew its vellum, for rescuing the crew of a motor schooner from the Faroe Islands. A gale was blowing; the life-boat was short handed; the rescue had to be carried out at full speed for fear the men of the schooner would drop out of the rigging; and the life-boat was smashed against the wreck and damaged.

Coxswain J. E. Dumble, of Sheringham, has won the bronze medal for the rescue of 15 lives from a Canadian steamer after a very difficult launch in a rough sea.

NEW LIFE-BOAT STATION IN IRELAND.

In August the Institution opened a new station on the west coast of Ireland at Killybegs, in Donegal Bay, and stationed there one of its most powerful motor life-boats, a 51-foot Barnett cabin boat with two 60 h.p. engines. She is the "Queen Victoria", built in 1929 and previously stationed at St. Peter Port, Guernsey. When the Channel Islands were occupied by the Germans in June 1940 she was at a building yard in England being overhauled, and the life-boat from the reserve fleet which was taking her place at St. Peter Port fell into German hands.

RAMSGATE & MARGATE AT DUNKIRK.

The Institution has presented to the coxswains and crews of the Ramsgate and Margate life-boats vellums recording the fact that they took part in the evacuation of the B.E.F. from Dunkirk, and the Prudential Assurance, Co., the donors of the Ramsgate life-boat, have presented the Ramsgate coxswain and crew with silver plaques in commemoration of the same service.

"MUG-IN-TIME" CANTEEN FOR BLYTH.

The Inner Circle of Ladies' Clubs of Great Britain and Ireland have, through the Women's Voluntary Service, presented the Blyth Station with a portable canteen (known as a "mug-in-time" canteen) containing two thermos urns and 40 cups in trays.

GIFTS FROM THE FIGHTING SERVICES.

Here are some of the many gifts received recently from the fighting services: £63 from a battalion in the Middle East; £36 from a battalion in Gibraltar; £128 from British troops in Iceland; £42 from an R.A.F. maintenance unit in the Middle East; £31 from an R.A.F. depot in the Far East; £147 from the air headquarters of the British forces in Iraq; £97 from a naval air station in Scotland; £203 from a naval base in Scotland; £100 from H.M.S. "George V."; and £31 from H.M.S. "Ark Royal".

ANOTHER £600 FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

Another £600 has been received from South Africa in response to Miss Pattie Price's appeal. £500 of it comes from the Navy League War Fund of South Africa and £100 from people of Johannesburg. The total is now £2,164.

FROM TWO EAST LONDONS.

On the same day the Institution received two gifts, each of two guineas, from masonic lodges. One gift had travelled a few miles, from East London, the other 6,000 miles, from East London in South Africa.

THE PRIME MINISTER --- AND AN ONION.

A gift of two pounds has come from the recreation club of a motor works. It was raised by the sale of a model of the Prime Minister and -- an onion.

"OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE".

A cheque for £1. 1. has been received, made out to Lieut.-Colonel Sir William Hillary, Bt., who founded the Institution in 1824.