

Source 19: Praise for Sir William's rescue (continued – page 2)

In the letter from Sir William Hillary to the institution's Secretary Thomas Edwards, dated 22 December 1830, William describes the painful effects of the rescue mission to the wreck of the *St George* on himself, his crew and their lifeboat. He thanks the National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck for its recognition of the bravery involved in this rescue with the award of medals.

Praise also poured in from the press and the Admiralty as rescues like this became known about. It was by acting out the aims of the institution – having equipment and volunteers ready to rescue at all times, in all weathers, to all ships from any country – that the campaign won support to continue saving lives at sea.

When the British public read of such rescues, they donated generously to the cause. The institution's campaign tactic was to focus on the volunteers' bravery and their courage in risking their lives to help others – and this inspired the nation.

2

and a silver medal, with which they have all
 honored, and I am requested by those Gentlemen
 to express to the Committee of the R. N. Institution
 the grateful sense they entertain for these tokens
 of approval of their exertions (so gallantly displayed
 in the course of humanity.

My Old and Esteemed Cousin, Isaac Do
 was equally surprised and thankful for the confer
 ment of a Silver Medal, and even derived enjoyment
 that I did not feel less gratified by this accomplish
 ment to the terrible but brave companions of my
 former efforts – He, and the Boat's crew, are be
 satisfied with the handsome Vote of Twenty given
 in their favor, which is to be distributed to them
 on Christmas eve, and have begged I will offer
 to the Committee their humble and grateful thanks.

I have much pleasure in adding that these proud
 and honorable Marks of the Support of the Parent
 Institution, have given some pleasure to every part
 of our former Association, and by the consultation
 it is calculated to excite, will I am persuaded, be
 the most beneficial effects, in exciting others to
 become entitled to similar honors.

1

My Dear Sir

Yesterday our High Sheriff Mr. Zu
 the Chairman of this Committee, delivered to me by
 letter of the 16th Instant, and also one to myself convey
 the feelings of approbation, so warmly expressed by the
 Committee of the Royal National Institution, on the 10th
 inst, through Providence, attended our efforts in the
 rescue of the crew of the *St George*, then wrecked on the
 Day on the 20th of last month.

The flattering approbation of our perso
 efforts on this occasion – the peculiar distinction
 of a second Gold Medal conferred upon me – and
 above all, the reasons assigned for this honor, and
 the kind expressions by which it is accompanied,
 have, I suppose you, been most gratifying to your
 feelings, and for which I beg you will do me the
 honor to convey to the Central Committee, my
 warmest and most sincere acknowledgements.

I have acquainted Mr. Robinson R. N. and
 Mr. Corbett, with the usual notice of a Gold Medal.

3

she shattered in almost every part, two planks
 her bottom were stove, by which the great cur
 case under her floor was rotted – by out of ten
 upper tubes round her sides, under the Thwart
 were fractured by the violent shocks she received;
 otherwise she was so much injured, that it is
 dangerous how she brought us safe to land – she
 undergone a thorough repair, and in a few days
 will, I trust, be ready for any service which
 be required.

Do me the favor to express my best
 regards, and sincere thanks, to Mr. Nelson and
 my other friends of the Committee, who have so
 interested themselves in my recovery from the effects
 of the late wreck – independent of being so much
 otherwise bruised I have severely felt the hurt in
 my ribs and breast bone, but having been freed
 blood soon after landing, and being some under
 medical care, I am now gradually recovering.

Accept also my best thanks for your kind wishes,
 for the very handsome manner in which you
 conveyed to me the sentiments of the Committee,
 and believe me My Dear Sir

Very faithfully yours W. Hillary

4

1830

Will you have the kindness to send the Medals
 as early as convenient – address to me at Douglas –
 to the care of Mark Quoyle Esq. Monks Isle
 Steam Packet Office. No 15 North Sackville Liverpool
 having it Booked – I will thank you to make the parcel
 a better size by adding a few Reports of the East or other
 news with any other class of interest which is new with you

Sir Wm Hillary Bart.
 Douglas 22 Decemr

acknowledgment done

London

Edwards Esq
 National Institution
 Dublin Street

In the Case of the
St George Steam Packet

Letter from Sir William Hillary to Thomas Edwards, 22 December 1830
 Courtesy: RNLI Heritage Trust

Source 19: Praise for Sir William's rescue (continued – page 2)

Transcript of Sir William Hillary's letter to
Thomas Edwards, 22 December 1830
Courtesy: RNLI Heritage Trust

Douglas 22nd December 1830
Isle of Man

My Dear sir

Yesterday our High Bailiff, Mr Quirk The Chairman of this Committee, delivered to me your letter to him of the 16th instant, and also one to myself conveying the feelings of approbation so warmly expressed by the committee of the Royal National Institution on the success which, through providence, attended our efforts in the rescue of the crew of the St George, when wrecked in this Bay on the 20th of last month.

The flattering approbation of my personal efforts on this occasion in the peculiar distinction of a second Gold Medallion conferred upon me - and above all, the reasons assigned for this hour, and the kind expressions by which it is accompanied, have, I assure you, been most gratifying to my feelings, and for which I beg you will do me the favour to convey to the Central Committee, my warmest and most sincere acknowledgements.

I have acquainted Lt R Robinson RN and Mr Corlett, with the several votes of a Gold Medallion and a Silver medal with which they have been honoured, and I am requested by those Gentlemen to express to the Committee of the RN Institution the grateful sense they entertain for these tokens of approval of their exertions (so gallantly displayed) in the cause of humanity.

My old and veteran Coxswain Isaac Vondy was equally surprised and thankful for the unexpected honour of a silver medal, nor can I omit expressing that I did not feel less gratified by this compliment paid to the humble but brave companion of my former efforts - He and the boats' crew are highly satisfied with the handsome vote of twenty guineas in their favour, which is to be distributed to them on Christmas Eve, and have begged I will offer to the committee their humble and grateful thanks.

I have much pleasure in adding that these prompt and honourable marks of the support of the parent Institution, have given sincere pleasure to every friend of our Insular association, and by the emulation it is calculate to create will, I am persuaded have the most beneficial effects in exciting others to become entitled to similar honours.

Our boat, in examination was found to be shattered in almost every part, two planks in her bottom were stove, by which the great air tight case under her floor was filled - six out of ten copper tubes round her sides, under the thwarts were fractured by the violent shocks she received, and otherwise she was so much injured that it is miraculous how she brought us safe to land - she has undergone a thorough repair, and in a few days will, I trust, be ready for any service which may be required.

Do me the favour to express my best regards and sincere thanks to Mr Wilson and my other friends of the Committee, who have so kindly interested themselves in my recovery from the effects of the late wreck - independent of being much otherwise bruised I have severely felt the hurt on my ribs and breast bone but having been freely bled soon after landing and being since under medical care, I am now gradually recovering.

Accept also my best thanks for your kind wishes, likewise for the very handsome manner in which you have conveyed to me the sentiments of the committee, and believe me, My Dear Sir...

My faithfully yours
Wm Hillary

(Note)

Will you have the kindness to send the medals, as early as convenient - addressed to me at Douglas to the care of Mark Quayle Esq, Mona's Isle, Steam Packet Office, No 15 Nova Scotia Liverpool having it booked - and I will thank you to make the parcel a better size by adding a few reports of the Last or other years with anything else of interest which is new with you.

Our warm and zealous friend Lt Governor Smelt informed me he had written to Mr Wilson as chairman of the committee - on the subject of the late wreck. I have not yet heard if he has received any letter, direct to himself - but I beg to add it is an attention which from his great respectability and the interest he takes in our cause I am sure will not intentionally be overlooked.

Q

1. What modern-day campaigns have used bravery and courage as a hook to generate change or to raise funds?
2. How long have these campaigns been running?