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

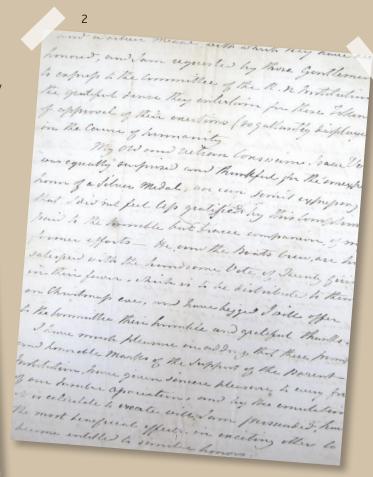
In the letter from Sir William Hillary to the institution's Secretary Thomas Edwards, dated 22 December 1830, William describes the painful effects of the rescue mission to the wreck of the *St George* on himself, his crew and their lifeboat. He thanks the National Institution for the Preservation of 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.

My Dear Li Genterday om Wigh Beile the Charmon of this Committee, believed to me illing the 16th Instant, com also one to my rely com committee of the Moyal national Internation. eneming the Grew of the Algerrye, when writed in the Day on the 20 th of last months The flathering opprobation of me forts on this accusion - the peculian distince , a deem got medallion confermed upon hour are, the reasons aprigned for this hon The Kind comprepara by Sante it is conver Lave, I apone you, here most-gratifying Leetings and for shirt I by you will do Laxer to comey to the Central lorn I have agrain to LA. Alinna R. R. Im Corlett, with the several Dates of a got Medable

3 a shallow in abmost every part, two plan her bottom were stone by which the great a Care under her floor was filled for out mere fractioned by the violent shorts she received; Minist the our se much rynn that it is randows how he hought in supe to hand - the undergone a thorough repair, and in a few Da wite, I trust - he rendy for any Lewise while he reguised. Do me the power to eapless my bestryunds and sincer thanks to milliter my other friends of the Committee, The have interested Remochus in my recovery from of the late wrick -Merrine Cornise I have severely fell the he in tils om breest bone. hus having been free bled soon ofter landing, and deing some medical case, Jam now gradually recovering augh also my best thanks for your kind we conveyed to me the sendoments of the Com buy fully yours offy

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.





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

My Dear sir

Douglas 22nd December 1830

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

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.