

Medals Of Bravery

On Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock on the 17-March-1917 in the lifeboat house in Baltimore, silver medals were awarded by the R.N.L.I to four Cape Clear men, fishermen, Michael and Tim Cadogan, John and Timothy Daly.

These were presented for saving all but one of the crew of the SS NESTORDIAN off Bullane Rock-South-West of Cape. The medals were presented by the Bishop of Ross, Dr.Kelly, in the presence of a large assembly. This is what he said in light of what he heard of the rescue, that took place on 2nd of January 1917.

He said that the Dalys and the Cadogans, played a game with the sea the game meant the rescue of the lives of the men, to lose it meant death. To themselves perhaps and certainly for the crew, that the game was won by the blessing of God and by the strength and skill of there own hands. They had really and truly risked there own lives to save the lives of fellow men, men they had never seen or met. All they knew were shipwrecked marines in distress. The story goes as follows - Amidst the darkness the Royal Steamship SS NESTORIAN had hit rocks of Bullane Rock, below the cliffs of south west. Con Cadogan ,at the age of 77 , with the trained ear of a old seadog, recognised the gun firing distress signal. He called his sons, Michael and Tim [of north Ballyieagh]. They went out to call the neighbours the Dalys of Cumbe. Con Cadogan was not afraid to risk the lives of his sons, Mrs Daly declared that she

might never see her boys again, but if they were lost they would have died in a noble cause.

They went out in Con Cadogans fishing boat; they also took a small punt in tow. When they got there the NESTORIAN was already wrecked and breaking up. She had 47 people on board the sea all around was strewn with wreckage, the wind was blowing fiercely and there was a regular whirlpool. The fishing boat could not approach the wreck, so the two Cadogans and the two Dalys got in the small punt and rowed into that seething cauldron. She had broken in two. It was not till the next morning as the sun rose , other boats came from Baltimore , Sherkin ,Schull were hurrying to the scene and help with the rescue. The Cadogans and the Dalys had spent the night rescuing all of the crew, except the cabin boy who mistimed his jump from the wreck to the small boat. He got smashed up on the rocks. The Bishop also read out a letter by the captain of the Nestorian, Captain Coalsting:

The rescue of our party by the men of Cape Clear was one of the most noble and courageous deeds that could have been preformed by men, the sea had been breaking over us for hours. These brave men risked there lives for to whom we are grateful but never can repay.

Silver medals and certificates, were given to Tim and Michael Cadogan and John and Timothy Daly and a pair of binoculars to Con Cadogan.

Story collected and written by Molly Cadogan (Rang 5)