

THIS IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF A NEWSPAPER REPORT PUBLISHED AROUND ABOUT THE 1890s,  
FOUND BY LOCAL RESIDENT YVONNE CLEAVE WHEN SORTING OUT SOME OLD DOCUMENTS -  
A ROUSING PIECE OF EDITORIAL COPY OF IT'S DAY

## PORT ISAAC FISHING BOATS IN DIFFICULTIES

A night not soon to be forgotten by the people of Port Isaac was that on Monday last. In the afternoon the fishermen, having regard for the barometer falling fast, the storm cone up and the sky showing various unfavourable signs, discussed the question of fishing that evening and generally agreed, with wisdom as it proved, not to venture out.

Six of the boats, however, tempted by the knowledge they were in the bay, decided to run the risk and accordingly went out and shot their nets. In these boats were as many as 26 men. The Coastguard men anticipated trouble and Mr Richards then directed that the little contingent should be closely watched. As evening drew on the weather grew steadily worse. The sea began to rage and heavy rollers were breaking in over Lobber while the barometer had gone down. Violent squalls were also blowing from WSW. Anxiety for the men outside was being intensified, in these circumstances, especially as the boats could not enter the cove and reach their moorings, or be safely beached until there was more water.

A few minutes before 10, the Coastguard look-out saw that they had left their fishing stations and run down under Varley Point, obviously for shelter, and were showing their lights, this taken to mean that help was being looked for, and Mr Richards caused a blue light to be burned in response.

Just after a terrible rain storm broke. It was like a deluge. The fear at once was that it would bring a sudden shift of wind to the north west, in which case the boats would be beset by the utmost peril between wind and sea. Their fate would be sealed unless there were to be a sea rescue. All the fury of the Atlantic must then show itself upon the shore, whereupon they would be driven. Mr John Haynes, Coxswain of the Lifeboat, communicated with the local Secretary, Dr Julian George and the order was given for a launch.

In an incredibly short space of time the roar of the sound signals was heard at the Coastguard Station. A rush of brave ready hands made to the Boathouse, every preparation seen to and the ***Richard and Sarah*** borne down through the dark, dipping, cramped, twisting street throughfare to the beach. Scores of men and women ran to check ropes. It was indeed to the observer a stirring sight. There was not a cork jacket to spare. Up sprang thirteen gallant fellows to the respective positions in that grand bark of mercy and no a single soul, no father, mother, brother or sister intervened to hold them back. It was a noble act of sacrifice. One saw the men and saw their splendid physical grit. One saw too their devotedness and therein their moral grit of more splendour still.

The men, who under command of Coxswain Haynes, with his Second Coxswain T Collins, gripping the oars were Sam Williams (Bowman), N Blake, N Bunt, Sam Thomas, C Crouch, W Bishop, JN Haynes, T Strout, TH Hoskin, WC Calloway and T Tabb. Then with a blaze of the rocket, which almost paused over her, as if in blessing, and with the hurrahs of those left behind, the ***Richard and Sarah***, all impatient as it were, sped from her carriage bed into the seething waters and the darkness beyond.

On weathering the Lobber, they burned lights and took up a position near to wait high tide, the time for returning to the cover, should no greater danger arise in the meantime. By a dreaded change of wind it was now blowing almost a gale off the land. The mercury had dropped another tenth and the sea was rushing up the beach in mighty resistless sweeps. Most fortunately the wind held on in the safer direction and about one o'clock the boats proceeded up to Lobber Point where they were towed into the haven, one after another, by the Lifeboat.

The ***Amaranth*** and the ***Brothers*** were brought to their moorings and even with the aid she was receiving, the latter almost came to grief in the surf. The ***Amaranth's*** tender was submerged; an effort to recover it, however, succeeded. The ten men of these boats were taken ashore in the ***Richard and Sarah***. The other four boats, the ***Daring***, ***Scorcher***, ***Alice and Mary*** and ***Mary Stuart*** were safely beached and hauled up out of harms way. The sixteen men aboard them managing to scramble up through the breakers.

And so it was proved how unquestionably valuable is the local Lifeboat to Port Isaac. Only a rowing boat could have rendered such a service as she did in the cove on Monday night. Further her proximity makes her available for the work of deliverance at almost a moments notice.

The Bude and Padstow services were, it should be said, duly notified in case of need.