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# ANNUAL REPORTS

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and statement of accounts



1920'S  
SOUTH SHIELDS VOLUNTEER LIFE BRIGADE  
Est. 1866

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## South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade, March 4th, 1921 (1920)

Notice is hereby given that the Annual meeting will be held in the Brigade House on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 8 p.m. when the Annual Report will be presented to the Members.

The usual voting paper is enclosed to all efficient Members.

Yours faithfully,

J. B. Bowman

Hon. Secretary

### **Annual Report for the year 1920**

This has been a most uneventful year. There have been no wrecks and only on two occasions, December 4<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup>, has it been necessary to keep watch. On November 14<sup>th</sup> the Brigade attended St Hilda's Church on the invitation of the Mayor (Coun. A. D. Johnston). There was a large number of various public bodies and friends. About 40 of the Brigade attended. As will be seen by the Cash statement, a considerable sum of money has been spent this year in repairing, painting and decorating the Brigade House as well as installing new heating apparatus and new stoves in both rooms. To do this we have had to appeal to our friends for help, and, as will be seen, so far with good results, for which we are very thankful. It will be necessary to try to get further help so that this coming year will find us free from debt. On June 28<sup>th</sup> the Brigade was inspected by Capt. Daintree, R. N., one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Life Saving Apparatus, when a rocket drill was gone through to his satisfaction, and he carefully examined all the gear in charge of the Coastguards. The Brigade lost two of its oldest members by the death of Mr David Cook and Mr W. E. Moffett, who were always most assiduous in their duties as Brigadesmen.

The Hon. Treasurer in account with  
 South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade  
 Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1920

Receipts

	£	s.	d.
To balance at bank 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan. 1920	180	1	10
“ Subscriptions from hon. members	93	4	0
“ Grant from Board of Trade	25	0	0
“ Grant from Tyne Lifeboat Society	30	0	0
“ Interest-			
Tyne Commission   £25   11	0		
War Loans           5     5	2		
	30	16	2
“ Sale of surplus blankets	14	5	0
“ Collection box in Watch House	4	18	2
“ Balance due bank 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec. 1920	86	13	8
	£464	18	10

## Payments

	£	s.	d.
By Repairs to house	31	18	3
“ Painting and cleaning house	179	17	6
“ Coals	1	13	0
“ Gas and new lamp in tower	8	6	4
“ Provisions	7	18	11
“ Printing and stationery	7	10	3
“ Tyne Commissioners way leaves	0	9	3
“ Uniforms	43	17	6
“ Ambulance fund subscriptions etc.	1	19	8
“ Cheque books	1	5	0
“ Insurances	4	11	10
“ Salaries and wages	82	9	0
“ Dr Crease memorial	20	0	0
“ Searchlight and engine stores	6	6	7
“ New stove and heating apparatus	54	2	10
“ New beds, pillows etc.	5	3	3
“ Secretary’s postages, carriage of goods etc.	2	17	1
“ Bank charges	4	12	7
	£464	18	10

Jas Page (Capt.) Hon. Treasurer

67 King Street, South Shields

Newcastle –on-Tyne, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1921

Audited and certified, M. Stainton,

Chartered Accountant

Member’s Names

For year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1920

Efficient members

1 <sup>st</sup> Division
Page, James (Capt.)
Middleton, J. M. (D. Capt.)
Fleming, C.
Fitzpatrick, J. L.
Robson, John
Tait, James
Stephenson, G. H.
Werndly, James
Laidler, George
McDonnell, Hugh
2 <sup>nd</sup> Division
Oliver, Fred. (Capt.)
Wattle, John (D. Capt.)
Cleet, John
Frazer, G. W.
Grenyer, Richard
Kyle, James
Mathews, Charles
Postgate, Thomas
Vasey, W. M.
Spence, J. W.
Crawford, T. P.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Division
Harker, C. A. (Capt.)
Barbour, J (D. Capt.)
Gardner, R.
Jones, Thomas
Jamieson, J. A.
Middleton, R. O.
Shields, H.
Preston, T. F.
Wallace, W.
Straker, J. D.
4 <sup>th</sup> Division
Shaw, C. E. (Capt.)
Mathews, J. A. (D. Capt.)
Ball, James
Crosbie, Thomas
Meikle, John
Robertson, A. G.
Whitaker, J.

Searchlight Division
Ogilvie, Duncan
Haw, Frank
Scrafton, C. D. (Supt.)
Macintosh, G. Y.
Dixon, Joseph
Riley, Charles
Brown, W.
Non-Efficient Members
Burn, J. E.
Campbell, John
Plews, David
Thompson, Edward
Whitaker, J., jun.
Woodhouse, M.
Brown, J. W.
Gentles, Thos.
Lawson, A.
Ramsay, David
Thompson, James
Smith, W. H.
Auty, G. W.
Johnson, J. G.
Peacock, G. W.
Watson, R. P.
Smith, James
Soulsby, T. S.
Boyack, Thomas
Frazer, J. G.
Briggs, C. E.
Johnson, James
Lake, Mark
Peacock, Jonathan
Swainston, John
Young, E. J.
Train, Thomas

Hon. Captain: T. B. Grimes

Hon. Surgeon: Dr G. R. Harland, Falstone House, Stanhope Road

House Captain: J. W. Buckland, 5 Winterbottom Street, South Shields

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

Voting Paper

Election of Committee 11<sup>th</sup> March, 1921

J. M. Middleton 21

J. Watts 25

J. Barbour 25

J. A. Mathews 25

John Robson 25

R. O. Middleton 23

A. G. Robertson 25

C. D. Scrafton 24

J. L. Fitzpatrick 19

W. Brown 21

Thomas Crocbie 23

C. Fleming 21

Jos. Dixon

F. Haw

You will vote by placing an X in the square on the right of the name of the members you vote for. You cannot vote for more than 12 members



## South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade, 17<sup>th</sup> March 1922 (1921)

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting will be held in the Brigade House on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p. m. when the Annual Report will be presented to the Members.

J. B. Bowman

Hon. Secretary

### Annual Report

For the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1921

In presenting the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Report the Committee are pleased to state that the work of the Brigade has carried on with unabated interest. Fortunately, there is no wreck service to report, watches have been kept when necessary and the monthly drills have been fairly well attended.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> a strong gale from the North East, and a heavy sea caused a watch to be kept from 6 p. m. till 2 a. m. when the wind abated. The watch was well attended.

In April classes were formed for instructions in Rocket Drill and Ambulance. The classes were well attended for a time, but the attendance gradually fell off and the classes had to be finally abandoned.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> an interesting ceremony took place at Sunderland in connection with the St John's Ambulance Brigade: the long and efficient service medals were given by the Grand Prior of the Order of St John were presented by Lieut-Colonel C. B. Palmer, Commissioner for this Northern District to Divisional Superintendent J. W. Buckland and First Officer C. E. Shaw, of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade Division, and Superintendent J. L. Fitzpatrick, of Readhead's Works Division.

On Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> the Brigade attended a Church Parade arranged by the Comrades of the Great War Association. It was held in the South Park and was well attended by the Howitzer Brigade, Cadets, the Mayor and Mayoress and many of the Councillors and general public.

October the 2<sup>nd</sup> was the centenary of the death of Willie Wouldhave, the inventor of the lifeboat. The day was marked by a special service at St Hilda's Church and the unveiling of a Memorial in the Churchyard. The service was attended by the Mayor and Corporation, the Volunteer Life Brigade and many representatives of the different public bodies in the town.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of November the Brigade was inspected by Capt. Aplin, R. N., his Majesty's Inspector of the Life Saving Apparatus, Brigades and Companies. The Brigade went through the Rocket drill under the command of Capt. Page, after which the Inspecting Officer presented long service medals given by the King for 20 years good and efficient service in the Brigade to the following:- Capt. C. E. Shaw,

Brigadesman James Thompson. There was also a medal for Thomas Readford, who did not live to get it; this was received by his widow.

We regret the loss of two of our members by death during the year: Thomas Readford and Edward Thompson. They were both good Brigadesmen and constant attenders in stormy weather.

It will be noticed from the Balance Sheet that there is an overdraft at the bank amounting to £89 19s 3d as against £86 13s 8d at the beginning of the year. This is largely due to the fact that owing to the depression in trade we have not made our customary appeal for subscriptions to our Honorary Members. We now feel the necessity of asking our friends to assist us in reducing our liability. The Hon. Treasurer, Capt. Page, will be pleased to receive donations. It should be pointed out that an Annual Subscription of One Guinea entitles the donor to be an Honorary Member.

Note. -No Voting Paper is enclosed as there are no new nominations for the Committee. The Deputy Captains and old Committee will thus be formally re-elected at the Annual Meeting.

The Hon. Treasurer in account with  
The South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade  
Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1921

Receipts

	£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions from Hon. Members	7	6	0
“ Grant from Tyne Lifeboat Society	30	0	0
“ Grants from Board of Trade	50	0	0
“ Interest:-			
Tyne Commissioners	25	11	0
War Loans	5	5	2
“ Collection Box, Watch House	1	9	10
“ Balance due Bank 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec., 1921	89	19	3
	£209	11	3

Payments

	£	s.	d.
By Balance due Bank 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan., 1921	86	13	8
“ Repairs to House	4	16	9
“ Coals	1	7	10
“ Gas	1	4	4
“ Provisions, Stores etc.	4	17	0
“ Printing and Stationery	6	13	8
“ Tyne Commissioners Ground Rent etc.		9	3
“ Cheque Book	1	0	0
“ Uniforms		16	9
“ Insurances	4	11	9
“ Salaries and Wages	80	14	0
“ Searchlight and Engine Stores	9	11	11
“ Secretaries' and Treasurers' Postages		15	0
“ Bank Charges	5	19	4
	£209	11	3

Jas. Page (Captain), Hon. Treasurer,  
67 King Street, South Shields

Newcastle-on-Tyne

23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1922

Audited and Certified,

M. Stainton

Chartered Accountant

## South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade, March 9<sup>th</sup> 1923 (1922)

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting will be held at the Brigade House on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7.30 p.m., when the Annual Report will be presented to Members.

The usual voting paper is enclosed to all efficient Members.

Yours faithfully,

J.B. Bowman,

Hon. Secretary

### **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1922**

The Committee have pleasure in submitting the following report for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1922.

Owing to such an open season very few watches were necessary and were held as follows:-

January 25.- A south-east gale with heavy rain and sleet. The gale began on the previous day with snow squalls and strong wind. Watch kept till after midnight.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>.-A south-south-east gale with heavy sea and rain. Watch commenced in the afternoon, with a fairly good muster of members, which increased as the evening went on. Several vessels entered the harbour in safety, but watch kept till morning. On this occasion, Mr James Grant, Hon. Member, who had kept watch with us all night, intimated that he would present to the Brigade an Aneroid Barometer to take the place of the Fitzroy Barometer that we had had for so many years, and which was very much out of order. This Aneroid, which is placed near a north window, is not only greatly appreciated by the Brigade, but often consulted by people going along the Pier, especially by seafaring men.

July 9<sup>th</sup>. - The Brigade attended a Memorial Service held in the South Park. This Memorial Parade and Service was arranged by the British legion to commemorate the death of all those who lost their lives in the War. The Service was conducted by the Revd. Mr Pryke, Vicar of St Aiden's, and was attended by the Major and Corporation, the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade R.F.A Cadets, Scouts and other public bodies.

August 21<sup>st</sup>.- The Brigade was inspected by Capt. Daintree, R. N., His Majesty's Inspector of Life Saving Apparatus, who was accompanied by Commander Hamilton Gordon, Divisional Officer. Capt. Daintree gave a very practical illustration of restoring the apparently drowned, as taught him by Professor Schafer, who is the greatest authority on the subject and whose method is now adopted by the Royal Navy and St John Ambulance Brigade. Capt. Daintree afterwards presented the King's Long Service Medal to the following Brigadesmen, who had completed 20 year's "good and effective" service: J. L. Fitzpatrick, Thos Crosbie, C. Fleming, J.

Barbour and J. Whitaker. This ceremony concluded the inspection. In the course of his speech Capt. Daintree expressed his satisfaction with the Brigade, the appearance of the House, and the way the drill was carried out.

November 12<sup>th</sup>. - The Brigade attended St. Hilda's Church with the Mayor (Counc. E. Smith), the Corporation, and other public bodies. The Lord Bishop of Durham preached a sterling and heartfelt sermon to a very full congregation.

The Searchlight Division has kept the engine and light in good order during the year, and praise is due to them for their constant attention.

Classes have been held for instruction in the Rocket Drill, and all members now have a good knowledge of the apparatus.

From the Balance-sheet it will be seen that there is an overdraft at the Bank amounting to £52 19s. 3d.. This is £37 less than the previous year, for which we have to thank the Honorary Members for their donations to our funds. The Committee is anxious that this adverse balance be paid off, and further Honorary Members are desired. The Honorary Treasurer, Capt. Page, will be pleased to receive donations. It should be pointed out that an annual subscription of one guinea entitles the Donor to be an Honorary Member.

The Hon. Treasurer in account with  
The South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade  
Year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>. 1922

Receipts					Payments				
		£	s	d			£	s	d
To	Subscriptions, Hon. Members, etc	40	3	6	By	Balance due Bank 1 <sup>st</sup> . January 1922	89	19	3
"	Grant from Board of Trade	25	0	0	"	Repairs to House	15	16	11
"	Grant from Tyne Lifeboat Society	30	0	0	"	Gas	1	7	4
"	Interest:-				"	Provisions, Stores, etc.	3	10	7
	Tyne Commissioners	26	5	2	"	Tyne Commission, Ground Rent, etc		9	3
	War Loan	5	5	2	"	Insurances	4	10	1
"	Collection Box, Watch House	3	0	6	"	Salaries and Wages	80	14	10
"	Repayment of Income Tax	32	2	0	"	Searchlight and Engine Stores	6	5	0
"	Balance due Bank, 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec., 1922	52	19	3	"	Subscription to St. John's Ambulance War Memorial	2	2	0
					"	Secretaries' and Treasurers' Postage and Sundries	2	6	7
					"	Bank Charges	3	16	6
		£214	15	7			£214	15	7

Audited and Certified

Newcastle-on-Tyne

M. Stainton

24<sup>th</sup> February, 1923

Chartered  
Accountant

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

Voting Paper

Election of Committee, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1923

J. M. Middleton	23
J. Watts	27
J. Barbour	28
J. A. Mathews	26
John Robson	27
R. O. Middleton	23
A. G. Robertson	27
C. D. Scrafton	22
J. L. Fitzpatrick	19
W. Brown	26
Thomas Crosbie	22
C. Fleming	21
Jos. Dixon	-15
F. Haw	-13

Note.- You will vote by placing an X in the square on the right of the name of the members you vote for. You cannot vote for more than TWELVE members.



## South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade, February 15<sup>th</sup> 1924 (1923)

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting will be held in the Brigade House on Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30 p.m., when the Annual Report will be presented to the Members.

J. B. Bowman  
Hon. Secretary

### **Annual Report for the Year 1923**

The Committee present the Annual Report for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1923.

Owing to the very mild winter few watches were necessary.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18.- The weather for some days had been rather stormy with rain showers, then hail, and strong south-easterly winds, the sea being much disturbed. On the Sunday the wind increased with heavy showers of hail and sleet. Watch was kept. There was a good attendance of members.

INSPECTION. - On June 22<sup>nd</sup> the Brigade was inspected by Capt Aplin, R. N. , Inspector General Of Life Brigades and Companies. Capt Aplin inspected the Gear, Rocket Lines, Whips, Hawsers, etc, and found all in good condition. He then put the Brigade through the Rocket Drill and expressed himself highly satisfied.

MEMORIAL SERVICE. - On July 18<sup>th</sup>, the Brigade attended a memorial service held in the South Park. The Memorial Service is arranged each year by the British Legion to commemorate the death of those who lost their lives in the Great War. It was largely attended by the 74<sup>th</sup> Brigade R. F. A., Mayor and Corporation, Cadets, Scouts and other public bodies.

“CHRONICLE” CUP COMPETITION. – The cup was given by the “Newcastle Chronicle” for excellence in drill etc., and is a Challenge Cup to be competed for each year. The team has to consist of 15 members and an officer. After being in abeyance for some years. it has been revived again this year, and our team, under the command of Capt. Page, were successful in carrying off the Cup for the year. There were about twelve competing teams from different stations, each having their drill on their own ground, the different parts of the drill being done against time, Capt. Betts, R. N., Inspector of Coastguards, being Judge and Umpire. Our operations took place on the beach near the Brigade House, Capt. Betts being accompanied by District officers from Seaham and Blyth. The drill was smartly executed, and at the close the Inspecting officers announced that South Shields had a clear majority of points over the rest of the competing teams, and were therefore the holders for the year of the “Chronicle” Cup. Mr R. Y. Carter, of South Shields, acted as timekeeper.

Roker team was placed second, and Tynemouth third. Our team was: Brigadesmen Robertson, Robson, Jamieson, Brown, Grenyer, Preston, Macintosh, Wallace, Loades, Ramsay, C. Mathews, Spence, Crosbie, Laidler, and Dept. Captain Mathews; wreck party Macdonell and Whitaker. Capt. Betts congratulated the team on winning the Cup, and Capt. Page returned thanks. Previous to the drill, the Inspector presented Dept. Capt, Watts with the Brigades and Companies King's Long Service Medal, the recipient having completed 20 year's good and efficient service in the Brigade.

MAYOR'S SUNDAY. - On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Brigade was invited by the Mayor to accompany him and the Corporation to the usual service at St. Hilda's Church. The sermon was preached by Bishop Welldon, Dean of Durham, and there was a crowded congregation.

SMOKING CONCERT AND PRESENTATION OF THE "CHRONICLE" CUP. – The "Chronicle" Cup recently won for the year by the S.S.V.L.B. was presented by Sir Joseph Reed on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The occasion was celebrated by a Smoking Concert, held in the Watch House, our President, Mr Malcolm, being in the chair, supported on either side by Sir Joseph Reed, the Mayor (Councillor Druery), the Officers and many Honorary Members and friends. A good muster of brigadesmen filled the room to its utmost capacity. Sir Joseph Reed when presenting the Cup, made a very happy speech and congratulated the Brigade on their success. Capt. Page thanked Sir Joseph for the kind and gracious manner in which he had presented the Cup and thanked him in the name of the Brigade for his presence among them and the trouble he had taken to keep the engagement with them. Capt. Betts, R.N., Inspector of Coastguards, who was Judge on the occasion of the competition, paid a high tribute to the qualities of the S.S. Brigade. When he called upon the "Chronicle" Directors they kindly gave him permission to extend the competition for the Cup this year to the coast of Northumberland, and he was hoping to see 27 entries this year. The team were then photographed, and each member was presented with a gold medal by the Mayor, which had been subscribed for by various friends of the Brigade. The Chairman, Mr Malcolm, congratulated the Brigade on winning the Cup, and gave various anecdotes and reminiscences of the early days of the Brigade. The remainder of the evening was given up to a concert, and the proceedings terminated with "God Save the King", sung by all present.

## Annual Report for the Year 1924

The Committee beg to present their 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Report.

There have been no outstanding incidents to chronicle. The usual monthly drills and inspections are nearly all that occurred during the period covered by this Report.

JANUARY 8. – A well-attended watch was held when a very strong easterly gale sprang up with hail and sleet showers. The gale abated about 2 a.m. on January 9.

FEBRUARY 12. – A strong south-east gale commenced during the day, and by evening it was blowing hard. A watch was kept during the afternoon and evening but the wind moderated considerably about 11 p.m.

JULY 27. – The Brigade attended a Church Parade in the South Marine Park. This Parade was arranged by the British Legion in memory of those who laid down their lives in the Great War. A very impressive service was conducted by the Rev. F. S. Myers, Vicar of South Moor. The Service was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, many of the Aldermen and Councillors, the Brigade of Field Artillery, the Cadets, Scouts, and other public bodies.

“CHRONICLE CUP”. – The Competition for this Cup was held in the evening of July 30. Our team, under the command of Capt. Oliver, did what was considered a very good performance, such as bringing the Apparatus into action in 50 seconds, bringing a man ashore in 3 mins. 27 secs., stowing the rocket line in 6 mins. 3 secs., restowing the wagon in 8 mins 14 secs., and heaving the cane 29 and 27 yards, gaining 272 points in all, the final result of the competition being Seaton Sluice 1<sup>st</sup>, Tynemouth 2<sup>nd</sup>, South Shields 3<sup>rd</sup>.

August 22. – Capt. Daintree, R.N., Inspector -General of L.S.A., inspected the gear of the Brigade and expressed himself satisfied. Owing to the time of Capt. Daintree's visit no muster of the Brigade took place.

OCTOBER 4. – After the usual monthly drill, Long-Service Medals were presented to Deputy Captain Mathews and Brigadesman W.M. Vasey. The presentation was made by Capt. Betts, R.N. Inspector of Coastguards, Brigades and Companies for the Tyne District (Berwick to Hartlepool). In the course of his remarks he said these medals were instituted by H. M. King George the Fifth in 1911 and ordered to be stamped with his medallion, making them King's Medals. They were to be given for 20 years' continuous service in Brigades and Companies, such efficient service to consist of regular attendance at drills, keeping watch in stormy weather when necessary, and good conduct generally when called upon for service.

NOVEMBER 15. – The Brigade accompanied the Mayor (Alderman J. G. Winskell) and the Corporation to the usual service at St. Hilda's Church. The sermon was preached by the Vicar, a large number of townspeople being present.

During the year 1924 the Committee regret to report the deaths of Brigadesmen Charles Riley and James Tait. Charles Riley died on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1924. He had been our Caretaker for many years, being appointed on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1907. He was diligent in the performance of his duties and liked and respected by all. The Brigade attended his funeral on the 28<sup>th</sup> January. James Tait died on the 28<sup>th</sup> August; he had been in bad health for some considerable time, but was able to attend the July drill. The brigade attended his funeral on the 30<sup>th</sup> August.

## Annual Report for the Year 1925

The Committee beg to present the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Report to the Members of the Brigade and the general public. There was not much of interest to report in the early months of the year, the prevailing winds being westerly, and that meant calm seas in our neighbourhood.

On MAY 19 Capt. Aplin, R.N., Inspector-General of Life-Saving Apparatus, inspected the Brigade. He visited the Brigade House, Rocket House, and examined all the gear etc. Owing to his visit being timed at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, it was impossible to hold a drill. He was met by some of the Captains and Secretary, who discussed various matters with him.

THE "CHRONICLE CUP" Competition was held on July 18, Capt. Retly, R. N., Inspector of Life Saving Apparatus, being the judge and umpire. Our team did very well in all stages of the competition except the Heaving Cane. They, however, eventually obtained third place in the competition.

On SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, the first watch of the season was held. Moderate gale from the east, and rain squalls: sea high. Watch kept till midnight, when weather moderated. Watch well attended.

NOVEMBER 25. – The alarm guns were fired at 7.15 a.m., a vessel having been observed in distress off the coast. There was a strong north-east gale blowing with heavy snow showers. The Brigade mustered and the rocket wagon was taken towards the Trow Rocks, where the vessel was observed to be drifting. She finally grounded under the high cliffs at the south side of Ladies' Bay, or more properly called Graham's Sand, as it is described in Admiralty charts. After various adventures the Rocket Wagon was got to a spot about 40 yards from the stranded steamer, and the first rocket was successful in establishing communication. In the meantime, members of the Brigade and several helpers scaled the high cliffs immediately over the vessel, and P.C. Darling, of the South Shields Police, was lowered over the cliff, the vessel then being about 15 yards away. A line was thrown from the ship, and to this P. C. Darling attached another line, and by this means the only two men on board were rescued. All this was a particularly hazardous proceeding. Darling by this time was accompanied by Station Officer White, who also descended the cliff to help him. The breeches buoy was lowered down the cliff, and the two men, with Darling and White, were hauled up by the Brigade, many of whom were in a very exposed position on the top of the cliff. All were taken to the Brigade House and given dry clothes and refreshments. The Officers and members of the Brigade present exhibited much courage and deserve great credit for work performed under trying circumstances. The ship afterwards was proved to be P. C. 71, one of the war-time "Mystery-ships" which was on its way from Southampton to the Firth of Forth. The watch was continued all day till about 5 o'clock in the evening, when, as the weather had been moderating for some time, the Brigadesmen were at liberty to return to their homes.

NOVEMBER 28. – At 5 p. m. watch commenced, heavy snow falling and strong gale from the north. Eleven p. m. watch continued; 12 p. m. watch continued; squalls abating and weather shows signs of improving. Five-thirty a. m. on the 29<sup>th</sup> provisions served out for breakfast, and at 6.30 a.m. watch was discontinued.

NOVEMBER 30. – Moderate gale from the north-east. Sea high. Watch discontinued at 1 a.m. on December 1.

DECEMBER 20, SUNDAY. – At 4 a.m. watch was commenced. South easterly gale, snow and sleet. Rocket van out along the pier, and all was got ready. Watch kept all day, members coming and going. At 6 p.m. weather was very stormy and wind increasing; 12 p.m. weather slightly moderating; 6 a.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup>, watch discontinued.

## Annual Report and Statement of Receipts and Payments, for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1926

The Committee beg to present the Sixtieth Annual Report of their proceedings to their members and friends. This has been an uneventful year as far as wrecks are concerned, and we can only chronicle our other proceedings in various ways.

On Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary by having a smoking concert and supper in the Watch House. It was presided over by Mr S. Malcolm, our President, who took the occasion of presenting to the Brigade a Souvenir Shield carved by himself, representing in various panels the different parts of the Rocket Apparatus, together with a view of the Brigade House, all carved in solid oak. This Shield was formally accepted by the Honorary Secretary on behalf of the Members. Mr Malcolm's health was afterwards proposed by Capt. Page in eulogistic terms, referring to his long services and the way he had so successfully carried on the duties of Secretary for so many years.

The Hon. Secretary then proposed the health of the Mayor (Mr J. R. Curbison), who responded in a very pleasing manner. The toast of "Kindred Brigades" was given and the rest of the evening was spent in songs, recitations etc.

February 7. – South-easterly gale and very heavy sea. Watch kept all day, and continued till 7.30 a. m. on February 8.

The Tyne Improvement Commissions have kindly consented to remove our drill mast, which the building of the Promenade had much interfered with the use of, a commencement was made on May 12 to prepare a new berth for it. It was finally hoisted into position a few days after and properly stayed and secured. We are very grateful to the Commissioners for it all. It is a great improvement and our drills have been more expeditious ever since.

On Sunday, July 11, the brigade attended the Annual Service in the South Park in memory of the men and women who laid down their lives in the Great War. The service was taken by the Rev. J. G. Lane-Davies, M. C., Vicar of St Michael's, who preached an excellent sermon.

Tuesday, July 13. – P.C. Darling, of the South Shields Police and Station Officer W. White, of H.M. Coastguard, were presented by the King with silver and bronze medal respectively given by the Board of Trade, for bravery in saving life at the wreck of the P. C. 71 on November 25, 1925. They both afterwards received recognition by the Carnegie Trust.

August 13. – The Brigade and Coastguard were inspected by Capt. Rundle, R. N., Inspector-General of Coastguard. He inspected all the gear and other parts of the apparatus, but did not require the attendance of the Brigade, as the time fixed, 10.30 a. m., was very unsuitable for us. He was satisfied with everything.

September 1. – The Brigade competed in the "Chronicle" Cup Competition. Capt Roy Bacchus, R. N., Inspector of Coastguard, conducted the competition, assisted by

Divisional Officers Boucher and Clayton. We were severely handicapped, being four men short. We were allowed to take on two other members. The principal feature of the performance was the stowing of the rocket line, which received the well-deserved commendation of the Inspecting Officer.

November 6. – A detachment of the Brigade attended the funeral of Brigadesman Meickle, an old member of the Brigade.

Sunday, November 14. – The Brigade attended the Mayor, Councillor Ranson, to St Hilda's Church. The usual sermon was preached by the Vicar, and a collection taken for the Ingham Infirmary.

Saturday, November 27. – Very thick fog. At 8.30 p. m. the s.s. Ramsey grounded on the Herd Sand, between the South Pier and the Groyne. Sea perfectly calm, and our services were not necessary. Towage on the Ramsey was commenced the following morning but was not successful. On Sunday evening at high tide another attempt was made which was successful. The wind had changed to the south-east, and brought on a little sea during the afternoon. Many members were in attendance, and Watchman J. Dixon had the searchlight ready in case (as seemed very probable) she took a sheer and came against the stones.

From the balance sheet it will be seen that there is a debit balance of £37/19/8. It is by exercising the most stringent economy that we are able to meet our liabilities, and it is chiefly due to the fact that we receive financial assistance from our honorary members that the Brigade can continue its work. We are anxious to enrol more honorary members; this incurs a subscription of £1/1/0 per annum. Smaller donations will also be welcomed. The Honorary Secretary (Mr J. B. Bowman) or the Treasurer (Capt. Jas. Page) will be pleased to receive and acknowledge the same.

The best thanks of the Brigade are due to the Tyne Improvement Commissioners for moving the drill mast at considerable expense and for the efficient manner in which the work has been carried out, and to the Corporation of South Shields for the great improvement at the east front of the House and the path down to the beach.



## ANNUAL REPORT and Statement of receipts and Payments, for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1927

The Committee has much pleasure in presenting the Sixty-first Annual Report to members and friends of the Brigade.

The year has been singularly free from any serious casualty at the mouth of the river, so we have had to keep ourselves efficient by our monthly drills and dummy drills inside the house on winter evenings.

As our district has been extended to Souter Point we have been supplied with a cliff ladder for use on the coast between Trow Rocks and Souter Lighthouse. This ladder was tried at drill on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and will no doubt be of great use when necessary.

On January 6<sup>th</sup> a detachment of the Brigade attended the funeral of Deputy Captain Thomas Newby, who had retired a few years ago, but still kept up his interest in the Brigade and appeared for the last time at our supper on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1926.

On September 25<sup>th</sup> Dr Harland our Medical officer, died very suddenly. His funeral was attended by six of the Officers, who acted as pall bearers.

On September 9<sup>th</sup> Captain Rashleigh, R.N., Inspector-General of Life-Saving Apparatus, visited our station. He examined the gear wagons and all connected with the station and expressed himself satisfied with everything. He inspected the newly installed telephone between the Brigade House Tower and the Coastguard Station.

We had some severe gales in November and December. Continuous watch was kept on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>, Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>, Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of November and ceased on the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, also on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, when there was a strong gale from the north, with blinding snow squalls every now and then.

The Committee has arranged a series of whist drives for the members and their lady friends. We have had two, and they seem to be popular so far.

From the balance sheet it will be seen that there is a debit balance of £39/5/8. It is by exercising the most stringent economy that we are able to meet our liabilities, and it is chiefly due to the fact that we receive financial assistance from our Honorary Members and Subscribers that the Brigade can continue its work. We are anxious to enrol more honorary members; this incurs a subscription to the funds of £1/1/0 per annum. Smaller donations will also be welcome. The Honorary Treasurer (Capt. Jas. Page), 67 King Street, South Shields, will be pleased to receive and acknowledge same.

We still have some vacancies in the Brigade for new members, and the Committee are ready to receive the names of any suitable men who are desirous of joining the Brigade.

## ANNUAL REPORT and Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year ending, 31<sup>st</sup> December 1928

Your Committee has much pleasure in presenting the Sixty Second Annual report to our members and friends.

The year under review has been singularly free from accidents at the mouth of the Tyne. At other places round our coast many lives have been saved by the Rocket Apparatus, but we have not been called out by the Alarm Guns.

Our efficiency has been maintained by our usual monthly drills, and also by dummy drills inside the Brigade House. We had two important drills this year, one on August 1<sup>st</sup>, when the Cliff Ladder was taken to the Trow Rocks, lowered down the rocks and some members climbed down and up again, and on October 6<sup>th</sup> the wagon was taken to Frenchman's Bay, a rocket fired over a convenient boulder down below, the cliff ladder lowered, the whip and hawser made fast, and the full drill gone through under the command of Inspector Bacchus and our own captains. We had no watches the early part of the year, in fact, nothing till December 30<sup>th</sup>, when a watch was kept owing to a strong wind from E. N. E.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> we had the melancholy duty of attending the funeral of our Honorary Captain T. B. Grimes. It is a few years since he resigned his active interest in the Brigade, but he frequently joined us when anything special was proceeding.

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, Captain Rashleigh, R.N., His Majesty's Inspector General of Life Saving Apparatus, inspected the Coastguard Station and apparatus, also the Brigade House and tower where a telephone had been recently installed to enable the Coastguard to keep watch there.

Representatives of the Coastguard and Brigade attended the funeral of Mr W. Boucher at Blyth, who died after a long illness. He was Divisional Officer of Coastguard for the district from South Shields to Berwick. He was much esteemed by all who met him.

We heartily thank our Honorary Members for the support they have given us. From the Balance Sheet it will be noticed that there is a debit balance of £5/0/10. It is by exercising the most stringent economy that we are able to meet our liabilities, and it is chiefly due to the financial assistance we have received from our Honorary Members and subscribers that the Brigade can continue its work. We are anxious to enrol more Hon. Members; this incurs a subscription to the funds of £1/1/0 per annum. Smaller donations will also be welcomed. The Hon. Treasurer, Capt. James Page, 67 King Street, South Shields, will be pleased at any time to receive and acknowledge receipt of the same. We still have vacancies in the Brigade for new Members and the Committee are ready to receive the names of any suitable men who desire to join the Brigade.

## ANNUAL REPORT and Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year, ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1929

Your Committee have pleasure in presenting the Sixty-Third Annual Report to the Members and Friends of the Brigade.

We have no casualties to report at the Mouth of the Tyne. The winds that have been so destructive on the West Coast did not affect us here to such an extent that our services were required. We have, however, kept ourselves efficient by the usual monthly Drills and Cliff Ladder Drills at the Trow Rocks and on Winter evenings by practising in the Brigade House.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, after the monthly rocket drill, Captain Bacchus, R.N., Inspector of Life saving Apparatus presented long service Medals to the following Brigadesmen: David Ramsey, James Kyle, W. Brown, H. Shields, and J. T. Robson, and later in the year he presented a Medal to R. Grenyer.

During the Winter months of the last two years, Whist Drives were held in the Brigade House for Members and friends. Owing to the generosity of many friends who gave prizes, a small balance was left which was expended in buying plant for fitting the House with electric light. This was completed on February 25<sup>th</sup> by Brigadesman Salkeld and Jamieson, assisted by Messrs. White and Whiffan, Coastguards. Our thanks are due to them for their voluntary work.

On June 26<sup>th</sup> Brigadesman C. Mathews saved a bather named Potts, of Bede Street, Tyne Dock, from drowning near Trow Rocks. It appears that this man had swum out too far. Mathews, seeing this, threw off some clothes and rushed in, succeeding in getting the bather ashore, assisted by Deputy Captain J. A. Mathews and others. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, he was presented with the Parchment Certificate of the Royal Humane Society by the Mayor (Alderman Dunlop).

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, Captain Rundle, R. N., Inspector General of Life Saving Apparatus, inspected the Coast Guard Station and Rocket House, also saw the Telephone arrangements in the Tower. There was no muster of the Brigade, as the time of his visit was not suitable.

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, the Brigade attended the Service in the South Park arranged by the British Legion, when Countess Haig was present and gave an address. The preacher on this occasion was the Reverend Hastings Shaddick.

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, the Brigade competed for the Wearside Shipowners' Trophy which was won by Tynemouth Brigade, our Brigade being second. The Chief Umpire, Captain Bacchus, R. N., congratulated Deputy Captain Robson and the Team upon their excellent performance.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Brigade attended the usual Parade on Mayor's Sunday at St Hilda Church.

On December 29<sup>th</sup>, a Memorial Service was held at St Stephen's Church to perpetuate by means of a Bronze Tablet the names of those Shields' Pilots and the Crew of the Cutter "Protector", which was destroyed by mine or torpedo at the mouth of the Tyne on New Year's Day 1916. The Brigade attended this service.

The Committee report with regret the death of Mr Joseph Dixon, who was Brigade Watchman and Caretaker, and who died after a short illness on 21<sup>st</sup> January. A Service was held in St Aiden's Church on 24<sup>th</sup> January, where Members of the Brigade were present, and attended his Funeral at Harton Cemetery. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mr Charles Fleming, a former Member of the Brigade, died. Several Members of the Brigade attended his Funeral at Westoe Cemetery on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

We again heartily thank our Honorary Members for the support they have given us, and it is chiefly due to the financial assistance we have received from our honorary Members and subscribers that the Brigade can continue its work. During the year the Brigade received a legacy of £25 from the late Mrs I. Newton, which greatly augmented the funds of the Brigade. The Honorary Treasurer, Captain James Page, 67 King Street, South Shields, will be pleased at any time to receive and acknowledge subscriptions and donations. We still have vacancies for new Members and the Committee are ready to receive the names of any suitable men who desire to join the Brigade.