

South Shields

May 29<sup>th</sup> 1857.

Dear Sir,

The Life Brigade Committee are very anxious to get the timber &c for the New Watch House settled, if you could favour us with it at an early date we shall feel much obliged. We are also desirous this summer of putting up an additional room for the reception of shipwrecked crews. Of course we should like it erected on the same terms as the Watch House. This may be asking too much of the Commission if so, at any rate we should like you to be architect for this part of the building also. If you will kindly let me have your opinion on these points you will oblige

Yours very truly  
J. M. Aldous

P. J. Messers & Co  
Lynmouth.

9 Charlotte Terrace  
June 18<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Dear Sir,

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your note enclosing twelve shillings being the contents of the boxes you were pleased to place in the Theatre for the benefit of the Funds of the St. Shields Life Brigade.

On behalf of the Committee and myself I sincerely thank you for your kind consideration in so doing.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely  
J. M. Colvin

W. Reeve Esq.  
9 Charlotte Terrace  
St. Shields

P. J. Mesant Esq.

9 Charlotte Terrace  
June 29<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a cheque for £9.11.8 the amount due for materials supplied by you for the Life Brigade Watch House the receipt of which please acknowledge in due course. Mr. A. Newson has promised to see the Pers Committee respecting the additional room, and I now thank you for your offer to supply the necessary plans.

I have to draw up an annual report in a few days and I am very anxious to note in some way the kindness of yourself and the Commissioners in assisting us in our difficulties. I have an impression however that the Commissioners will not care it to be made public that they have been spending money for the Brigade so that I propose in speaking of the House to say "that the Committee feels under a deep obligation to P. J. Mesant Esq. for the kindness in providing plans, and rendering valuable assistance during its construction or something to that effect. I thought I had better mention the matter to yourself and get your opinion on the matter."  
Yours very sincerely  
J. M. Colvin

South Shields  
July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1884.

My dear Mr. Glover,

The Life Brigade Committee  
will feel very much obliged if you would represent  
to the Pers. Committee that they propose putting  
a new room to the present Watch House on  
the South Pier, for the special accommodation  
of shipwrecked crews. This would have been  
done while the present House was being  
constructed, had the Funds allowed. After  
paying our debts we have a balance in hand  
and if the Pers. Committee would kindly  
allow their men to do the labour as in  
the case of the Watch House, we hope to  
be able to raise sufficient money to pay  
for material and fittings. The proposed  
addition will not be very large, say £3  
of the present House

Believe me  
Yours faithfully  
J. Malcolm  
Hon. Sec. to  
Life Brigade

J. Glover Esq.

South Shields  
July 25<sup>th</sup> 1884.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that  
the Watch House of the So. Shields Vol. Life  
Brigade is finished and in the terms of your  
letter (5056 W) we are entitled to £25  
granted by the Board of Trade.

Referring to your letter (M 227) requesting  
to be informed whether the Watch House will  
afford sufficient accommodation for shipwrecked  
crews. They to state it does not, and that  
we intend commencing immediately with  
an additional room specially fitted up  
with every requisite for shipwrecked mariners,  
from the tenor of your letter I infer that  
the Board of Trade will be willing to  
render us further assistance. To carry  
out our views will require an expenditure  
of about £80. From the Annual statement  
which I enclose you will see the public  
have subscribed very liberally to the Fund  
which was in recognition of your services

at the wrecks in January last, and which  
has been spent in the manner set forth  
in the Treasurers Account.

The Members, many of whom are poor  
have had hard work during the past  
Winter, and at the Annual Meeting it  
was resolved that the money received  
on account of wrecks, such be divided  
amongst those present at such wrecks to  
pay for loss of ~~money~~ work and destituc-  
tion of clothes.

The Annual returns to June 30th  
1867 were forwarded in due course to the  
Inspecting Commander of this district

I am, Sir,

Yours very respectfully

J. Malcolm

Hon. Secy

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department  
Board of Trade  
Whitehall S.W.

South Shields Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Sir,

I take the liberty of bringing before the  
notice of the Board of Trade a very gallant  
and courageous action recently performed at  
the month of the tide

The circumstances of the case are as  
follows:— On the afternoon of July 28<sup>th</sup> 1867  
a small boat containing 8 persons, was,  
owing to some mishap driven among  
the broken waves of a heavy sea at the  
entrance of the above river. In consequence  
she was swamped and the occupants thrown  
among the boiling surf. A boat was speedily  
manned by 5 pilots, who at the imminent  
risk of their lives succeeded in rescuing  
2 men who had clung to their boats bottom.  
They also picked up a woman, but it was  
found on reaching the shore she was quite  
dead. Had it not been for the heroic conduct  
of these brave men the whole of the unfortunate  
people would have been drowned.

Enclose a medical certificate respecting



Henry Stephenson, who in his eagerness to render assistance fell among some rocks which threw back his hand, and split it open. The brave fellow nothing daunted got into the boat and managed with great skill to steer her on her dangerous errand.

I may state that this is only one among the many like deeds that have been performed by the pilots of the Tynne and it would be a fitting opportunity of publicly recognizing it, not only for the benefit of the men in question, but in letting their comrades and the public in this neighbourhood see that such deeds are appreciated by those in Authority.

I would respectfully suggest that this is a fitting case to be recommended to her Most Gracious Majesty as worthy of being granted the Albert Medal, and I have no hesitation in saying, should such an honourable distinction

decoration be awarded it will have a most beneficial effect in stimulating others to try and do likewise.

The names of the other men are Robt. Young, Thomas Brown, William Stephenson and Robt. Tynemouth.

I am, Sir,

Your obt. Servant,

Malcolm

Hon Sec. S. S. V. L. B.

The Assistant Sec<sup>y</sup>

Board of Trade

and

L. J. H. Young Esq

Royal Humane Society, 3 Trafalgar Sq. N.C.

Copy of Medical Certificate.

I hereby certify that Henry Stephenson Pilot and a member of the S. S. V. L. B. is unable at present to follow his employment in consequence of a lacerated wound of the right hand and a contusion of the knee joint caused by a fall on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July in rescuing the crew of a boat upset at sea.

Geo. Stokes M.D. &c  
Hon. Med. Officer to S. S. V. L. B.

Do I certify  
Aug 6 1879

South Shields  
August 24<sup>th</sup> 1887.

Dear Sir,  
The Piers Committee have declined rendering further assistance to the Life Brigade Committee in extending the Ward House. We would however take it as a favour if you could let us have sufficient rubble to level up the foundations of the proposed extension, the Brigade paying all expenses against it.

Yours very truly  
J. Malcolm

P. J. Messert Esq

My dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your note respecting the expenses of firing the 3. signal gun at the Spanish battery. Unfortunately we have had a Committee meeting this week so that the settling of the point in question will be deferred for a month.

With kind regards,  
J. H. Spence Esq  
Superintendent of the Brigade

Aug 24<sup>th</sup> 1887

J. Malcolm

So. Shields Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> 1887.

Dear Sir,

I duly received your letter of yesterday's date, and am glad to learn the money has arrived from the National Life Boat Institution for the 5 So. Shields Pilots who rendered such good service as stated in my letter to the Board of Trade dated the 6<sup>th</sup> ult. This I presume is the same sum granted on the application of the Coroner Mr Farrell and does not affect my application to the B. of T.

With regard to the arrangement come to between us respecting the examination of witnesses as to the merits of the men in question to be awarded an "Albert Medal" I have to state the man Henry Stephenson is not anxious about receiving such an honourable distinction, but as he is a poor man and has lost a great deal of work through his accident a pecuniary reward from the B. of T. would do him more good. This I think coincides with your views as to the form an acknowledgment should take from that quarter.

Yours very truly  
J. Malcolm

Capt. James Esq.

Undersecretary

J. Malcolm

Shields Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt  
of your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. enclosing  
an order on W. M. Paymaster General  
for £6 being a reward from the  
B. of T. to 5 Pilots who saved the  
lives of 2 men at the mouth of  
the Tyne as detailed in my letter  
of 6<sup>th</sup> August last.

I have much pleasure in conveying  
the thanks of these men to the B. of T.  
for their kindness and herewith you  
will please find the receipt for the  
several sums awarded.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedt. Servant  
J. Malcolin.

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Dept.  
Board of Trade.  
S. W.

So. Shields Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> 1867.

J. G. Campbell Esq.  
Sunderland.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your note of the  
13<sup>th</sup> inst. stating that it is intended to form a  
Life Brigade at Sunderland, and requesting to be  
furnished with a copy of the Rules of the So.  
Shields Brigade.

I send you by book post a copy of our Rules  
with instructions &c. I may state they are a  
fine simile of the Rules of the Tyne and  
and are recommended by the Board of Trade  
as suitable for adoption by all Volunteer Life  
Bridges.

I am very glad the formation of so useful  
an Institution is in contemplation at your im-  
portant port, and trust that abundant success  
may attend your efforts. For my own part I shall be  
most happy to give you the benefit of my experience  
and render all the assistance I can, to facilitate  
the formation of the Sunderland Volunteer Life  
Bridges.

Yours very truly  
J. Malcolin



To. Shells Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> 1864.

P. J. Mearns Esq.  
Simsbury,

New Rocket House

Dear Sir

Before writing you on this matter I thought it better to see how the Insurance of our Water House would be affected by the proposed addition. I enclose a letter relative thereto, from which I infer the rooms will have to be quite independent of the present House. I have consulted with the Insurance Agent here and he thinks a foot space between them will be sufficient. However before it can be built I must have a guarantee from the Board of Trade that they will take all responsibility in case of an explosion.

I think it might be arranged not to keep cartridges on these premises. A great deal depends on Mr. Byrnes with whom it will be better if you consult not only on this point but

also on the internal arrangements of the Rocket House. I would suggest if powder has to be kept, that a hole lined with bricks and cement and covered with an iron plate, should be provided for the purpose under the floor.

I think a room 14 feet square will be large enough, with the ridge running parallel to that of the old room. Capt. Robertson wished provision made for getting a Hear Car in and out if necessary.

Yours very truly  
J. Mearns



Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 1864.

Sir,

At the request of the Committee I take the liberty of bringing before your notice the present financial position of the 10. Shields Vol. Life Brigade. Our income from all sources since the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan. has been about £260 and our liabilities to the present time £283 leaving a deficiency of £23 which is required to pay the outstanding accounts in connection with the additional room for shipwrecked crews just completed. The public have subscribed very liberally hitherto and we hope the B. of T. will give us some further assistance to clear off this debt. In a previous letter I gave you an outline of the services rendered by the members in cases of shipwreck. We thank the B. of T.

ought to come to some decision as to the grant we are entitled to for such services. This will be applied not to the general expenses of the Brigade but for providing suitable clothing to necessitous members while on night duty.

We also understand Brigades have been furnished with waist belts gratuitously. Ours have cost 18 guineas or 7/6 each; as we were unaware of the above arrangement we hope the B. of T. will take into consideration whether we are entitled to have the money refunded.

Yours &c

J. Malesherbes  
The Assistant Secretary  
B. of Trade  
London.

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 1887

Dear Sir,

I duly received your note and the accompanying accounts of wrecks at or near the mouth of the Bay.

In the last paragraph I notice the public are enlightened as to the way in which the crew of the "William Butler" was saved, but are left completely in the dark with regard to the crews of the other vessels. Did they swim ashore?

Yours truly  
Malcolm

Horatio A. Alderman Esq.  
Alma Place  
So. Shields

Sir,

So. Shields Dec. 23/87  
I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (No. 9043) enclosing an order on H. M. Paymaster General for the sum of £25 granted by

the Board of Trade towards defraying the expenses of the So Shields Vol Life Brigade for the year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> last.

I also acknowledge with thanks the receipt of an abstract of Wrecks &c for the year 1886.

I am Sir,

Your obt. Servant  
Malcolm

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department  
Board of Trade

So. Shields Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 1888  
The So Shields Town Improvement Committee  
Gentlemen,

The Committee of the Vol Life Brigade are desirous of forming a mast for Roebuck Practice in the hollow piece of ground between the Workhouse and the Railway to Lion Rocks, and which is now being filled up by the Corporation.

We propose fixing it close to the said Railway and respectfully solicit your sanction to its erection.

I am, Gentlemen  
Yours very truly  
Malcolm

Feb 22/68.

Dear Sir,

We purpose fixing a Mast for  
Rocket Practice next Saturday and  
will feel obliged if you allow us the use  
of a derrick with suitable tackling &  
for raising it. We also request your  
permission to take some of the loose  
stones on the West side of the Railway  
for securing the Mast in the sand.

I remain, Yours very truly  
J.M.

P.S. The Mast will be placed in the hollow  
now being filled up between the  
Railway and the Poor house and about  
40 feet from the said Railway.

P. J. Merritt Esq.

Feb 22/68.

Dear Sir,

Will you allow one of your men  
at the Pit, to cut a circular hole  
12 1/2 in. diam. 6 in. deep in a stone we  
require for fixing a Mast for Rocket  
Drill, the Life Brigade paying the  
expence you may be at.

I remain,

Yours very truly  
J. Aldring Esq.

J.M.



South Shields Sept 30th 1868

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the Schooner "Impulse" of Maldon from Rochester in ballast came on shore at the entrance of the Tyne on the 27<sup>th</sup> inst and that the crew was rescued with the Rocket Apparatus by the members of the So. Shields Volunteer Life Brigade under the superintendence of the Coastguard.

I beg also respectfully to remind you that the members of this Brigade have attended 9 shipwrecks previous to the above and have brought ashore altogether 37 people, for which we have received no grant according to the instructions ~~contained~~ in the Wreck Circular, issued by the Board of Trade.

We are now without funds which makes it very important that an allowance should be made at once as the Wreck is still before us. It would simplify the matter if a scale of payments were adopted, and I would suggest that for every person brought ashore from a wreck a grant of £1 should

be made, and for the Brigade attending a shipwreck without saving life a sum of £5.

I have the honour to remain  
Your obedient servant  
J. Malcolm.

The Assistant Secretary,  
Marine Department,  
Board of Trade.

South Shields 9 Feb/69

Sir,

I beg again most respectfully to remind the Board of Trade that the So. Shields Vol. Life Brigade has received no grant for the year ending Jan 30/69. I beg also to refer to my letter of Sept. 30/68 and to my <sup>former</sup> letters ~~presenting~~ setting forth the services rendered by this Brigade and to state that the members are very much dissatisfied (and I think justly so) that <sup>their case has</sup> ~~they have~~ not received ~~the~~ consideration ~~it~~ <sup>it merits</sup> ~~deserves~~.



at least <sup>one</sup> Brigade  
more especially as <sup>is in receipt</sup> <sup>has been</sup>  
at least in the neighbourhood  
of its allowance for the above period  
Capt Robertson who inspected the  
Brigade last month expressed his astonish-  
ment that we had had no communication  
from you on the subject as he understood  
it had been settled by the Board of Trade  
some time ago

I have the honor to remain  
Your obtl. servant  
Malcolm

of Charlotte Terrace  
Feb 24/69

My dear Sir,

At a Committee Meeting of the  
St Shields Life Brigade the following reso-  
lution was passed unanimously  
That the Chaplain of the "Joseph Straker"  
Mission ship be allowed the use of the  
Watch House occasionally for evening

services and that due notice of such  
services be given to the Secretary.  
I hope they will be well attended  
and be the means of doing much good  
I remain &c &c  
Malcolm Wm Lee

25<sup>th</sup> February 1869.

My dear Sir,

Last week I received from the Board  
of Trade the sum of £15 as the grant to our  
Brigade for the year ending June 1868.

Make the liberty of bringing this before  
your notice because I think there must  
either be a mistake or a very invidious  
distinction between the South Shields Brigade  
and the Lynemouth Brigade, the latter  
having received £20 for a like period.

Apart from services at weeks I think  
no arguments can be stated to show there  
should be a difference in the grants and I  
am at a loss how to convey accurately the

indignation of the Committee at what I may call "shabby" treatment of the Board of Trade.

When you also consider we have been at between 12 & 20 shipwrecks and saved nearly 40 lives, it is plain there are good grounds for dissatisfaction so much so that it was nearly resolved to send the £15 back again. How can this be reconciled with the terms of the Wreck Circular relating to these payments - a disregard to which is considered by us as a breach of faith, and it is my decided opinion if payments have to be made at all they will never be on an equitable footing until a scale is adopted for certain services. In the present case the money is doing more harm than good and this coupled with the overbearing conduct (of which you have been made fully aware) of an Inspecting Commander at the recent Hawser Experiments at Lympstone will have a tendency very

much to impair the efficiency of the Brigade.

In these remarks we are actuated by no selfish motives. It is not a question of money so much as of simple justice that we wish properly adjusted, or in other words to take our position with other Brigades relatively to work accomplished.

Whether the Board of Trade adopt money or merit as their standard of showing a Brigade's efficiency we are equally willing so long as we stand in our right position.

Take the liberty of writing you on this subject because intimately as you are acquainted with the working of Brigades you will be able to represent our case in the proper quarter and I trust with good effect. This I intended to be a private communication but if you think it should be official I am quite agreeable

Capt. Robertson R.N.  
Surgeon General.

Yours &c  
S. Malleson

9 Charlotte Terrace  
15 Mar. 1869.

My dear Sir,

On Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> inst we intend having a Drill of the Life Brigade and shall be glad if you can make it convenient to be present at 6 P.M.

We shall also feel obliged if you could ascertain why the Signal Guns were so long in being fired after blue lights had been shown in the case of a pilot boat in distress last Friday week. A messenger was sent to the Lifeboat Station, the boat launched and the men rescued and taken into the harbour before the guns fired.

Yours very faithfully  
S. Malcolm.

Capt Elliott R.M.  
Sunderland.

So. Shields  
March 31<sup>st</sup> 1869.

Sir,

In reply to your letter (N<sup>o</sup> 1872) of the 12<sup>th</sup> inst, respecting the amount contributed by the B. of Trade to the Funds of the S. S. Vol. Life Brigade for the year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> 68 they state that if the sum awarded for attendance at the monthly exercises of the Rocket Apparatus is in proportion to the sums awarded to other Brigades for life services we are quite satisfied.

What however I wish to impress upon you is that the Board of Trade with one exception quite ignores the services we have rendered at shipwrecks.

I am quite aware that within the period for which the last Grant was paid no wrecks occurred consequently my letter referred to wrecks anterior to that. The exception mentioned was the case of the "Sunderland" wrecked Apr. 2 1866 whose crew of 5 hands & a woman killed



were saved by us. For this we received  
 £5.12.6 I submit a list of wrecks only  
 at which life has been saved, leaving  
 out numerous others to which we have  
 been summoned and would simply  
 ask as it was thought proper to make  
 a grant for the "Centurion" whether it is  
 not also proper to treat the other  
 wrecks in a similar way.

I am, Sir,  
 The Assistant Secretary  
 Marine Department  
 Yours obt. Servant  
 S. Malcolm

1866	Centurion.	April 2 <sup>d</sup>	4	lives saved
	Blossom.	Nov. 16.	4	
1867	Manx Mac.	Jan. 6	6	
	Merya	do	5	
	Lucerne	do	8	
1868.	Impulse	Sept. 27	7	These property belong to year ending June 1869.
	Remier	Nov. 6.	5	
			42	

So. Shields 31 Mar 1869

My dear Sir,

When I sent you the returns of the  
 attendance of our Members for year ending  
 June 1868 I unfortunately didn't retain  
 a copy. If you could give me the  
 information I shall feel much obliged  
 as also a copy of the Lyme-mouth return.

With kind regards

Yours faithfully  
 S. Malcolm.

Capt Elliott - R.N.  
 Sunderland.

So Shields May 24/69  
 Lt Stevenson Esq. M.P.  
 Dear Sir,

I have been requested  
 by the Committee of the Life Brigade  
 to bring before your notice how  
 matters stand between our Brigade  
 and the Board of Trade with regard  
 to Grants for Services at Wrecks.



I have thought it the best plan to  
give you a copy of the correspondence  
on the subject which I now enclose  
together with a week circular with  
paragraph referred to marked therein.

The great point of annoyance  
with our members is that the Tyne-  
mouth Brigade altho' not having  
saved life at shipwreck received  
a larger grant than us last year  
and in previous years an equal  
sum with ourselves.

If you will be good enough  
to take the trouble to call at  
the B. of Trade and see Mr. Long  
the Assistant Secretary and ask for  
an explanation of the matter you  
will greatly oblige the committee and  
also

Your obedt. Servant  
S. Malesher

South Shields

June 22/69.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that on  
Tuesday June 15/69 our Coast was visited  
by a tremendous gale from the N.E. which  
was attended with loss of life and much  
destruction of property. About 10 o'clock  
P.M. the Members of the S.S. & B. on duty  
at their Watch Ho. were alarmed by the  
sound of the Signal Guns from the Tyne-mouth  
Coast Station signifying that a vessel was  
in distress and that their services were  
required. The Rocket Apparatus was  
~~put~~ ~~out~~ and taken along the pier. When  
near the end a Rocket was seen to go  
up in the neighbourhood of Manbaven  
about 2 miles off. At the time the wind  
was blowing a complete hurricane and  
the rain coming down in torrents. The  
Members after great exertions arrived  
in time to assist the Coasted in getting  
up the Cliff the crew of the Schooner Anne

of King. They got back to the Watch Ho  
in a most pitiable condition and quite  
exhausted about 12 pm.

It was known that a great number  
of fishing boats had gone to sea in the afternoon  
which gave the Members additional cause  
for anxiety, and they had just returned  
from the Wreck at Manhaven where a  
fishing Smack was driven ashore,

Being under the lee of the Pier the  
crew got out themselves and were brought  
to the Watch Ho. where they received refreshment  
and dry clothing. Satisfied of their  
safety about 20 of the Brigade altho. very  
wrept, were able to raise all the poor fellows  
nets. They were scarcely finished when  
another boat was seen to drive ashore  
mid way between the Pier and the  
Rocks. The Brigade proceeded at once  
with the Rocket Apparatus, where under  
the superintendance of the Coastguard a  
Rocket was fired and communication effected  
This was done by the men standing up to

their middle in the surf. No response being  
made it was thought there was no one on  
board or ~~that~~ they were helpless.

Thomas Honlaby volunteered to go off  
with a belt and rope attached, to <sup>throw</sup>  
<sup>into the boat</sup> ~~the boat~~ <sup>about 150 yds</sup> ~~from the shore~~, and ~~the~~  
~~After great struggles~~ <sup>After great struggles</sup> and much difficulty  
he succeeded. He also hauled the whip  
line off which was made fast by one  
of the 3 men who were on board. The chairs  
in being hauled off fouled among the nets  
and wreckage. Honlaby in a most courageous  
manner got them on his back, jumped  
into the surf and was hauled ashore in a  
very exhausted condition, having to be con-  
veyed to the Brigade Ho. for medical assistance.  
The belt and line were then fastened to an  
other member who was however so exhausted  
by previous exertion that he had to give up.  
Thereupon Mr G. Foley of Blackwell  
volunteered to go on board. His assistance  
was gladly accepted as the Members  
had been up all night, and a great  
part of that time in the water.

On getting aboard he found a man sitting at the foot of the mast quite benumbed and so stiff, that he was unable to get him into the breeches buoy. He came ashore but went off again and put a clove hitch round the man's body when he was hauled ashore. In doing this Foley got entangled among the ropes and had a narrow escape of being drowned. Dr Winter whose untiring exertions are much to be praised succeeded in bringing them round. The third man left on board was underneath the sail and broken glass and was supposed to be dead. Foley again volunteered to go on board and was closely followed by George Heron. They cut the sail and to the joy of all the poor fellows was brought ashore alive.

I may state that it is only within the last month that Heron was the means of saving the lives of

the crew of a salmon boat which had got among the broken water and on former occasions he has distinguished himself in a similar manner.

It is impossible for me to convey a correct idea of the fatigues and exertions of the S.S. V.L.B. but I think the B. of I ought in some special way to mark the ~~name~~<sup>introduction</sup> of the heroic conduct of Thomas Houlby. I & Foley also thank

I remain, My dear Sir,  
Yours very faithfully  
S. Malcolm.

Capt Elliot R.N.  
Sunderland.

My dear Elliott

So Shields. June 23/69  
I enclose you with this an official account of the services of our Brigade during the storm of the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. I hope in your remarks to the B. of I you will do all you can to get some medals for our Brigade.



have done so much not only now, but  
on previous occasions to save these fellow  
creatures from a wretched grave

Dear Sir

Yours very truly  
S. Malcolm

So. Shields July 3/69

My dear Elliott

The answer will do to your  
first 3 questions viz that the men got  
to the boat by wading with a line  
attached to them. The value of the  
boat and cargo would be about

Nets 100

Boat 10  
110

Our New Block has been altered and  
improved. What steps must be taken  
to bring it before the notice of the  
Bd. of Trade. Please send me some  
of the blank forms (W 445) that I may

fill up my annual returns  
Yours very truly  
S. Malcolm

Capt Elliott R.M.

So. Shields

Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1869

Sir,

I am requested by the Committee  
of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade  
to inform the Board of Trade that two  
vessels came ashore at this place about  
midnight on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. and that the  
Members of the Brigade while in the  
performance of their duties were  
surrounded by an excited mob who  
would most assuredly have rendered  
the apparatus useless had it been  
required. Fortunately the Lifeboat  
rescued the crew or the consequences  
might have been very serious.

In the Wreck circular it is provided



that if the Board of Trade think fit  
Members of Brigades can be sworn  
in as special constables to preserve  
order and protect property.

The Committee wish to impress upon  
the Board of Trade that they think  
this step is absolutely necessary and  
they wish to know if it is approved of  
by the Board of Trade and what  
steps must be taken to carry it  
out.

I have the honor to remain  
Sir,

Your Obedt. servant  
S. Malcolm.  
Hon. Sec.

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department  
Board of Trade  
Whitehall S.W.

South Shields  
Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 1869.

Mr James Ramsay,  
Sir,

It has been reported to the  
Committee of the Life Brigade that  
abusive language was used by  
you in the Watch House on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst.  
The Committee wish to inform you  
that it is only through their kindness  
that non-members are allowed to enter  
the House, and if this privilege is  
abused by you or any one else it will  
result in the House being closed to  
strangers altogether.

I wish further to state if your  
conduct is repeated proceedings  
will be taken against you.

Hoping that such may not be  
the case

I remain,

Yours truly  
S. Malcolm.  
Hon. Sec.

So. Shields  
Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1869.

Capt. Elliott R.M.

Dear Sir,

On June 22<sup>nd</sup> last I wrote you a Report on the services of our Brigade in saving the crews of some fishing boats.

June 23<sup>rd</sup> I sent you the Annual Returns as required by the Board of Trade.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> I brought before your notice a New Travelling Block invented by one of the Members.

To none of these letters have I received a reply.

If you will be kind enough to explain the reason of this silence

You will oblige

Yours faithfully  
S. Malcolm

9 Charlotte Terrace  
So Shields 29/11/69

My dear Elliott

The Committee of the So. Sh. L. Brigade have had under their consideration the question of a New Rocket House at Manbach and also the enquiry from the B. of T. as to the necessity of a Cart for conveying the Apparatus along the Coast.

I am directed by the members to state it is their unanimous opinion that the Rocket apparatus should be kept much nearer Manbach than the present Coastguard Station, and also that if a Rocket Cart were provided it would be seldom or ever used seeing we have a set of bear kept in a waggon which runs on a tramway from the end of the Port to the first Rocks

I remain  
Yours faithfully  
S. Malcolm

9 Charlotte Terrace  
27/11/69.

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in acquainting you that the Committee have accepted your kind offer to become honorary Surgeon to the Lo Shields Life Brigade. This appointment holds good until the next annual Meeting in July next when all officers are elected by the Members.

The Key of the Surgery you will obtain at the Watch House from Mr Nelson. Please examine its contents as I understand there are several medicines left by the late Surgeon.

I remain

Yours very truly  
S Malcolm

Dr. Breese  
Lo Shields

9 Charlotte Terrace  
2/12/69

J. Blake Esq.

Receiving of Wreck  
Lo Shields

Dear Sir,

I have received from the Board of Trade <sup>a communication</sup> confirming the arrangement we mutually agreed upon respecting the preservation of order at ship wrecks.

I have also received from yourself two Board of Trade Notices for which please accept my thanks.

Yours very faithfully  
Malcolm



of Charlotte Terrace  
20/12/69

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. enclosing an order on Her Majesty's Paymaster General for £40 being the amount awarded by the Board of Trade to the Co. Shields Vol. Life Brigade for attendance at Rocket Drill during the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup> last and for services at shipwrecks during that and previous years.

I have much pleasure in ~~conveying~~ conveying the thanks of the Committee and Members for the above liberal grant.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir

Your obed<sup>t</sup>. servant  
S. Malcolme  
Hon Sec

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department  
Board of Trade.

of Charlotte Terrace  
Dec 20/69.

Sir,

I have forwarded to you by this post a Model of a Salvage Block invented by one of the Members (W. Pratt) of our Brigade. This I do at the request of the Divisional Officer of Coastguard. I may state that the original Block has 8 Bars Sheaves with Patent Bushes.

I have the honor to remain,

Your obed<sup>t</sup>. servant.  
S. Malcolme  
Hon Sec

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department  
Board of Trade

9 Charlotte Terrace  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1870

to Mr Palmer Esq.

Dear Sir

I beg to acknowledge the  
with thanks the receipt of a cheque  
for £2.2 to the funds of the 50 Shields,  
Vol. Life Brigade which has been  
spent in purchasing books for the  
Library at the Watch House

I remain,

Yours respectfully  
S. Malcolmy,  
Hon Sec.

9 Charlotte Terrace  
50 Shields Jan<sup>y</sup> 15/70

Messrs. Lippels & Sons  
Plymouth

Dear Sirs

The Committee of the 50 Shields  
Vol. Life Brigade are desirous of supply-  
ing the Members with hand knit  
Blue Guernsey Frocks Your Firm  
has been recommended to me  
as supplying a good article to the  
Lynemouth Brigade. We should  
like instead of a plain blue Frock  
to have a hand knit in, round the  
waist about 3 inches broad say  
red or white colour or red round  
the neck and wrists These distinctions  
are merely to have something different  
from an ordinary frock and shall  
be glad to have your opinion on  
the matter. Also what would be

9 Charlotte Terrace  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1870

E. M. Palmer Esq.

Dear Sir

I beg to acknowledge the  
with thanks the receipt of a cheque  
for £2.2 to the Funds of the 50 Shields  
Vol. Life Brigade which has been  
spent in purchasing books for the  
Library at the Watch House

I remain,

Yours respectfully

S. Maleolun.

Hon Sec.

9 Charlotte Terrace  
50 Shields Jan<sup>y</sup> 15/70

Messrs. Lippels & Sons  
Plymouth

Dear Sirs

The Committee of the 50 Shields  
Vol. Life Brigade are desirous of supply-  
ing the Members with hand knit  
Blue Guernsey Frocks Your Firm  
has been recommended to me  
as supplying a good article to the  
Plymouth Brigade. We should  
like instead of a plain blue Frock  
to have a band knit in, round the  
waist about 3 inches broad say  
red or white colour or red round  
the neck and wrists These distinctions  
are merely to have something different  
from an ordinary frock and shall  
be glad to have your opinion on  
the matter. Also what would be



the cost of say 100 including working  
the letters VLB on the breast.

Remain

Yours truly  
S. Maledun  
Hon. Sec.

South Shields  
Jan. 21/40.

Members of Lippitts & Son  
Plymouth

Dear Sirs

I am in receipt of yours of the  
14<sup>th</sup> and shall feel obliged if you will  
forward a frock with Scarlet round  
the neck and wrists, with the letters  
VLB on the breast. I ask this favour  
that the Members of your Brigade may  
have an opportunity of expressing an  
opinion and of judging of the appearance  
of a frock as described.

Yours truly  
S. Maledun.

A Charlotte Terrace

5/2/40

Members of Lippitts & Son  
Plymouth

Dear Sirs

I duly received the Guernsey  
Frock which gives general satisfaction.  
We should however like S.S. to be  
worked in small letters as  
shown in sketch, and none  
of the frocks to be smaller  
than the one sent. I now order  
50 as a first instalment, which  
you will please put on hand  
at once and forward as soon as  
possible. I also enclose yours of  
the pattern frock and post office  
order for same.

Yours truly  
S. Maledun.

9 Charlotte Terrace  
Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 1870

My dear Mr Spence

I have read in to night's papers of your successful efforts in saving the lives of some poor sailors. Allow me to congratulate you on behalf of the Members of the So. Shields Brigade and to express the pleasure it has given us to know that after years of patient waiting you have won your spurs. I think you have fully illustrated the text "Be not weary in well doing for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not". I hope your reward of to day will absorb all past disappointments, that your Members will be encouraged, and that the Lynemouth Life Brigade will have received a fresh impetus in the good work it inaugurated.

Ever yours faithfully  
S. Malcolm

12 April 1870

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that the New Blocks sent down to Lynemouth were tried by the Members of the So. Shields Volunteers Life Brigade on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst under the direction of the Inspecting Commander of Coastguard for this District

I have to report that the Block which appears to have been made from the model forwarded by me some time ago is considered by those present at the trial to be decidedly the best.

We also tested this Block with Mr Bell's original Block with a still more favourable result for the latter.

I have the honor to remain  
Your obt. Servant  
S. Malcolm

The Assistant-Secretary  
Marine Department  
Board of Trade.

May 24/70

Sir

At the request of Capt Robertson R.R. I have forwarded a full size Model of the Block invented by Mr Bell of this Brigade and of which I sent you a small model some time ago.

Mr Bell considered it would be better not to send the original Block but to make another so constructed that if the B of I. decided to make any from it the shaves could be easily taken out and examined.

I have the honor to be  
S. Malcolm

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department.

10 June 1870

Messrs. Lippett & Son  
Plymouth

Dear Sirs

I have much pleasure in giving you a further order for fifty (50) Quenby Frocks for the Life Brigade to be of three different sizes and in all respects similar to those last supplied. Hoping you will put them in hand at once and forward with all convenient despatch.

I remain

Yours &c  
S. Malcolm



Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> 1870

Capt Smythe R.M.

H.M.S. "Castor" North Shields

Dear Sir

It has been reported to the Committee of the So. Shields Vol. Life Brigade that the firing of the signal guns from the "Castor" has been discontinued. As this arrangement was the result of considerable correspondence between the B. of T. & myself, we shall be glad to know what cause has been assigned for the alteration.

I remain

Yours faithfully  
J. Malcolm

Hon. Sec.

Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> 1870

Sir,

I am requested by the Committee of the So. Shields V.L.B. to inform you that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have ordered

the discontinuance of the firing of signal guns on board H.M.S. "Castor" in cases of shipwreck. The original arrangement for summoning the Volunteers was by firing guns from the Coast-guard Station at Lynemouth. It was found that with certain winds the reports were not heard at So. Shields. This was represented to the Board of Trade in the winter of 1867 by myself, after which it was arranged with the Admiralty that the "Castor" stationed in Shields Harbour should repeat the Lynemouth signals. This has been found to answer very well indeed, and we are surprised to hear of the above decision, without any previous consultation with us as to its advisability. As it was through the B. of T. that the arrangement <sup>was made</sup> for the "Castor" to fire her guns we most respectfully request that the B. of T. will kindly enquire into the matter.

I remain

Your obed. Servant

J. Malcolm

Hon. Sec.

The Assistant Secretary  
Board of Trade.

So. Shields Dec. 27/70

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of  
£25 as a Grant from the B. of Trade to the  
Funds of the So. Shields Vol. Life Brigade  
for the Year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> 1870

I am desired to convey the thanks  
of the Committee and Members for the  
liberal donation awarded by the Board.

I have the honor to remain

Your obt. Servant

S. Malcolm

The Assistant Secretary  
Board of Trade.

M<sup>rs</sup> Ayre

Dear Madam

I am directed by the Com.  
of the L. B. to request that you will  
return without delay the Gaiters  
Frock and Belt issued to your late  
husband. A Frock only becomes the

So. Shields 13/4/71

property of a Member on condition that  
he makes himself effective the following  
year after receiving it which in this case  
was not done.

I may state in conclusion that  
your late husband signed a document  
agreeing to the above

Yours truly

S. Malcolm

W. Blackney  
Dear Sir

May 2/71

It gives me much pleasure  
to inform you, that at the recent Concert  
given by your Glee Club for the Benefit  
of the Funds of the So. Shields Vol. Life  
Brigade the Gross Receipts were £45-10-0  
and the Expences 10-19-3 leaving a  
nett balance of £34-11-7 I am desired  
by the Committee of the Life Brigade to  
thank you personally for permitting the  
entertainment to be held, and through you

to thank also Mr Mason and the  
Members of the Club for their readiness  
in complying with your wishes, and  
the ability displayed by them on the  
above occasion

I remain, Yours faithfully  
J. Malcolm

Oct. 14 1871

Sir

At the last Annual Meeting  
of the So. Shields Vol. Life Brigade,  
a Resolution was passed by the  
Members to the following effect  
That it be suggested to the Board  
of Trade that Members who attend  
the Watch House in stormy weather  
from 10 at night till 3 in the morning  
should have it marked as a Drill  
and returned as such in the  
Annual Return.  
On the recent visit of Capt.

Robertson R.M. I explained this  
matter to him, and I have no  
doubt he will be able to give the  
Board any necessary information  
on the subject.

I remain &c  
J. Malcolm

Charlotte Tenness 5/12/71

Dear Sir,

At a Meeting of the Life Brigade Committee held  
last night, the ungentlemanly treatment you received  
from one of the medical men present at the Watch Hs.  
on Sunday morning, was considered, and I am  
requested to express our regret, to thank you  
for the valuable services you have rendered on similar  
occasions previously, and to hope that the incident  
alluded to above, will not prevent you rendering our  
Honorary Surgeon (Dr Crease) any assistance in  
the future which we know you are so well  
qualified to give

Yr. Servant

I remain, Yours faithfully  
J. Malcolm



Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> 1871

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter M. 11132 enclosing an Order for £25 as the Contribution of the Board to the Funds of the S. S. L. B. for the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup> 1871. I am desirous to convey to you the thanks of the Members, and to assure you of their unabated interest in the Brigade's success.

Yours &c  
S. Malcolm  
The Assistant Secretary  
Board of Trade

Dec. 20 1872

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (M. 11670-71) conveying the thanks of the Board of Trade for the joint Report of the Disrespecting Committee Mr. Thence, & myself respecting the prejudicial remarks made against Mr. Quirk by Mr. Wilson, at the same time wishing to know what are my feelings and those of the Members as to whether Mr. Wilson

should be allowed to remain in the Brigade or whether a severe admonishment would be sufficient.

In reply I beg to say that although he is a very active member of the Brigade his zeal sometimes leads him to act and speak in a way which would be avoided by a more discreet person, and his great anxiety for the cause to give at the words of the "Frisit" led him I have no doubt to use the expressions complained of.

We therefore think, under the circumstances that a very severe rebuke from the B. of Trade might be sufficient to make him more guarded in his language for the future.

I shall be glad to be informed whether the B. of T. have power to cause the dismissal of a Member of a Volunteer Life Brigade.

I remain,

Your &c  
The Assistant Secretary  
Board of Trade

Sir,

Yours &c  
S. Malcolm

Private.

So. Shields Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 1873

Sir

I am requested by the Committee of the So. Shields Life Brigade to write you privately respecting the grant (£7.10) which the B. of Trade have sent for the year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> last.

We think that as the sum is so small there must be a mistake and before writing officially I shall be glad to know whether the Board have decided after due consideration that this is only what our Brigade is entitled to for the past year.

I may add there is great dissatisfaction among the Members about it.

I remain

Yours &c

S. Malcolm

Thomas Gray Esq.

So Shields Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> 1873

Sir

I beg to acknowledge your letter (M. 16108) enclosing an Order for £7.10 as a grant from the Board of Trade to the So. Shields Life Brigade for the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup> last.

I am requested to inform you that the Committee have had the matter under consideration and they are so dissatisfied with the insignificant sum which the Board have been pleased to award <sup>in private</sup> for the services of the Members during the past year that they decline receiving it.

I therefore return the Order herewith.

I remain

Your Obedt. Servant  
S. Malcolm

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department.

South Shields  
Dec. 14. 1874

To the Editor of the "Glasgow News"  
67 Hope St.  
Glasgow.

Sir,

My attention has been directed to a paragraph in your issue of the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. referring to the loss of the barque "Henry Cooke" with all hands at the mouth of the Tyne.

You begin by throwing out some doubt as to the efficiency of the Life Saving Apparatus and follow it up by saying that it will be hard to satisfy the public that the lives could not have been saved.

Now by these statements a reflection is cast upon the men who worked the Rocket Apparatus on that occasion viz the Members of the South Shields Life Brigade, and they are highly indignant, and justly so, as the writer of the paragraph could have no idea of the circumstances of the case.

From the vessel first striking, until she was

lying in splinters along the beach, not a living soul was seen, or a voice heard. You confess that a line was thrown across her jib-boom. Perhaps you are not aware that the next operation must be performed by the crew, and if they fail, what more can be done from the shore?

It is not my intention to occupy your space by recounting all the services of our Brigade since its formation in 1866, but will merely state that we have landed from wrecks at least 120 people.

The latter part of your paragraph casts a further slur on our character, that the Rockets were badly aimed, and that a Royal Commission should enquire into this, and the whole question, commencing at Shields and ending at Frazerburg.

As far as the South Shields Brigade is concerned, I say - not boastfully, but in defence, that it would be difficult to find a body of men who are more expert in firing Rockets or handling the Rocket Apparatus, and if your Commission ever comes to Shields it would be to see how things can be properly done.



I do not know whether I have given an undue weight to the words of your paper, but false impressions get abroad, and are spread all over the country from which innocent persons suffer. It is for the benefit of your readers and in justice to the Brigade that I trouble to reply thus.

To show what a different view of the matter is taken by one of our local papers, I will conclude by quoting some remarks published this morning.

"The So. Shields Life Brigade are worthy of the highest honour for their magnificent courage and promptness on the terrible morning of Wednesday. No one can have any conception of the dangers and difficulties they had to encounter, without going down the So. Pier, when the sea was comparatively calm, and witnessing the wild and terrific scene which was then presented. We need not say much of the degeneracy of Englishmen when she can produce sons such as these"

Trusting you will publish this as soon as possible

I remain, Yours truly

S. Malescu

Hon Sec. So. Shields Vol.  
Life Brigade

So. Shields  
Dec. 16. 1844

Sir

In reply to your letter M-10945 requesting to be favoured with a detail statement of the expenses included in the balance sheet under the heading of "Sundries" in the Report of So. Shields Life Brigade for the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup> last, I beg to enclose a printed copy of the information required, and in doing so, I take the liberty of stating, that as the greater part of our income has been hitherto derived from private sources, I have yet to learn that it is our duty to furnish the Board of Trade with full details of expenditure, but only of those sums that are granted from time to time out of the Mercantile Marine Fund.

I may further add, that at the present moment the Brigade is about £10 in debt, having recently spent the grants for Quernsey Fracks, besides other necessaries.

I remain, Your obedient Servant.

S. Malescu

Hon. Sec.

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department.

3 Charlotte Terrace  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 2. 1875

Messrs Lippett, Son & Co  
Plymouth

Dear Sirs

The 25 Guineas Tools were duly received and they give great satisfaction.

I have much pleasure in forwarding Bank Draft now enclosed for the amount viz £14.14.11 which please acknowledge in due course

Yours truly  
S. Malcolm

South Shields  
January 14 1875

Sir

In reply to your letter (N<sup>o</sup>. 16884) enclosing an Order for the sum of twenty pounds as a contribution from the B. of Trade to the Funds of the So Shields Life Brigade

I have much pleasure in conveying the thanks of the Committee and Members <sup>for</sup> your liberality and ~~at the same time~~ <sup>also</sup> would express the same feeling with regard to the New Breaching Mast, which gives great satisfaction

~~I~~ I think the time has now arrived when the Coastguardmen's houses (so long talked of) ought to be erected, and when this Station should have the benefit of a Chief Officer of Coastguard. During the last few weeks, as the Board will be fully aware, there have been a great many wrecks, and it would add materially to the efficiency of the Rocket Apparatus if the Coastguard lived close to the South Pier instead of dwelling in houses in different parts of the Town.

This question I understand belongs to the Admiralty Department, but I mention the matter that the <sup>prominent</sup> influence of the Board of Trade may be brought to bear on the matter.

I remain &c

S. Malcolm

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department

So Shields  
January 14<sup>th</sup> 1875

William B. Britton Esq

Stratford

Stratford on Avon

Dear Sir

I have received through Mr. G. A. Wilson a cheque for £25 which you have been good enough to contribute to the funds of the S. S. V. S. B.

On behalf of the members I can hardly sufficiently thank you for your great liberality, and we all the more highly appreciate it as it has come from an inland town where such services as we render to shipwrecked men are perhaps seldom heard of.

I shall have much pleasure in forwarding you at an early date some of our previous General Reports which will give you some idea of the work we engage in.

I remain

Yours very faithfully  
S. Malcolm

So Shields  
January 16. 1875

My dear Capt Prowse

In writing the B. of Trade the other day acknowledging receipt of a £20 Grant I incidentally mentioned the subject of the postguards houses and also the importance of having a Chief Officer stationed here. I shall be very glad to receive any suggestions from yourself as to working the Admiralty on the matter.

We have a drill next Saturday at 3 pm.  
Hope you will get over.

I remain

Yours faithfully  
S. Malcolm

So Shields  
Feb 19. 1875

Joseph Wilson Esq

Hon Sec. Life Boat Fund.

Dear Sir

I find on looking through the Life Boat Fund accounts that there is due to the Fund from



The Life Boat Fund 2 yrs. subs. (£20) We shall  
be very glad to receive the amount when  
convenient.

The site of the proposed New Life Boat House  
has been pointed out to me and altho' as a  
Brigade we may have no power to object  
to the decision of the Trustees, yet I would  
like to say that when the Watch House  
was erected it was expected there would always  
be an uninterrupted sea view from its windows.

I am afraid our lookout will be somewhat  
blocked up to the S. E. and we shall  
probably be put to the expense of erecting  
an upper story so as to overlook your  
New Boat House.

Yours faithfully  
S. Malcolm.

So Shields. Mar. 13. 1875

S4

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of  
your letter (M 3463) informing me that the  
Board of Trade had directed Messrs Bent to forward  
a Flag to be hoisted <sup>in fine weather</sup> on the Life Boat Building  
occupied by the So Shields Life Brigade.

In reply I beg to inform you that the  
Flag has been received, and that I shall  
have much pleasure in seeing that the wish  
of the Board of Trade is carried out.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant  
S. Malcolm.

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department.

South Shields

April 5<sup>th</sup> 1875

Sir,

I have the pleasure to enclose a Plan of the Proposed Additions to the So Shields Life Brigade Watch House and shall be glad if you will forward it to the Board of Trade with any remarks that may suggest themselves to you as to the necessity of the alterations to the present House

I had the honour to submit and explain the original Drawing to the President and Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trade on Saturday last and at the same time made a verbal application for a grant of £200 to defray the cost

The Assistant Secretary. I pray Esq. you will remember at our joint interview subsequently kindly promised that the Board would grant us £150 for the proposed alterations

I don't think this will cover the total cost but nevertheless the Brigade will feel grateful for this substantial assistance

I remain

Capt Prowse R.N.

Yours &c  
S. Malcolm

So Shields. April 21. 1875

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to receive your letter of the So. Shields Life Brigade and in view of increasing the accommodation of the Watch House and for that purpose have desired me to apply through you to the River Tyne Commissioners for permission to extend the present Watch Room 18 feet to the South

On this extension it is proposed to build a second story to act as a ~~look out~~ and give us a better view of the Harbour Entrance which at present is somewhat obscured by the Pier Staging

I hope the occupation of this additional piece of ground will in no way affect the Pier Works Plans and that the Commissioners will kindly accede to our request.

I remain

Yours faithfully  
S. Malcolm

R. J. Messent Esq.

Pier Works Office  
Tyne-mouth.

Oct. 13. 1875

In a communication (NI 5698) from the Board of Trade dated May 10<sup>th</sup> the sum of £150 was promised towards defraying the cost of enlarging the So Shields Life Brigade Watch House.

I have now to report that the building is so far completed that the painters have commenced to put on the finishing touches.

I have also to report that the total cost will be about £300 of which £200 has already been paid to the contractors &c. It will therefore assist us very much if the Board could send at an early date an Order for the amount promised.

Perhaps you will be good enough to report as to the great improvements in the Watch House and to suggest the desirability of a supplementary grant to defray the total cost otherwise we must appeal at once to the Public for subscriptions.

We are endeavouring to make the place as complete as possible and among

other things we intend fixing an Anemometer so that in heavy gales a record may be kept of the force of the wind, an important point sometimes at Board of Trade enquiries.

Yours Adl. Servt.  
S. Malcolm

Capt Prowse R.M.

So. Shields. Nov. 13. 1875

My dear Prowse

I am duly in receipt of your letter of yesterday requesting my opinion as to paragraph 91 of the new L.S. & Instructions.

The whole section under the head of "Wreck Service" does not appear to be clearly expressed.

With regard to the direct payment of Members of Brigades for services rendered at wrecks, I think it would be a step entirely opposed to our constitution, voluntarily, as we do to attend on these occasions. The whole status of



Brigades would be lowered, and while some would doubtless enrol themselves for the sake of payment, yet the majority of Brigade-men act from a higher and purer motive, and it might be the means of withdrawing from the movement the active sympathies of the latter.

During the last 10 years the Annual Grant to defray the working expenses has worked very well and it would be a pity to disturb the arrangement.

Some years ago I suggested to the Board of Trade that the Annual Grant should be based on the Services at Work &c say so much for each life saved. This would embrace the principle embodied in the instructions without direct personal payment. Any further expression of opinion I shall be glad to give if necessary.

Yours very faithfully  
S. Malcolms.

So Shields Dec 6. 1875

Sir

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter M. 16148 increasing the former Grant towards the Extension of the So Shields Life Brigade Watch House by £50 making altogether £200.

I am desired by the Members of the Committee to express their sincere thanks and to hope that it will be convenient for the amount to be forwarded at an early date.

I have also further to state that it is our intention to have a formal Opening of the Watch House ~~and~~ and that we should like it done by a Member of the Board of Trade.

We would feel honoured if you, and Capt Murray or any other of the Officers who take an interest in Brigades could pay us a visit for this purpose (the date to be fixed to suit your convenience) before the year closes.

An early reply will oblige

Your Obedt. Servant

S. Malcolms

The Assistant Secretary

Marine Department.

Extract of a letter from the Bishop of Durham to Rev T. H. Clark  
dated Amsthand Castle Dec. 13. 1875

- " It needed no apology on your part for bringing
- " under my notice the case of the Life Brigade
- " Those noble hearted volunteers in their efforts
- " to save the lives of those who are shipwrecked
- " deserve all praise and encouragement.
- " I therefore enclose a contribution (£25).

3 Charlotte Terrace  
Dec. 15. 1875

My Lord

I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt (per Rev. Mr. Chester) of your Lordship's  
liberal donation of £25 to the Funds of the  
So. Shields Vol. Life Brigade

I am desired by the Committee and Members  
to thank you for your very great kindness  
and to add, that we shall be glad if  
agreeable to your Lordship, to send you periodically  
the annual Reports of our Brigade

I have the honor to remain

Your Lordship's Obedt. Servt.  
S. Malabon

The Lord Bishop of Durham

Dec. 17. 1875

Mr Siddalls

Alhambra Music Hall

Dear Sir

At a Committee Meeting of the Life  
Brigade held this evening it was reported  
by Mr Potter that you had offered to give  
a Benefit at the Alhambra either on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
or 14<sup>th</sup> of January next, either night to be  
fixed by the Committee

I am desired to write and thank  
you for your kind proposal which we  
will gladly accept leaving the time to be  
arranged to suit your own convenience

I remain, dear Sir

Yours faithfully  
S. Malabon

Dear Sir

It has been intimated to me by Mr Potts that you have presented to the 50 Shields Life Brigade a First class telescope

On behalf of the Committee and Members I have much pleasure in conveying our sincere thanks for your valuable & opportune gift

I can assure you that so useful an instrument will be highly prized, and I hope it will be handed down unimpaired by many generations of Lifeguardsmen.

Before disengagement I will endeavour to see you personally

I remain

Yours very faithfully  
S. Malcolm

E. B. Railton Esq

Feb 8 1876

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (M. 18490) enclosing an Order for £200. being the amount contributed by the Board of Trade towards the Extension of the Watch House! and also your letter (M. 12914/15) enclosing an Order for £30 towards the ordinary expenses of the Brigade for the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup> 1875.

I am desired by the Committee and Members to thank you for these liberal Grants, and also that we learn with pleasure that our services still continue to give satisfaction to the Board of Trade.

I remain

Sir

Your obedient Servant  
S. Malcolm

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department  
Board of Trade.

Feb. 11. 1876



So. Shields  
Feb. 23. 1876.

Dear Sir

The Committee of the Life Brigade  
desire me on behalf of themselves and the  
other Members to thank you very sincerely  
for your kindness in giving a Benefit at  
the Alhambra towards the Fund for enlarging  
the Watch House at on the So. Pier

The total amount received was £4-6  
for which we again thank you

Yours faithfully  
S. Malcolm

S. B. Seddell Esq.

Sir

So. Shields 20 June 1876

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter  
(N 8422). In reply the Committee of the Life  
Brigade will be very glad to make arrangements  
for a Rocket Drill to suit the convenience of  
Commander Pompeu of the Brazilian Imperial  
Navy.

I also acknowledge receipt with thanks of 2  
parcels of Tables relating to Life Salvage  
I also enclose copy of Report in connection  
with the recent enlargement of our Watch House

I have the honor to remain  
Your obedient Servant  
S. Malcolm

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department.

Sir

So. Shields July 5<sup>th</sup> 1876

With further reference to your letter N 8422  
I have the honor to inform you that the So. Shields  
Life Brigade had a Special Drill on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult.  
in the presence of Commander Pompeu of the  
Brazilian Imperial Navy.

I have also much pleasure in stating that  
the officers of Coastguard fully explained the  
details of the Apparatus to the entire satisfaction  
of Commander Pompeu.

I remain Your obt. Servant  
S. Malcolm

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department.

Sir.

I beg to endorse the Returns of the So. Shields Life Brigade for the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup> last as requested in your letter M 13688. dated the 9<sup>th</sup> inst

Apologizing for the unusual delay  
I remain

Your obedt. Servant.  
S. Malcolm

The Assistant Secretary  
Board of Trade.

Dec. 30. 1876

Dear Sir

The prevailing opinion appears to be that the proposed Railing on the So. Pier should be fixed about 18 inches from the No. Edge.

The Committee of the Brigade have appointed the Captain and myself as a deputation to confer with you on the matter.

I shall therefore be glad if you will appoint a time when we can meet you on the So. Pier.

R. J. Messant Esq

Yours faithfully  
S. Malcolm

Dec. 30. 1876

To the Chairman & Members of the Piers Committee  
of the River Tyne Commissioners

Gentlemen

At the request of the Committee of the So. Shields Life Brigade I beg respectfully to ask the River Tyne Commissioners to co-operate with us in order if possible to prevent the Public crowding on to the Piers in stormy weather especially at shipwrecks

During the recent gales as well as on former occasions our operations have been very much impeded thereby, and we would suggest the advisability of fixing additional iron gates at a suitable place between the Brigade House and the Jetty with instructions posted up forbidding anyone to pass without special leave

I remain

Gentlemen

Your obedt. Servant  
S. Malcolm

Sat.

So-Shields Dec. 30. 1876

In further reply to your letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst I have the honour to report that on Tuesday Dec 19<sup>th</sup> a most terrific gale commenced on this part of the coast and was attended by most disastrous results both to life and property, as the following condensed account will shew.

The So-Shields life Brigade as usual on such occasions mustered in force at the Watch House to be ready for any emergency that might arise. The gale increased and the sea rapidly rose on Wednesday to an alarming extent.

On Thursday morning about 20 o'clock the Lookout observed a vessel the S.S. "Claremont" of Newcastle making for the Harbour. On nearing the Bar a succession of heavy seas struck her and she became unmanageable eventually standing about 200 yds on the So. side of the Bar. Meanwhile the Apparatus was taken along the Pier, and in a few minutes a rocket line was thrown right amidships, but falling on the stays out-spread of the crew a second was fired abt the mainmast, by means of which the other gear was got on board and all the crew with a woman and child, numbering

27, safely landed. They were taken to the Watch House and supplied with dry clothing and refreshments.

As the morning advanced the wind and sea increased with heavy rain. Shortly after 6 o'clock the lights of another steamer were descried through the darkness and in a very short space of time she was driven against the end of the Pier. The Apparatus was all in readiness and a Rocket line fired on board. By this time the crew had taken to the rigging. The scene was now most heartrending as rocket after rocket went over the ship and the crew were unable to leave their positions to get them after the vessel got ashore very little was to be seen but the bridge and the masts. The former was soon washed away and the latter followed in rapid succession carrying with them the poor fellows who had gone there as a last refuge. She proved to be the S.S. Type of No. Shields with a crew of 74 hands one of whom was a member of this Brigade. They were all drowned.



Just as the last rocket was fired over the Tyne another screw steamer struck the pier. After backing off she was run full speed ahead on to the beach just clearing the Hull of the "Tyne", which had she struck might have been attended with similar consequences. Two rockets were fired, both of which took the lines over the ship. They were not used. The crew 20 in number remained on board till low water when they got ashore and were supplied with necessary food and clothing at the Watch House. This steamer was the "Fenella" of London.

After the breaking up of the Tyne a detachment of the Brigade was told off to go along the beach in search of any bodies that might wash ashore. It was while in performance of his duty that one of the members named Barnett was knocked down by a wave and had his leg broken. Other members also had narrow escapes.

The storm still continued to rage, and about 3 in the afternoon the S.S. "Blenheim" of Hartlepool struck the pier and almost immediately parted amidships, the after part remaining fast and the fore part washing round the north end

of the pier. The men on this part of the vessel jumped on to the pier staying in passing and were saved, except one, who fell short and was drowned. A rocket was fired over the stern and the remainder of the crew 6 in number safely landed by the apparatus. The total on board was 20, 19 of whom were saved and taken to the Watch House and treated in the usual manner.

The gear was all collected together and kept at the end of the pier to be ready for any other emergency. Shortly after the wreck of the "Blenheim" a small schooner named the "New Cornwall" of Barnatople got among the broken water, was capsized and all her crew 5 in number drowned. We could render no assistance, the melancholy sight being over in 3 or 4 minutes.

On Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> the sea continued very high with blinding showers of sleet. The members of the Brigade were on duty and about midnight another screw steamer was observed making very bad weather near

the end of the pier. She was struck by heavy seas and eventually stranded near the other steamers. The apparatus was taken down the pier and the first rocket fired right amidships. No action being taken by the crew, a second was fired by which the whip line was hauled on board. From some cause this got foul and other 3 rockets were fired by which a second whip line was hauled off and also a hawser, but these got fouled by the heavy seas and the large quantities of wreckage floating about. After working on with the lines for about 2 hours it was determined to try the lifeboat. This proved successful and all the crew safely landed and taken to the Watch House. One of the lifeboatmen got his leg broken while assisting to get the lifeboat out. This vessel was the s.s. "Herman Sauber" of Hamburg, with a crew of 29.

By this time most of the Members were nearly worn out with the exertions of the last few 2 or 3 days, but as the weather was still very stormy some remained on duty all through Christmas Eve. On Christmas morning

about 1/2 past 3 the brig "Mary" of Whitby was observed to go ashore on the Hard Sand. The signal was instantly given to the Lifeboats. The Brigade ran along the Beach with heaving lines and lifebuoys but the crew was taken out by the lifeboats.

Such is a brief account of the most fearful and disastrous gale that has occurred here since the formation of the Brigade and one that will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

We have landed by the apparatus 27 people, besides assisting the others to the best of our ability. We have also received 80 into the Watch House providing them with all necessary comforts for which they have been very grateful.

In conclusion I think it my duty to add that the Officers of Coast Guard have been most assiduous and attentive to their duties and are well worthy of special recognition.

I would also recommend that the regulation quantity of stores at this station should be increased.

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant  
S. Malcolm



Sir,

Jan<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1877.

In accordance with the request contained in your letter (M 16235/1876) I have forwarded by passenger train to your store keeper one of the helmets worn by the Member of the So. Shields Brigade at Procter Drills and wrecks.

As it belong to one of the men and as we have no spare ones - please return it as soon as practicable.

From our experience of these Hats, I think if the question were to come up for consideration again, we should be inclined to make a change, not perhaps as to shape, but material.

In designing the Helmet we tried to accomplish three things. 1<sup>st</sup> to be water proof. 2<sup>nd</sup> to be light in weight. 3<sup>rd</sup> to be light in colour so as to be easily distinguishable in the dark. They are not perfectly waterproof, and those that have seen much service are soiled and out of shape. If the outer covering could be replaced with a glazed material it might prove more serviceable.

My report of the recent wrecks was forwarded on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult.

I remain

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department

Your Obedt. Servt.  
S. Malins

Jan<sup>y</sup> 16 . 1877

Dear Sir

I am desired by the Committee of the So. Shields Life Brigade to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. and thank you to thank the Trustees of the Life Boat Fund for their kindness in making an additional allowance of Ten pounds per annum to the funds of the Brigade

Yours faithfully  
S. Malins

Joseph Wilson Esq.

June 20 . 1877

My dear Mr. Stevenson

The Members of the Life Brigade heard with very deep regret of the death of their Treasurer the late Mr Arch. Stevenson. From the formation of the Brigade Mr Stevenson took a great interest in it and altho' latterly circumstances prevented his being often amongst us, he from time to time gave proof that he was not unmindful of its welfare.

I have been requested by the Committee (and I



do so with much sorrow) to convey to you the sympathies of the Members of the Brigade in your heavy affliction, trusting that this feeble expression from a small portion of the fellow-convicts of your late respected husband will afford you a little consolation.

A wish has also been expressed to have a Portrait of Mrs S. hung up in the Watch House and we will take it as a great kindness if you could spare me a carte-de-visite to get enlarged.

Mrs Malcolm joins me in kind regards and much sympathy.

Believe me, Yours very faithfully  
S. Malcolm

So Shields June 19. 1877

James Guthrie Esq

Type Commission Office

Diaries

The Committee of the S. S. V. L. B. are desirous to have the Watch House protected by an

Iron railing and also to add another room for the purpose of drying the clothes of shipwrecked sailors &c the want of which was very much felt during the last winter.

I am requested to forward you the accompanying plan on which is shown the proposed alteration

The Committee will feel obliged if you can bring the matter before the Type Commissioners at an early date asking their permission to enclose the ground as indicated.

Yours faithfully  
S. Malcolm

Sir

So Shields Dec. 3. 1877

On a former occasion I pointed out that at Shipwrecks the operations of the So Shields Life Brigade have been impeded by persons crowding amongst the members and the apparatus.

I understand there are certain penalties attached to anyone interfering on these occasions and the Committee think that a notice drawn

out under the authority of the Board of Trade warning  
the Public of the consequences ~~of not doing~~, would  
have a good effect. If you could oblige us by  
so doing, we will get it painted on a board and  
fixed in a conspicuous place.

I shall also be glad if you could oblige us  
with 100 copies of the Pamphlet (LSA 1) which  
gives a detailed description of the Apparatus  
and which has never been placed in the hands  
of our Members.

I remain, Your obedient Servant  
S. Malcolm

The Assistant Secretary  
Board of Trade.

S4.

Jan<sup>y</sup> 7. 1878

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of  
your letter (M. 16073) stating that the B. of T  
propose that I should be appointed an  
Honorary Deputy Receiver of Wreck for the purpose  
of giving me legal power to suppress disorder at  
Shipwrecks under the 444<sup>a</sup> & 445<sup>a</sup> Sec. of the

Merchant Shipping Act.

With regard to the other suggestion of appointing  
a second officer of the Brigade I have brought the  
matter before the Committee and they have nominated  
Mr. Thos. G. Mahone as my colleague

I have to add that we are both willing to  
accept the appointments.

I remain,

Your obt. Servant,  
S. Malcolm

The Assistant Secretary  
Marine Department.

Dear Sir

So. Shields July 6. 1878

I am desired by the Committee of the Life  
Brigade to ask if you would kindly extend  
the Railing on the edge of the Pier a further  
distance seawards from the Iron rails

I observe some of the necessary holes in  
the stone coping are already countersunk

Yours faithfully,  
S. Malcolm

P. J. Messent Esq.  
Tyne-mouth.

C. P.