

C.S.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1927.

No. 105/27.

Lt. Comdr. Mercer.

SUBJECT.

1927.

3rd March.

RESCUE OF TWO BOYS FROM DROWNING BY THE  
COOK OF R.S.S. "WILLIAM SCORESBY".

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

1-3. Ltr. from Comdr. Mercer of 3. March. 1927.

G.S. Replied. G.S. may wish to have a  
suitable expression of G.S.'s appreciation of Lt.  
Mandart's gallantry conveyed to him, and also  
to bring his credit to the notice of the  
Disciplinary Committee. In such  
a case I  
will prepare the necessary drafts  
on return to G.S. 4.3.27.

Rec. This was a most gallant action, particularly  
as the cold of our local waters and the dangers  
from keel are notorious. The Chief Constable  
mentioned the incident to me, and gave me  
to understand that other witnesses were prepared

Subsequent Paper.

PA  
7/6/28

to come forward. I should be glad if he  
could obtain written statements from these  
witnesses with a view to a report going to  
the Royal Humane Society.

2. In the meantime, too, I should be  
glad if you would write to Capt. Mercer  
and Courcy an Expression of my appreciation  
of Blanchard's ~~action~~ gallantry.

J.S.  
5 March, 1927

Letter to Lt. Cmdr. Mercer - 7.3.1927

4.

Spoke Chief Constable re written statements from  
other ex-witnesses. We will obtain same from Messrs  
Dipp, Brown, and Haldeney.

by 17.3.27

by 7.3.27

Letter from Mr. G. J. Turner of 14. March 1927. 5.

Spoke Chief Constable 16.3.27.

by 19.3.27

by 17.3.27.

Letter from Mr. E. Riggs of 17. March 1927. 6.

G.S. Shall send with a draft deposit

J.S.

21.3.27

Act.

1. Draft despatch approved, but if the Christian names of Mr. Blanchard are known they should be given in full in para. 1

2. Com<sup>d</sup>: Mercer may be informed also that a report on Mr. Blanchard's gallant action has been transmitted to the Secy. of State.

J.M.S.  
21 March, 1927

3. I attach also a draft of 4.

J.M.S.  
21 March, 1927

7. Government Notice No. 51 of the 22.3.27.  
8-13 Despatch No. 53 of the 22nd of March to Secretary of State.

14. Letter to Comdr. Mercer. 29.3.27.

✓ y.g.  
Despatch typed and checked for signature.

J.M.S.

29.3.27

J.M.S.  
29 March, 1927

✓ 6. 29. 9. 27.

13 F 15. 10. 27

✓ 6. 30. 3. 27.

J.M.S. 30. 9. 27

✓ 6. 25. 11. 27

6. 15. 10. 27

4/20. 1. 28.

~~4/28. 11. 27.~~

WCS.

I understand W. Blanchard was cook on board the 'Coraga' when that vessel was on Stanley at the beginning of the present month, and that he had informed several local people that he had been awarded the Royal Humane Society Medal.

WCS.  
24. 1. 28

WCS.

4/13. 1. 28.

6/24. 1. 28.

Despatch to S.F.S. No 26 S 29/2/28

15.

13/1. 31. 1. 28.

~~13/1. 3. 11. 28~~

S of S Despatch No 70 of 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1928 16

WCS  
7.6.28



R. S. S. Williams Secretary  
March. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1927.

Sir,

On the evening of Monday last about 6.30 pm I was standing on deck when cries for help were heard. On going on to the Public Jetty I found two boys struggling in the water and immediately threw the lifebuoy. One of the boys caught hold of it and then J. R. Blanchard took of the above vessel came on the jetty on his way ashore and jumped into the water with all his uniform on and got hold of the other boy and held on to him for about half an hour during which time he began to get cramp. He managed to hold on to a line I threw him but was handicapped by the boy struggling and also the other boy

would insist on leaving the life buoy.  
During this time three sailors were  
trying to get a pram to the side  
of the Jetty where Blanchard was  
holding on to my line and finally  
we managed to get them all to  
safety.

I am Sir  
Your Obedient Servant

W. Dinning  
Telegraphist

The Captain

R.S.S. William Scoresby



R.S.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY,

c/o FOREIGN FLEET DIVISION,

G.P.O. LONDON.

Thurs. 3rd March. 1927.

Sir.

I beg to forward the attached report, by Mr Drinning our wireless telegraphist, on the occasion of the children being rescued from the water.

Drinning was the first to notice the accident and called out the other men.

I beg to submit that the action of J. R. Blanchard, Cook, of William Scoresby, in jumping into the water fully dressed may be brought to the notice of His Excellency The Governor.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

G. M. Mercer.

W Comd<sup>g</sup> RNR.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary

105/27.

7th March,

27.

Sir,

I am directed by the Acting Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd of March, 1927, forwarding a report on the rescue from drowning in Stanley harbour of two children by Mr. J. R. Blanchard, Cook, of R.R.S. "William Scoresby" and to request you to convey to Mr. Blanchard an expression of His Excellency's appreciation of his gallantry.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*J. J. J.*

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Lieut. Commander G. M. Mercer, D.S.C., R.N.R.,

R.R.S. "WILLIAM SCORESBY"

S T A N L E Y.





Port Stanley

March 14th 1927.

Sir:-

As requested by you I forward the following statement in connection with one of the crew of "R.S.S. William Scoresby" assisting two boys that were in the water near the town jetty.

On the evening of the 28th February I heard loud shouts for help and immediately went to the front of my premises situated in the Ross Road and saw two boys in the water about half way down the town jetty with a boat overturned near them, the one boy appeared to be clinging to the boat, but the other one was a little distance away, several men came up from the R.S.S. William Scoresby (which was moored at the North end of the Jetty) and one jumped in the water to the assistance of the boy that seemed unable to reach the boat, the other men got into another boat that was at jetty and went to the assistance of those that were in the water, getting them into the boat and landing them at the steps of the jetty. I consider that if the man had not jumped into the water, quickly, one of the boys would have most likely lost his life.

I afterwards heard it was the cook of the vessel that went to the boys assistance.

I am, Sir

Your obedient seravnt

*G. J. Turner*

Hon

Colonial Secretary.

Stanley

17<sup>th</sup> March. 1927.

The Hon.

Col. Secretary

Stanley

Dear Sir

I lay before you the facts of a boat-accident, which occurred at the Public Jetty on the 25 Feb. about 6 o'clock in the evening, which I, and a party of friends saw from my sailing boat. After leaving the jetty we heard a cry for help looking back we saw W. Goss in the water, and J. M<sup>c</sup> Mullen trying to help him back in, when the boat filled and they were both helpless in the water under-neath the jetty. I shouted to the R.R.S "William Scoresby" for help because by the time I got back to the jetty I could see it would be too late to give assistance. The two boys owe their lives to M<sup>r</sup> Blanchard's promptness of jumping into the water after them, first he put J. M<sup>c</sup> Mullen across the up-turned boat, and then he got hold of Goss and hung on to him until another boat could be got round to their rescue.

I remain

Your obedient servant

Eric Biggs.

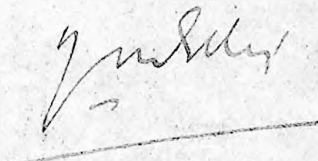
GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 51.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Stanley, Falkland Islands.  
22nd March, 1927.

The Acting Governor desires to commend publicly the gallant action of Mr. J. R. Blanchard, Cook in R.S.S. "William Scoresby" of the "Discovery" Expedition who at great personal risk rescued two boys from drowning by jumping fully dressed into Stanley Harbour from the Public Jetty on the evening of Monday, the 28th of February, 1927.

By Command,



Acting Colonial Secretary.

(3)

ENCLOSURE NO. III TO FALKLAND ISLANDS DESPATCH NO.  
53 of the 22nd of March, 1927.

Stanley,

17th March, 1927.

The Hon. Col. Secretary,

Stanley.

Dear Sir,

I lay before you the facts of a boat accident, which occurred at the Public Jetty on the 28th February about 6 o'clock in the evening, which I, and a party of friends saw from my sailing boat. After leaving the jetty we heard a cry for help looking back we saw W. Goss in the water, and J. McMullen trying to help him back in, when the boat filled and they were both helpless in the water underneath the jetty. I shouted to the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" for help because by the time I got back to the jetty I could see it would be too late to give assistance. The two boys owe their lives to Mr. Blanchard promptness of jumping into the water after them, first he put J. McMullen across the up-turned boat, and then he got hold of Goss and hung on to him until another boat could be got round to their rescue.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ERIC BIGGS.

ENCLOSURE NO. II TO FALKLAND ISLANDS DESPATCH NO.

53 of the 22nd of March, 1927.

Port Stanley,

March 14th, 1927.

Sir,

As requested by you I forward the following statement in connection with one of the crew of R.S.S. "WILLIAM SCORESBY" assisting two boys that were in the water near the town jetty.

On the evening of the 23th February I heard loud shouts for help and immediately went to the front of my premises situated in the Ross Road and saw two boys in the water about half way down the town jetty with a boat overturned near them, the one boy appeared to be clinging to the boat, but the other one was a little distance away, several men came up from the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" (which was moored at the North end of the Jetty) and one jumped in the water to the assistance of the boy that seemed unable to reach the boat, the other men got into another boat that was at jetty and went to the assistance of those that were in the water, getting them into the boat and landing them at the steps of the jetty. I consider that if the man had not jumped into the water, quickly, one of the boys would have most likely lost his life.

I afterwards heard it was the cook of the vessel that went to the boys assistance.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) G.I. TURNER.

Hon. Colonial Secretary.



R.S.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY.

March 3rd, 1927.

Sir,

On the evening of Monday last about 6.30 p.m. I was standing on deck when cries for help were heard. On going on to the Public Jetty I found two boys struggling in the water and immediately threw the lifebuoy. One of the boys caught hold of it and then J. R. Blanchard, Cook of the above vessel, came on the jetty on his way ashore and jumped into the water with all his uniform on and got hold of the other boy and held on to him for about half an hour during which time he began to get cramp. He managed to hold on to a line I threw him but was handicapped by the boy struggling and also the other boy would insist on leaving the lifebuoy. During this time three sailors were trying to get a pram to the side of the Jetty where Blanchard was holding on to my line and finally we managed to get them all to safety.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) T.W.DINNING.

Telegraphist.

The Captain,

R.S.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY.

(11)

ENCLOSURE NO. I TO FALKLAND ISLANDS DESPATCH NO.  
53 of the 22nd of March, 1927.

R.S.S. WILLIAM SCORESBY,  
C/o Foreign Fleet Division,  
G.P.O. London.

Thursday, 3rd March, 1927.

Sir,

I beg to forward the attached report, by Mr. Dinning our wireless telegraphist, on the occasion of the children being rescued from the water.

Dinning was the first to notice the accident and called out the other men.

I beg to submit that the action of J. R. Blanchard, Cook, of William Scoresby, in jumping into the water fully dressed may be brought to the notice of His Excellency the Governor.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) G. M. MERCER.

Lt. Comdr. R.N.R.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
STANLEY.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

22nd March, 1927.

No. 53.

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your notice an act of exceptional gallantry on the part of Mr. John Robert Blanchard, Cook in R.S.S. "WILLIAM SCORESBY" of the "Discovery" expedition who rescued two young boys from drowning by jumping fully dressed into Stanley harbour from the public jetty on the evening of Monday, the 28th of February, 1927.

2. I enclose a copy of a report in this connection received from Lieutenant-Commander G. M. Mercer, D.S.C., R.N.R., Master of R.S.S. "William Scoresby" enclosing a statement by Mr. T. W. Dinning, Telegraphist in that ship, who was an eye-witness of the incident, together with copies of statements received from two other eye-witnesses, Mr. G. I. Turner, J.P., and Mr. Eric Biggs, both residents of Stanley.

3. I would explain that although the depth of the water at the public jetty is not great the temperature of the sea in Stanley harbour rarely rises as high as 50° Fahrenheit and  
that/

CHT HONOURABLE

L. C. M. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

12.

that the danger from entanglement in the kelp is very real. Mr. Blanchard must have been fully aware of the possible consequences to himself of his prompt and fearless action.

4. I consider that the two boys most probably owe their lives to Mr. Blanchard and I would suggest that his action may be brought, if you think fit, to the notice of the Royal Humane Society with the view to some recognition being conferred on him.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

A. E. Beattie.



14.

105/27.

29th March,

27

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 3rd of March, 1927, relative to the rescue by Mr. J. R. Blanchard, Cook, in the R.S.S. "WILLIAM SCORESBY" of two young boys from drowning at the Public Pier, Stanley, on the evening of Monday, the 28th of February, I am directed by the Acting Governor to inform you that a report on Mr. Blanchard's gallant action has been transmitted to the Secretary of State with the request that it should be brought to the notice of the Royal Humane Society.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Lieut. Commander G. M. Mercer, D.S.C., R.N.R.,

R.S.S. "WILLIAM SCORESBY"

S T A N L E Y.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY.

29th February, 1928.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 86.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Lieut.-Colonel Beattie's despatch No. 53 of the 22nd of March, 1927, reporting the rescue by Mr. J. R. Blanchard at that time Cook in R.S.S. "William Scoresby" of two young boys from drowning in Stanley Harbour and to state that I shall be grateful if you will inform me what action, if any, it has been found possible to take in the matter of the suggestion contained therein that Mr. Blanchard's gallantry should be brought to the notice of the Royal Humane Society with a view to some recognition being conferred on him.

2. I would add that a report, which I have no means of verifying, has reached me to the effect that Mr. Blanchard who recently visited Stanley as Cook in the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's motor vessel "Loriga" told several people on shore that he had been awarded the Royal Humane Society's medal.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

ARNOLD HODSON.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

L. C. M. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

DUPLICATE

16

FALKLAND ISLANDS

NO 40



DOWNING STREET.

20 April, 1923.

Sir,

*Red 15*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 86 of the 29th of February and to inform you that Mr. J. R. Blanchard was awarded the testimonial of the Royal Humane Society for saving two boys from drowning at Stanley Harbour.

2. Mr. Blanchard was invited to attend for the testimonial to be personally presented by Mr. Gurnaby-Coro. This however, proved impossible, and it was forwarded to him by post on the 30th of September last.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) L. S. AMEP

GOVERNOR,

ARNOLD HODGCE, B.Sc., C.M.G.

etc.,

etc.,

etc.