

‘Preach the Word, Heal the Sick’

(mantra of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen)

THE FISHERMEN’S MISSION



Logo of the Fishermen's Mission

I was very glad to see in the *Hull and Lincolnshire Times* so long and able an article reprinted from *Good Words* on the Missions to Deep-Sea Fishermen.

This a work which cannot be too widely known, and I trust the public will find funds to aid in his work. It appears that some five or six more Mission-ships are needed in order that each "fleet" may have one attached. Each vessel, I think, costs some £1,800, but the value of the work they do is incalculable.

Hull Daily Mail, 14 Mar 1887

Fact: The Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen began it's work in 1881

The Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen was founded in 1881. It was also known as the Fishermen's Mission.

The Society's objectives were to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of fishermen who worked in deep sea fisheries. It's mantra was 'Preach the Word, Heal the Sick'.

The Society operated out of a fleet of ships, which were equipped with hospital facilities and chapel space. A doctor and a chaplain were amongst the ships' compliment. Each ship accompanied a fishing fleet during voyages. In this way the society brought their services to the deep sea fishermen.

In 1902, the Society's ship 'Joseph and Sarah Miles' began sailing with a Hull fleet. The ship was present and came to the aid of Hull fishermen involved in the Dogger Bank incident of 1904.

Hull Trawlers after the Dogger Bank incident, 1904 [L RH/212]



RUSSIAN OUTRAGE ON HULL TRAWLERS
SCENE AT ST ANDREW'S DOCK HULL.

DEEP SEA FISHERMEN.
NEW INSTITUTE OPENED ON NORTH BOULEVARD.
ROYAL NATIONAL MISSION'S WORK
After 23 years' work in Hull, the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen has extended its activities to a new Institute in North Boulevard, a commodious wooden building, complete with billiard-tables and other amenities.
In the absence of the Lord Mayor of Hull (Councillor Benno Pearman, J.P.), owing to indisposition, the Sheriff (Dr T. Ritchie Rodger) presided at the opening ceremony on Wednesday afternoon, and he was supported by the Sheriff's lady, the Lady Mayors, Mr Thomas Hudson (who declared the building open), Lieut.-Col. R. Phayre (chairman of the Council), Dr Frederick W. Willway (general secretary and superintendent of the Mission), the Rev Canon Smallwood, M.A. (Rural Dean of Hull), the Rev F. Matthews (Pastor of Hull), Mr E. Thrale (secretary, Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Association), Mr P. Ross (past president of the association), Mr H. Wilkinson, Mr W. Baines, Commander Hawke (Hull Trawler Owners' Mutual Insurance Company), Mr Adamson (headmaster, Boulevard Nautical School), Messrs Geo. Wright and John Glenville (Admirals of the Fishing Fleet), Skipper Arthur Windass, and others.
The proceedings opened with the hymn, "Eternal Father, strong to save," followed by a dedicatory prayer by Canon Smallwood.
The Sheriff, after apologising for the absence of the Lord Mayor, said he knew this was an organisation the Lord Mayor had at heart, and he could assure them that, although he did not belong to the persuasion of most of them, he had done, and was doing, during his year of office, a tremendous amount of work for the Christian churches. Hull had a great responsibility so far as the fishermen of the port were concerned. It had been stated that one-sixth of the population were dependent on the fishing industry and this, he thought, indicated the importance to the city of the deep sea fishermen.

THE MISSION SHIPS.
Mr Hudson, declaring the Institute open, paid a tribute to the work of the Mission ships of the Society. They were doing a wonderful work at sea, and the movement was well worth every penny put into it.
Dr Willway said he had had the privilege of working among deep sea fishermen for nearly 34 years. He knew them in the happy years long before the war, and he knew them during the years of the war, when he had the privilege of serving as a surgeon in the Navy.
Lieut.-Colonel Phayre moved a vote of thanks to the speakers. Deep sea fishermen, he said, met with big temptations, and it was the object of the Mission to bring them in touch with their spiritual work.
Skipper Windass, supporting, complained that when he asked a certain trawler-owner for assistance, he was met with the reply: "What have you done for our trade?" Every owner knew what they had done, contended Skipper Windass, and every fisherman asking out of Hull knew what they had done.
After the vote was carried, Mr Hudson said the man referred to had not spoken on behalf of the Hull owners; he had spoken on behalf of himself.

Hull Daily Mail, 22 Mar 1929



A NEW HOSPITAL STEAMER FOR THE AI FLEET.

The Joseph and Sarah Miles, which has been built by Messrs Hawthorn and Co., Ltd., of Leith, to the order of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, will arrive at Hull on Thursday.

The principle dimensions of the Joseph and Sarah Miles are as follows:—Length, 145 feet; breadth, 22 feet 6 inches; depth, 14 feet 6 inches. Her gross tonnage is 272 tons. She is fitted with triple expansion engines, has a sea speed of 11 knots an hour, and is lighted throughout by electricity.

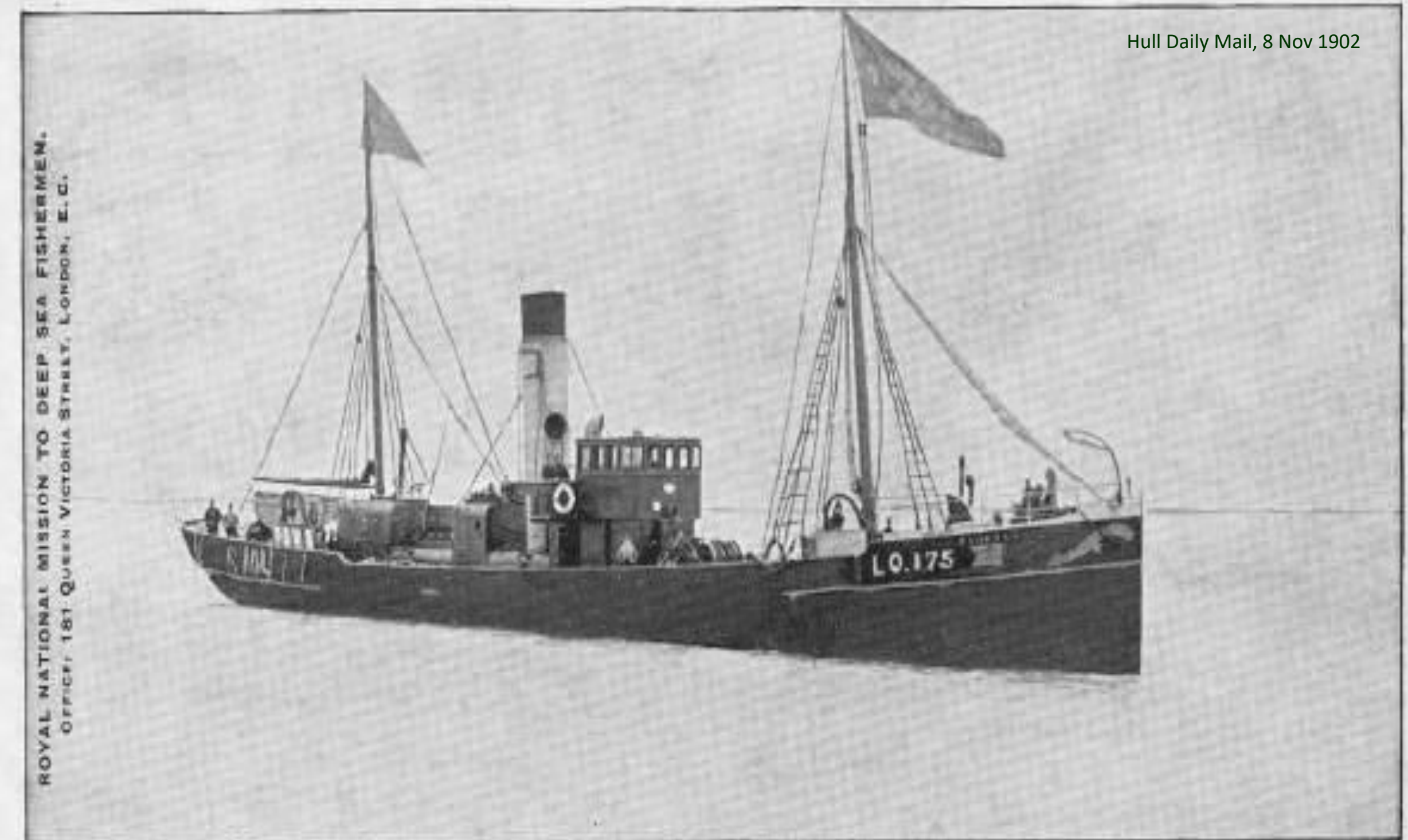
The hospital is in the fore part of the ship, and is fitted with two swing cots and four berths. The doctor's cabin is situated on the port side, forward of which is the missionaries cabin and a small saloon. These apartments can, along with the fore-castle and dispensary, be thrown into one compartment for religious services.

The vessel has cost the Society nearly £12,000 to build and equip.

The vessel will be open for inspection on Friday and Saturday, the 21st and 22nd November, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., and will be lying at Monument Bridge, opposite the Dock Company's offices.

Hull Daily Mail, 8 Nov 1902

Fact: In 1902, the Society provided a mission ship for one of the Hull fishing fleets in the North Sea



Hull Daily Mail, 8 Nov 1902

THE HOSPITAL MISSION STEAMER, "JOSEPH & SARAH MILES,"
Stationed with the "Gamecock" Fleet of Hull, which took on board and rendered medical assistance to the Fishermen who were wounded and maimed by the Russian Baltic Fleet in the North Sea on Friday Night, October 21st, 1904.

HULL FISHERMEN'S INSTITUTE.

A NEW VENTURE.

(EXCLUSIVE FOR THE "DAILY MAIL.")

Undoubtedly a new venture, and one which should receive the fullest support of all the citizens of Hull, is a Fishermen's Institute, which is to be built as soon as possible.

Everyone realises that the fishermen have played a great part in the war; they have faced silent enemies in quest of food for the nation; some have bravely gone to sweep the seas of mines, and in this Hull has not been behindhand. Her sons have gone without a murmur, and this is a fitting manner for the people of Hull to show their appreciation of the work done.

The present building of the Royal National Mission for Deep Sea Fisherman, at the corner of Division-road and Hessle-road, is inadequate for present needs. Mr Windass, the manager, who has recently returned from four years of minesweeping, has a large responsibility in dealing with the needs of the men.

A piece of land about 200ft. square has been purchased in West Dock-avenue, and it is here proposed to build a large institute, with beds, billiard tables, lecture room, reading room, and every up-to-date convenience.

The mission is undoubtedly one of the largest medical missions in the country, having two or three hospital ships and depots in each town.

The new institute will provide a long felt need both for seamen from out of town and for seamen who reside in the town. Proper facilities will be provided for instruction in navigation.

Religious services will be held on mission lines as at the present time

This venture is sure to prove a success, but with the high cost of materials, etc., it will necessitate much expenditure.

This is surely a good opportunity for the philanthropic people of the city.

Hull Daily Mail, 10 Mar 1919

Canada's Crates of Comfort for Hull Seafarers

SKIPPER A. W. WINDASS, of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, Boulevard, Hull, was "up to his neck" in work to-day.

Three huge crates had just arrived from Canada, and the woollen comforts which they contained were stacked high in the mission hall during the unpacking operations.

There were stockings, jerseys, pullovers, helmets, in fact, a thousand and one things which will gladden the hearts of men now serving on the high seas. These articles represented much hard work by the women of the Dominion, for all were hand-knitted and there was nothing flimsy about them.

LEATHER JACKETS

Little wonder that Skipper Windass was so happy because, as a skipper lieutenant who had charge of a group of minesweepers during the last war, he knows from practical experience the type of gift which is so acceptable.

"Good luck to all the brave lads who will wear our home-made leather jackets," Mrs E. M. Pellett, of Eton-street, Vancouver, wrote on a message accompanying her gift. And what an array of leather jackets she sent of all colours, shapes and sizes!

The stocks at this mission hall must rank among the largest of

their kind in the city, and with a merry twinkle in his eye Skipper Windass confessed that he has no coupon problems.

NEVER DISAPPOINTED

Sacks full of brand new clothing were under the counters, trunks of it lined up the sides of the room, and Skipper Windass told the "Mail" that he can fit up the smallest baby or the biggest giant. This is no idle boast, but a matter of fact.

Wives and kiddies of seafaring people in needy circumstances flock to him and never get disappointed, for he can just as readily supply a fur-lined coat, a pair of corsets, or undergarments, as he can a baby's outfit. There appears to be no end to his versatility in the clothing line, boots, bed shoes, and hospital clothing all forming part of his stock-in-trade.

He even has ladies' riding habits and men's plus fours and cricket flannels, not forgetting thousands of pipes which he has stacked away.

FROM TIBET

Perhaps the most interesting of the articles on-hand are some sea boot stockings knitted in the north of India from pure yak wool from Tibet.

Gifts still keep pouring in from all parts of the globe but they are flowing out with an equal readiness to our men keeping a never relaxing vigil on the high seas.

Hull Daily Mail, 5 Jul 1941

In addition to their work at sea, the Society also operated accommodation centres at major ports to provide for fishermen whilst away from home.

In Hull, the Society had a building at the corner of Division Road and Hessle Road. Fishermen could find a bed, food, and access to spiritual and medical care. In 1929, a new institute building was opened in North Boulevard with updated facilities.

As the nature of deep sea fisheries changed, the Society adapted its approach. Today, they provide 24 hour mini-centres in port, with facilities and welfare offices. In this way, the Society continues to provide practical care, spiritual and emotional support, whilst also maintaining an emergency response role.

Fact: In Hull, the Society has operated a number of accommodation centres for fishermen, including one on the corner of Division Road and Hessle Road