



## Document of the month:

### The Shipwrecked SS Laristan and the kindness of the Oban Red Cross – 1942

On the 15th of September 1942, the SS Laristan, travelling from Liverpool as part of a convoy, ran into serious difficulty off the shores of Tiree, and eventually ran aground upon the rocks at Craignish. The crew aboard the vessel all appear to have survived the marooning and were rescued by a number of the islanders. The crew were taken back to the mainland, where they docked in Oban and were met by representatives from the British Red Cross. The members, headed by Lady MacDougall, gifted the men warm clothes and various comforts, displaying the hospitality of Oban people. The generosity of the townsfolk made a significant impact, as Lady MacDougall received a multitude of letters from various members of the crew and several grateful wives.

Below are photographs and transcriptions of two of these wonderful letters.

W. Scott  
c/o J. Wilkinson  
6 Holding  
Stannington  
Northumberland  
Jan 31

Dear Mrs McDougal

Aus

Yours soon for  
the people

I'm writing on behalf of the crew of the SS Laristan, to thank you, & the ladies of the Red Cross for the great kindness shown to us at Blau on Tuesday last. The woollens, & comforts were very much appreciated also we would like a special mention for the two ladies & yourself who braved the rain on the Wednesday morning to see us off at the station with cigarettes chocolates & reading. The unpleasant experience we undergone was tempered by all your kindness, in fact one man summed it up rather aptly, when he said it was worth while being shipwrecked providing it was near Blau. Nevertheless, I think we were all pleased to reach home again, If I may add, myself in particular, as I found myself the father of a fine baby boy, who was born the day before we were wrecked.

Thanking you all once again, & wishing you all the success you deserve in your noble work  
yours gratefully on behalf of the  
men

W. Scott

% Wilkinson  
6, Holden's  
Stanninglyton  
16/2/42.

Dear Mrs MacDougall,

I'm writing finally  
to thank the ladies of the  
British Red Cross, of Oban, for the  
great kindness that was shown to  
my husband & his shipmates.

My husband is  
loud in his praise of all that  
was done for them, also I wish  
to thank you for your most  
generous gift of the 'Highland  
Silver Spoon' sent to my Baby  
Son, it has been greatly admired  
& we shall always treasure it  
in memory of the great generosity  
of the ladies of Oban. Red Cross.

My husband who is awaiting  
another ship joins me in our  
most heartfelt thanks & wishes  
you success in your most splendid  
work.

I am,

Yours most gratefully,  
Doris Scott.

W. Scott, c/o J. Wilkinson,  
6 Holding, Stannington,  
Northumberland.

Dear Mrs MacDougall

I am writing on behalf of the crew of the S/S Laristan, to thank you, and the ladies of the Red Cross for the great kindness shown to us at Oban on Tuesday last. The woollens and comforts were very much appreciated, also we would like a special mention for the two ladies and yourself who braved the rain on the Wednesday morning to see us off at the station with cigarettes, chocolates and reading.

The unpleasant experience we undergone was tempered by all your kindness, in fact, one man summed it up rather aptly when he said it was worth while being shipwrecked providing it was near Oban.

Nevertheless, I think we were all pleased to reach home again, if I may add, myself in particular, as I found myself the father of a fine baby boy, who was born the day before we wrecked.

Thanking you all once again and wishing you all the success you deserve in your noble work.

Yours gratefully on behalf of the men,  
W. Scott. 31/01/1942

-----  
Dear Mrs MacDougall

I am writing firstly to thank the ladies of the British Red Cross, of Oban, for the great kindness that was shown to my husband and his shipmates. My Husband is loud in his praise of all that was done for them, also I wish to thank you for your most generous gift of the 'highland silver spoon' sent to my baby son, it has been greatly admired and we shall always treasure it in memory of the great generosity of the ladies of Oban Red Cross.

My Husband who is awaiting another ship joins me in our most heartfelt thanks and wishes you success in your most splendid work.

I am your yours most gratefully,  
Doris Scott. 16/2/42