

***M.V. Kerlogue* – Reluctant ocean goer**

The *Kerlogue* was owned by the *Wexford Steamship Company*, and the father of Minister Dick Roche served as a seaman on her. She was designed for coastal traffic, but wartime conditions forced her to travel farther afield, to get much needed supplies for Ireland, in waters for which she was not suited.

Her first wartime experience was to rescue a crippled British collier and her crew. This was in April 1941. Later that year she survived after hitting a mine in Cork Harbour in October.

In October 1943 a British fighter plane shot at her. Her cargo of coal saved her from sinking, stopping the armoured shells from piercing the hull. Sadly her captain was seriously injured. The story was that the Polish pilot did not recognise the EIRE sign or the tricolour painted on the hull and mistook her for an enemy ship, possibly Italian.

Her crew suffered greatly, as apart from the constant menace of travelling in an area infested with wartime activities, there was also the weather to deal with. The Bay of Biscay is notoriously dangerous and a ship that was not much bigger than a canal boat was not a pleasant place to be with waves washing over the decks for much of the time.