

## ***M.V. Kerlogue – War Hero***

In December 1943 the *Kerlogue* was returning from a trip to Lisbon with a cargo of oranges. A German plane flew towards them, a cause for concern, until the crew realised it was signalling them.

The message was that help was needed nearby but off their course. As seamen always do, they went to see what help they could give. They arrived at a scene of carnage. More than 700 German sailors lay dead or dying in the water. Two destroyers had been bombed by allied aircraft.

After many hours 168 German seamen were on board, many of them seriously injured or burned. Badly overloaded the tiny ship headed for home, over two days away. A German plane flew over and signalled them to go to Brest in France, followed by a British plane who suggested they go to Fishguard. The captain brought the ship to Ireland and landed his precious cargo in Cobh.

There was a problem, how to feed so many? With provisions only for the crew of 11\*, *Kerlogue's* cargo of oranges came in extremely useful. On landing in Cobh the rescued Germans were taken to the Curragh camp to “rest” until the end of the war. Sadly 4 had not survived, but died on board from their injuries.

### **Kerlogue Crew**

Captain	Thomas Donohoe
Chief Officer	Denis Valencie
2 <sup>nd</sup> Officer	Patrick Whelan
Chief Engineer	Eric Giggins
2 <sup>nd</sup> Engineer	Joseph Donahue
Greaser	Gary Roche
Bosun	John Roche
A.B.s	Tom O'Neill Tom Grannell
Seaman	Dick Roche Robert Sexton *

\*Died in Lisbon before return voyage.