



Fastnet ↙



ss. IRADA Propeller Recovery

ss IRADA, owned by J.H.Welsford & Co., Liverpool. Built by Workman, Clark & Co., Belfast, 1900. 8,124 tons. 501'x59.3'x33' 831 n.h.p. Triple expansion engines.

On December 5th 1908 she left Galveston with 22,000 bales of cotton and some staves. She was caught in dense fog for eight days and not able to get her reckoning she struck the cliff on the northside of Mizzen Head. The crew look to the cliffs where they were found and rescued the next morning by the workmen who were building the new fog signal station. Of 69 crew all were saved except Captain Roberts, Miss Maxwell, the stewardess and four sailors, Mathews, Deacon, Connell and Ketch.

Salvagers appointed by the Lloyds agent came to take off what they could save. The propeller was salvaged and strapped to the side of the boat, but was too heavy. As she was rounding Mizzen Head she started to list so badly that the propeller was cut free. It was cut free, sinking 500 yards of Mizzen Head point. West Cork Sub Aqua divers, Michael Barry, Catherine Arundel, Simon and Angela Nelson, with explosive help from Paddy O'Sullivan and Ray White, Bandon, found the propeller in 1994 and Captain Comac McGinley and the crew of *ILT Granuaile* raised it in 1995. One blade fell off and returned to the sea, but the divers brought that ashore in 2001. In 2003 Henning Voss (RIP), Goleen, attached it to the core. A plaque telling the story of *SS Irada* was donated and unveiled by Paddy O'Sullivan, who gave an account of the various wrecks around Mizzen Head.



1995 ILV Granuaile brings the Propeller to Leamore Quarry, Adrigole Bearn. Paddy O'Sullivan and Ray White are there with Capt. McGinley. One blade has fallen back into the sea as the prop is raised from the seabed 500yds. west of Mizzen Head on the third attempt. Michael Hurley, Schull takes the prop to the Mizzen, on a low loader.



In 2001 Mike Barry and Simon Nelson brought the missing blade ashore in Galley Cove, Crookhaven, with the help of Michael Hurley, Schull. On June 27 2004 West Cork Sub Aqua club members Michael Barry, Simon Nelson, Catherine Arundel and ? pose with the restored prop



Lightkeepers reunite for the Centenary of the Lighting of the Fastnet Rock Lighthouse June 27 1904



Former Keepers at the Installation of the Fastnet Centenary Memorial June 25, 2005.



James Kavanagh
Michael and Renee Kavanagh
Their grandfather, James Kavanagh, was the foreman for the building of the Fastnet Rock Lighthouse from 1899. He died on the Rock just as the last stone was set in 1903. Their father, James, went on the Fastnet in 1904 to demolish the previous cast-iron lighthouse. The Fastnet Rock Lighthouse was lit in 1904

Boat pics



Passing Ships:
Oil tanker coming to and from the Oil Terminal in Bantry Bay at Whiddy Island.
Coaster carrying stone for road metal from Tarmac Fleming Leahill Quarry, Adrigole going to Western Europe and especially Southwest England.
Yachts cruising round the coast, calling into the small harbours.
Irish Navy Fisheries Patrol Boat checking fish catches, coming out of the Naval Base at Haulbowline, Cork Harbour
Cruise Liner coming from Cobh round to Inmacullen (Garnish Island) Glerngarraff on the Garden Cruise
Container Ship
Local Half Decker Lobster and Crab 40' Boats from Schull or Crookhaven
Trawlers out of Castletownhere fishing up to 200 miles offshore.
Lusitania and Titanic passed this coast
Asgard and Tall Ship Sail Training Vessels

Mizen Head Signal Station and the Arched Bridge are in this direction.

There is a path which you can use instead of the 99 Steps if you wish. →

