

Reminiscences of shipwreck HMS Sturdy by Eric Wise

After the ship grounded, I stayed on the ship, left on my own with no orders, on the gun deck. The whaler went first, then the raft. The stormy seas capsized these and this is when we lost our men.

When the tide receded I scrambled out over the rocks to the beach. I was taken into the post office and given cocoa and griddle cake and some dry clothes. The survivors were picked up at the jetty and taken by HMS Chrysanthemum to Oban. My kitbag containing the wet clothes was taken from me and despatched home to Tidmarsh.

After a meal at an Oban Hotel, we went by train direct to Portsmouth. I then had survivors leave and made my way to Tidmarsh by way of a drink at the 'Dog'. Meanwhile my kitbag had arrived before I had and when my parents (who had thought I had 'had it') heard me whistling across the field they could not believe it. Mother fainted!