

**RNLI PRESS RELEASE**

**REPORT No: 14 & 15/99**

**Fog results in 18 persons being rescued by  
Seahouses Lifeboat !.**

At 3.14pm on Saturday 31st July, 1999, less than 24 hours after being called out to search for a missing 7yr old child on Bamburgh beach, Tyne Tees Coastguard again requested the launch of the Seahouses All Weather Lifeboat, to go to the aid of a diving boat "Sea Vision" and another unnamed dive boat, with a total of 14 persons including two children aboard. The dive boats had launched from Beadnell and had been diving around the Farne Islands, when quite thick fog came down. Their GPS navigator had failed, and their radio transmissions were weak and fading. They had become disorientated and lost in the fog. The Coastguard used direction finding equipment, and found that they were about two miles off the Black Rocks between Bamburgh and Budle Bay. This coastline is treacherous, and they were told to stay in that location, and under no circumstances to attempt to make for the shore. Seahouses Lifeboat, under the command of 2nd Coxswain Michael Douglas launched immediately and reached the casualties at 3.51pm. The lifeboat also had to use direction finding equipment to locate them in the fog. They were taken aboard the lifeboat, and their boats were taken in tow to Seahouses. They were all from Ripon Diving Club, and apart from a young girl who appeared slightly shaken and seasick, none of the group required any medical attention.

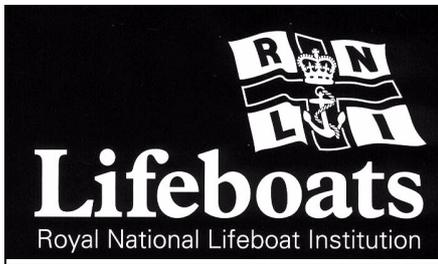
As the lifeboat reached Seahouses, at approximately 4.40pm, Tyne Tees Coastguard received a "MAYDAY" distress call from the yacht "Baltika" with two persons on board, which had struck rocks in the fog near Holy Island. Again the lifeboat was requested to proceed to the immediate assistance of this yacht, with Coxswain David Shiel in command, having joined the boat as Seahouses. When the lifeboat reached Holy Island, the fog had reduced visibility to 30 to 40 metres, and using radar and direction finding equipment, the yacht was located on the Rigg End, near the entrance to the haven channel at Holy Island. The lifeboat approached the yacht with caution due to the very shallow water and rocks. A line was taken to the yacht, by the inshore lifeboat and the yacht was carefully towed clear. It was not

## **SEAHOUSES LIFEBOAT STATION.**

**Seahouses, Northumberland.**

**Tel: 01665 720370**

**From Station Press Officer**



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taking water at this time, and it was not clear whether it had been damaged. Whilst being towed back to Seahouses, a second yacht, the “Bandrums”, was also found disorientated in the thick fog, with two persons on board. This yacht was also escorted to the safety of Seahouses harbour, arriving at approximately 6.35pm. The “Baltika” was registered at Port Edgar on the Firth of Forth, and her skipper, Mr P. Lindermann from Edinburgh, stated that he was most impressed by the speed and manner in which his rescue was effected, and wished to very gratefully thank all concerned. No information is available about the Yacht “Bandrums”.

By 7.15pm that night, the lifeboat was refuelled and back on station, ready for service, with a total of 18 persons who had been rescued in the course of the day.

**Ends.**

**9.05pm 31st July 1999.**

**Ian Clayton,  
Seahouses Lifeboat Crew.**