



*The story of Llangibby Castle is one that is told and retold whenever wartime exploits of the sea are the subject. Llangibby Castle was hit by a torpedo on January 16, 1942, four days after leaving Britain in convoy. The rudder was put out of action completely, a gale was blowing and the situation was desperate. Steering by her engines, "Elsie" sailed for the Azores, 700 miles distant, which she reached three days later during which time she successfully beat off an attack by an enemy aircraft. These 700 miles were accomplished without stern or rudder. From January 19 to February 2 the ship remained at Horta. Nobody except Captain R. F. Bayer was allowed ashore and nothing much could be done to the damage.*

*On February 2 she sailed for Gibraltar with an escort of three destroyers and a tug. That evening her escort was involved in a battle with U-boats, but the remarkable ship escaped yet again and still steering with engines only, reaching Gibraltar on February 8.*

*Nearly two months later, after strengthening, but still without a rudder, she set her erratic course towards home—1,445 miles away. This she accomplished in six days. Altogether this seemingly indestructible ship covered 3,400 miles without rudder and stern—an almost unbelievable achievement.*

(Information from Union-Castle Chronicle and B. & C. Archives)