

Sailing Barges – The Dunkirk Story

by Barbara Butler

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Nineteenth century sailing barges were a disappearing breed in 1940, and in the 21st century a rarity. It might be said that the part they played in the saving of a stranded army was their finest hour. The letter Lem Webb wrote to his son on his return, the account Charlie Webb wrote, the note Johny sent to his mum before he died are among the first hand accounts by bargemen, matter of fact, as bargemen are.



The words of the leaders or the famous, Churchill, Ramsey, Bader, Montgomery are well recorded. But they did not wade into the sea up to their necks, pushing aside the bodies of their comrades who had died in the water just moments ahead of them.

Those are the men who told us their stories in 1990 when the 'Little Ships of Dunkirk' made the 50th anniversary crossing.

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