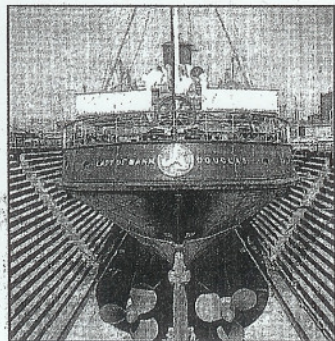
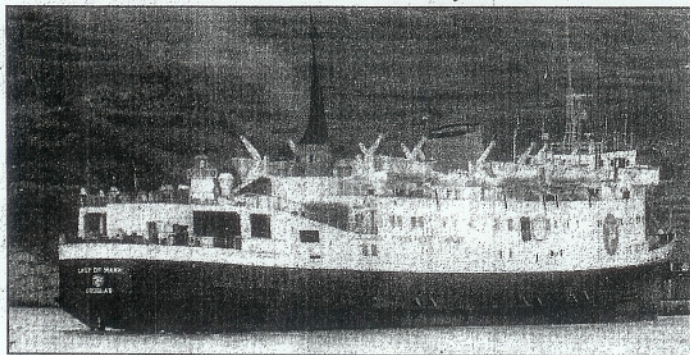


Memories



● The Lady Mann lives on! Photo by Tony Blakeley

Code NA

● The Lady of Mann in Birkenhead dry docks in 1967

Code NA

Our photograph prompts story about flagship ferry

WHAT happened to the Lady of Mann? That's this week's Memories poser.

Last month Memories featured a photo of the much-loved flagship of Isle of Mann ferries in Birkenhead dry docks in 1967.

The Lady of Mann carried generations of passengers and motorcycle enthusiasts, and reportedly even evacuated troops at Dunkirk in 1940 before being withdrawn from services in 1971.

After seeing the photo reader Tony Blakeley, of Greasby, contacted us with his own story about the Lady of Mann's fate.

He said: "I saw the Lady of Mann on my round the world sailing race in September 2000.

"My story starts on a 65 foot state-of-the-art Bruce Farr racing yacht on the Solent near Portsmouth, doing my training for the round the world yacht race in 1999.

"Every time we came across a ferry boat I

would say to my sailing colleges mind the Isle of Mann ferry boat, because as a child I had sailed many times on all the Manx boats to the Isle of Mann from Liverpool and all ferry boats to me were the IOM ferry boats.

So from the Solent to the Indian Ocean, South Atlantic, North Atlantic when ever we saw a ferry boat I was kidded by the crew "there's an Isle of Mann Ferry boat".

After 14,00 nautical miles Tony and the crew arrived at Horta in the Azores at 4am.

He continued: "In the dark as we made are final approach I could just make out one leg of Mann on the side of this boat.

"Yes I shouted, the Isle of Man ferry No-one believed me and they all laughed at me again. We had not seen land for 18 days and not had an alcoholic drink in all that time so at 4am we opened a few bottles and at day break when all was clear you could see all three legs of Mann

on the side of the boat. I had won all my bets that it was an Isle of Mann ferry boat.

"I went around the harbour and took a few photos - as you can see she has changed her body work and looked great for her age.

"As she sailed out of the harbour she looked magnificent and is working for the Azores Tourist Board connecting all seven islands in the mid-Atlantic Ocean."