

April 3rd.

The Irish Coastguard reassured the families that the search would continue for the missing men.

April 8th and 9th.

A massive search operation was conducted through the weekend. The huge operation which was coordinated by the Irish Naval Service, involved 110 fishing vessels, RNLI lifeboats, Coastguard, Irish Air Corps and the public and they scrutinised an area from Blacksod to Donegal covering 8500km. This was one of the largest search operations conducted in Irish Maritime history. Sadly no trace of the missing men was found and targeted searches and observations are now being deployed.

This terrible tragedy highlights the selfless nature of those very special people who populate our Emergency Services dedicating their lives to the service of others. Those like Dara, Mark, Paul and Ciarán are incredible people doing incredible jobs and putting their lives on the line for others on a daily basis. Thoughts of their own safety are banished as the call of duty is paramount. Sadly, as in the case of the heroic crew of Rescue 116, they sometimes make the ultimate sacrifice and our collective debt of gratitude can never be repaid.



Paul Ormsby



Ciarán Smith



Capt. Dara Fitzpatrick



Mark Duffy

For one minute
Walk outside
Stand there in silence
look up to the sky
and remember
how brave they were

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ILLUMINATION OF HAULBOWLINE LIGHTHOUSE AUGUST 2017

"A TRIBUTE TO THE CREW OF R116"
BY JAMES MCAREVEY