

Ellan Vannin

Although this song is believed by many to be a traditional song from the Isle of Man, it was in fact composed by Hughie Jones of Liverpool in the 1960s, and first performed by his group "The Spinners".

Snaefell, Tynwald, Ben My Chree
Fourteen ships have sailed the sea
Proudly bearing a Manx name,
But there's one will never again

*Oh Ellan Vannin, Of the Isle of Man Company
Oh Ellan Vannin, Lost in the Irish Sea*

At one a.m. in Ramsey Bay
Captain Teare was heard to say
“The contract said deliver the mail,
In this rough weather we must not fail”

Ocean liners sheltered from the storm
Ellan Vannin on the waves was borne
Farewell to Manx' Isle, farewell
This little ship was bound for Hell

With a crew of twenty-one Manxmen
The passengers Liverpool businessmen
The hold it was full and battened down
As they sailed towards far Liverpool town

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Less than a mile from Bar Lightship
By a mighty wave Ellan Vannin was hit
She sank in the waters of Liverpool Bay
And there she lies unto this day

For Manxmen do now remember
The first day of the month December
The terrible storm of ninety-nine
Ellan Vannin sailed for the very last time.