



# The HMS Exmouth 1940 Association

Founded 2001

Wick 2005

“It was a very emotional but lovely service” “So nice to know our loved ones will always be remembered by future generations”  
“The plaque is beautiful” “I know feel I can put a closure to my fathers death, I feel comforted to know his name will live forever”

Just some of the comments received in the many letters we have received since the service in Wick over the Bank Holiday weekend. I would like to take this opportunity, also on behalf of both Sue and Alex, to thank you for all your kind comments regarding the organisation we all undertook to make the weekend the success it undoubtedly was. As the grandson, granddaughter and nephew (respectively) of Exmouth crew members, it goes without saying that it was an honour to be able to be so involved, thank you all again.

What now for the association? As in the words said during the service “Our task complete (and with the unveiling of the memorial plaque) our duty done”. It was most apparent from the comments and feedback from our members that the association should continue in some form or another. Therefore I am pleased to report that we intend to maintain the member / contact data base (please inform Alex should there be any changes to your personal circumstances). We have a new web master who has already updated our site, please pay it a visit if you have access to the world wide web, we intend to keep this updated with any new developments in future should any relatives who have yet to be ‘discovered’ come forward. We will continue to arrange to have an ‘Exmouth’ floral tribute placed in the church each remembrance Sunday.

Having covered the costs of the Wick weekend out of the associations funds, including various donations which included the Wick RNLI, Old Parish Church, Royal British Legion and Thurso Sea Cadet Corps, we are still in good standing and whilst we won't be asking for any more sub's, we will accept any future donations so as to enable us to make regular charitable donations in the name of the ‘Exmouth’.

The Wick weekend commenced on the Saturday morning where the local RNLI acted as our hosts and included a ‘spin’ round the bay in their newly acquired state of the art Lifeboat....thank you guys!

In the afternoon a service by the sea in the harbour side fish market enabled the association to hold a very personal remembrance service. Led by the Rev Ken Warner, and included readings by Alex Morrison, Margaret Furmanek and Joan Smith. It was then back to the MacKay Hotel for a welcome cup of tea and the first chance for members to get acquainted with friends both old and new. That evening we were able to enjoy a flavour of Scotland, and were entertained by an excellent group of musicians, complete with bagpipes, and two young lads in national costume and their highland dancing, The evening was rounded off with a set played by our own Alex Morrison on his accordian accompanied by his wife Violet on the keyboard, and two further ‘eccentric’ dancers! Froggy, you would have been proud of us!!

The next morning saw us once again paying tribute to the men of the Exmouth in the military cemetery, a poignant service made all the more special, despite the lashing rain, by representatives of the RBL with their standards and the lone piper. It was then off to the church for a service that was again led by the Rev Ken Warner, and was as memorable as the one we experienced four years ago, only this time we were able to unveil the permanent memorial situated on the east wall of the church, and at the same time present a folder containing the pictures of all the crew members we have been able to trace to date, along with the original ships cap tally.

A video / DVD will be available to purchase that recorded the weekends events. Due to production runs, they won't be available until next February. You can reserve your copy now by writing to Colin Sinclair at Video Viewpoint, 45 John Kennedy Drive, Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7DI with a cheque for £18.50 video, or £26.50 for the DVD, both inc P+P.

Fleece's and Polo Shirts with the ships crest are available from John Kemp Embroidery, 28 Albert Street, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1HL 01856 873190. At a cost of £32.50 + 5.50 P+P and £15.50 + 4.00 P+P respectively, or 7.00 P+P for both.

Finally, as an association, there are no plans to hold any further memorial weekends, we felt the Wick weekend was a form of closure and we very much feel it is time to look forward. Therefore when the members of the association meet again, at a date and venue to be decided, we feel it will more of a social occasion and a chance to meet up with friends and acquaintances.

Until we meet again!!

Chairman: Mr David Ellis 54 Redhouse Park Gardens, Gosport, Hants PO12 3EQ

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Treasurer: Mr Alex Morrison 6 Melbost Borve, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RR **LET PER AFFRANT**

