

The HMS Exmouth 1940 Association

Founded September 2001 in Wick, Caithness, Scotland.

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Dear Friends

As a result of the overwhelming response we have had from the last newsletter (March 02), it is clear from your wishes that a memorial service should be held this year in Portsmouth for the reasons that were outlined by the committee. The purpose of this brief newsletter is to update the membership of the plans for our forthcoming service, and ask for your assistance in promptly replying to a number of matters that need attending to e.g.; security clearance for entering HM Naval Dockyard to attend the Church service, etc.

Note: Thank you to those who have already written in to confirm their attendance, if you haven't yet done so, you are still very welcome and we would all love to see as many people as possible to again remember all the crew members of our ship. Outline of events:

Saturday 31st August: Arrive, at leisure in the Portsmouth area. We have arranged with the Sailors Home Club to have a "meet and greet" desk in the entrance foyer between 11am and 2pm where you will be able to check in if you wish, and either meet up with other association members, or if you are unfamiliar with the area, take advice on the best places to visit in the city.

Note: Accommodation is available here at the Home Club, as the Association has joined on an annual membership No 5007. Please contact the Home Club direct on 023 9282 4231 to take advantage of their facilities at a reasonable cost, alternatively the local tourist board on 023 9282 6722 can assist as Portsmouth & Southsea is a seaside resort.

Saturday evening we will meet up for a drink and a chat, again at the Home Club as we have arranged for an area to be reserved for our use. Note: those members who have already sent cheques into Sue will have them returned on the evening as it has been decided not to offer the facility of Chicken 'n' Chips, as it was felt that with the low response to this item that most people will no doubt eat before joining other members for a drink at the Club.

Sunday 1st September: 08.45am prompt, a short service to be held at the Royal Naval memorial on Southsea common, where the crew of the missing are named on the tableau, to be led by the Rev. Godfrey Hilliard, Royal Navy Chaplain. We will be laying a wreath here on behalf of the Association in remembrance of all members of the crew, however should you wish to lay your own private floral tribute, this we believe, is the most appropriate place to do it.

Then, should you wish, on to Saint Ann's Church in the Naval Dockyard where we will join the members of the congregation for their 10am Holy Communion service where a dedication will be given to the crew of the Exmouth. Note; the church is a 10-minute car ride from the memorial on the common, or a 5-minute walk from the Sailors Home Club. **Please Note**, you are able to drive into the dockyard to attend church, however due to normal security measures there will be a hold up at the entrance, whilst cars are searched, which may delay your arrival at the church.

If you are attending the Church service, you will have to advise Sue no later than Friday 9th August of the Christian and Surname of those in your party AND registration number and vehicle type of the car they are travelling in. This is a "must" otherwise you will be unable to enter the dockyard.

As was the case last year, should you wish to make a small donation towards the flowers that will help decorate the church on the day of our attending, please send a cheque made payable to St Ann's Church to Mrs Linda Martin, The Chaplaincy, North Wing, Admiralty House, MH Naval Base, Portsmouth, PO1 3LR.

After the service, we intend returning to the Home Club for a farewell drink. Should you have any questions at all about the weekend, please contact anyone of the committee who will endeavour to assist. We look forward to meeting up with you all again soon.