



Nov 04

**'Attention all hands!'**

## The HMS Exmouth 1940 Association

You will recall from the last newsletter <sup>Founded 2001</sup> that we asked you to *pencil in* the first weekend in September 2005, for a return visit to Wick to enable our association to dedicate the memorial plaque in the Old Parish Church, Wick. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we are writing to inform you that the date has had to be changed to the weekend 27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> August, which is the Bank holiday (but not in Scotland?). We apologise for any inconvenience should you have already made any plans based on the previous letter. However, with over eleven months to the proposed event, we trust that this won't cause anybody too much inconvenience.

Thank you to everybody who has written to us as a result of the last letter, two items of which we would like to bring to the members attention: We reported in the last newsletter that the £200 donation we received following the weekend in Exmouth back in June was donated by the RAFA, who were our hosts for the weekend. This sum was in fact sent courtesy of the 531<sup>st</sup> Tribute Fund, an organisation dedicated to the memory of the American armed forces based in the town of Exmouth during the war. Thank you Lionel for correcting us, please accept our public apology for this error, and thank you again for laying on what was a superb buffet at the reception on the Friday evening. Note: Various bodies in Exmouth, including those mentioned, have expressed a strong interest in joining us in Wick next year, they will be very welcome. Also, we have been contacted by several members regarding the wording we propose to use on the memorial plaque, a firm decision is yet to be made and we thank all those who have written in regarding this.

It would appear that we do currently have sufficient funds to purchase the proposed memorial plaque as advised in the last newsletter, however I would respectfully remind members of the £5 annual membership subs' (£8 for joint membership), that they forward them to Alex at the address below at your earliest opportunity. Alex would also gladly send you a copy of our association accounts, if you so desire, all we ask is that you provide a SAE.

The cost of photocopying the newsletter, envelopes and (2<sup>nd</sup> class + international) postage for each newsletter is in the region of £50 a time. We can also report that we have again this year provided two floral tributes on behalf of the association to be used at this year's remembrance service in Wick. NB: All members of the Association committee are volunteers, all linked to the ship by way of a relative lost aboard, and combine their duties with full time employment,

Ex crew member, Gordon 'Froggy' French's, book "Laugh and Sigh" is still available in a *new improved format*. Whilst being well into their eighties, both Gordon and Arthur Edge (the brother of Froggy's best mate onboard the Exmouth, Francis 'Bonker' Edge) have between them produced a colour picture of the ship to be stuck on the dust jacket, and a memorial card describing the fate of the ship along with the poem 'The sea gives up it's dead', to be fixed inside. Very well done you two computer *whiz kids!!*

These additions really do enhance the book, and Gordon's comment is that it now looks the way he originally intended, as a permanent tribute to his crewmates. If you require a copy please send a cheque for £5.99 inc P&P payable to 'The HMS Exmouth 1940 Association' to me at the address below. If you just require the above two items to place on a book previously purchased, then just send a SAE, again to me, and I will supply by return.

Finally, in preparation for next years event, we ask that you complete the following and return to Sue, by 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 05, at the address below. This will enable us to get an idea on the number of people who intend travelling to Wick, and to confirm the correct spelling of your relative. Please note no return, we will assume that our details are correct.

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