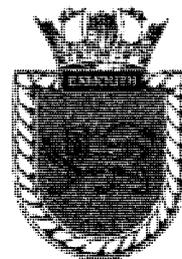


The HMS Exmouth 1940 Association

Founded 2001



Dear member

16th March 2005

Welcome to this newsletter, the first since Nov 04, it contains some very important information and I respectfully ask that you give it your full attention and, if applicable, make us aware of any changes by the end of the month - LATEST!

To those of you receiving this newsletter who are not members of the association, we have taken this opportunity to write to all the contacts we, as an association, have had contact with since our inception in September 2001. The importance will become clear, please read on.

It is our intention to have a plaque made that will list all 189 crew members and to have it placed in the Old Parish Church in Wick, Caithness, Scotland, as a permanent memorial to honour those who lost their lives when the ship was sunk by enemy action in January 1940.

Attached to this letter will be the sheet that contains the details of your relative, as officially advised to us by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. **It is this information that we will supply to the manufacturers of the plaque.** Whilst we believe this information to be correct, spelling etc, we are taking this one and only opportunity to have you check out your respective relatives details. **Please reply to me at the address below by the end of the month, should you require any changes. NB: We in turn will then inform the CWGC on your behalf.**

You will notice in the left hand column a number of ticks. This indicates the number of people we have on our data base with a connection to that particular sailor. If more than one tick, it may well be that you know who else has come forward to our association, however in the event that you do not know, please drop Alex Morrison a line at the address below and he will be able to put you in touch with whoever else we have logged against your sailor, who knows? It may be a long lost relative!

Please note: It is a sobering thought that of the 189 men lost aboard the Exmouth, since our inception we have been able to make contact with only 70 crew members, some 37%, despite the work we have all put in to raise the ships profile in the media, both national and local.

ADOPT A SAILOR! Can I ask, no! can I urge you all to play your part in trying to increase the number of contacts we can make between now and August Bank Holiday weekend. On the attached sheet, those sailors with no tick alongside means we have made no contact as yet. Whilst there is the briefest of detail as to their whereabouts, I ask that you 'play detective' and use any means at your disposal to try to contact a living relative.....just think if you were to hear about our event AFTER the event!

As for the weekend itself, a brief outline of events 'pencilled' in at present are a quayside service in Wick on the Saturday, something akin to what we did four years ago. Saturday evening, a social event in MavKays Hotel, Wick, where we will be entertained to a Scottish Kaliegh (I hope I have spelt that correct), where if you feel inclined, you can practise your country dancing skill!

On the Sunday we get down to the reason for our travelling to Wick. We intend holding a service again at the cemetery where those crew members washed ashore are buried, then onto the Old Parish Church to unveil the plaque. We have approached Rev. Stevie Thomson, who officiated four years ago and is now in the Royal Navy himself, to make himself available, commitments permitting.

As for travel and accommodation, as always that is very much down to yourselves to organise. Wick is served by both rail and has its own airport. Accommodation can be booked via the local tourist office. Please note that we, the committee intend staying at the MacKay Hotel where Mr Murray Lamont, the proprietor has offered 'special' rates for association members, please make yourself known to him if you wish to stay here. With kind regards.....

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ANCIENT LIGHTS
PIER APPROACH