

Newsletter for 2019-2020

Compiled by The Chairman/Treasurer David G. Emery MBE

Malta 2019

The annual Service of Remembrance eventually took place on the 17th March 2019 in Fort St. Elmo Malta. This followed all the problems created by the severe storm that had occurred in Malta which resulted in the roof being damaged at the planned venue of St. Angelo. Malta Heritage had stepped in and the alternative St. Elmo was placed at GLARAC (Malta)s disposal. The Service being conducted by The Malta (GLARAC) Chairman Mr. Sam Azzopardi and Mrs. Carmen Mallia

During the Act of Remembrance the names of The Fallen Maltese Crewmen who lost their lives onboard HMS GLORIOUS, were read out

Mrs Mary Iraci (in the absence of Mrs. Cyra Galea Butters through sickness) then recited the Poem, Flowers of The Sea (by Edward Butters) in Maltese.
(Translation into English being with the Service Sheets)

Following a one minutes Silence The Words of Remembrance were spoken
By The British High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Stuart Gill OBE

Wreaths were laid by The British High Commissioner Mr. Stuart Gills OBE
The Association Chairman of (GLARAC) Mr. David G. Emery MBE
Also present from the U.K was Mr. Vinny Marcroft The Secretary of The (GLARAC) Ass.

Mr. Fredrick Mallia then read out, The Poem, (I cannot bend beside his Grave)
The Service then came to an end.

Chairman Sam then Addressed the people present advising them of The Plans to place a Monument to the Men who lost their lives on The Three Ships HMS GLORIOUS, HMS ARDENT & HMS ACASTA. A model of The Planned Monument was on view at The Service for all to see. The Designer Mr Joe Barbera was also present to answer any questions that were raised. The Proposal is, to inscribe the names of all the 1531 men who lost their lives on June 8th 1940, upon the Memorial. (See proposed photograph of The Model of The Memorial)

Chairman Sam then invited The GLARAC Association Chairman David to Address all who were present. During David's brief talk he acknowledged & welcomed S/Mates from The Royal Naval Association Malta, thanking them for their continued support of GLARAC. He also advised everyone of the Purchase and placing of a New Bronze Plaque, Dedicated to the Three Ships to be situated in The Belvedere Gardens, on The Hoe, Plymouth this year. The Dedication for the event being planned for the 8th June 2019 at 1600 Hours. This being the 79th Anniversary of The Battle.

As previously reported Chairman Sam plans to write a book about the Battle and also the men who lost their lives on that day, June 8th. 1940. Sam is hopeful, and would be most grateful, to anyone who have photo's, letters or any memories of their loved ones and would like their stories to be told in his Publication to contact him at his e-mail address :-salvuazz@hotmail.com.



Proposed Memorial in Malta to all Crewmen who lost their lives June 8th 1940

The Crewmen's names of the Three Ships will be placed on the side Panels

PLYMOUTH

June 7th 2019. Saw us in the Invicta Hotel renewing friendships from previous years, a very informal evening saw many lemonades being imbibed by all. The Bar was available to us all until the early hours, in Naval Parlance, "The Lamps were swinging".

June 8th 2019 Started with the AGM. At 1005 hrs. With 17 Members being in attendance. The Chairman (David) opened the meeting with a short period of Remembrance to all those who lost their lives on June 8th, 1940 and also all those who had passed away during the last 12 Months, including our much missed former Chairman & Life President David Woodcock. The apologies from Members who were unable to attend were read out.

The minutes from the previous year were accepted and taken as read.

The Committee stood down as per The Associations Rules. The Chairman then asked for any member who wished to stand for election to The Committee, and to take over the duties of the Retiring Committee. As there were no applicants, each outgoing Member was put forward for re-election. The outgoing Committee was re-elected unanimously to serve another year in Office.

Reports from Committee Members

The Treasurer Mr. David Emery

A Copy of the Audit was passed to all present for their perusal. The very generous gift from the Estate of our Past Member Robin Samson, (who on his death had left a legacy to The Glarac Association). This legacy had enabled the Association to cover the full cost of The Memorial Plaque now located in The Belvedere Gardens. Questions were requested from those in attendance. As there were no questions, The Report was accepted,

Proposed by Mr. M. Facey, Seconded by Mr. J. Clarke and unanimously Accepted by all present.

There were no matters arising from the report.

Membership Mr Vincent Marcroft

Reported that The Membership was holding steady and had a slight increase on the previous year to 564 Members. The figures are roughly a one third of the casualties on board The Three Ships. Some new Members had found our WEB Site through family History searches. Glorious 402, Ardent 56, Acasta 59, Miscellaneous 47.

Plymouth Mrs. Naomi Monteith

Reported that the New Plaque was in position in a beautiful and appropriate location overlooking Plymouth Sound. Lots of discussions had taken place between herself and the Plymouth Council and also the Company that had overseen the Monuments erection. However the result, Naomi felt was well worth all of the work involved.

With regards to the Service in The Barracks of HMS Drake, unfortunately some of the forms sent to the Membership in order to gain access were returned too late for people to gain access. The later the Forms are returned, the more work is involved. Some people forgot to post them back and when they do it is too late to arrange access to HMS Drake. The Date for the return of The Forms is printed on The Forms, and the info. requested on them is CRITICAL in order to ensure the smooth running of The Operation. However we did have 60 who confirmed their attendance. Unfortunately we had some cancellations. With a cost to the Association of The Buffet at £7.25 per head, we must ask the Membership to be more certain when booking their place in The Buffet they will be attending, as once a figure of the numbers attending is placed, we are committed to pay for their Buffet.

Elaine Waterfield, enquired if The Forms that were being used one year could be kept on file for future usage. Naomi pointed out that this was not feasible as the Forms had to be submitted each year for Security Clearance and any changes would have to be made by herself prior to submitting them to The Base. The amount of extra work would make this impossible as, people would still have to notify her of any changes that there may occur. This is another reason why the response prior to the CUT OFF DATE is most CRITICAL.

On completion of Naomi's Report, The Chairman David, presented Naomi with a Bouquet of Flowers on behalf of The Membership as a small token of thanks, in recognition of all her hard work in having The Plaque in Place and all the arrangements for HMS Drake. The Chairman pointed out that all in all, Naomi had been involved with lots of Dialogue with a great number of various people. This must have impacted greatly on her family life. The Association is indebted to Naomi for all the time & effort that she has put into making The Plymouth Weekend a success.

WEB Site Mr. Garry Martin

Reported that the WEB site was a good way for people to contact The Association and bring in new Members. Gary also urged all Members to view the web site www.hmsglorious.com This web site has been inaugurated by Mr. Ben Barker (Grandson of Captain Barker HMS Ardent H41) in order that as soon as it is up and running an on line a Petition may be put before Parliament for discussion in The House of Commons as too The loss of The Three Ships. He asked for the support of The Membership in this matter.

Distribution Mr Garry Carter

Reported that he had sent out 292 e-mails containing The Newsletter & all the Relevant Forms for access to HMS Drake. Of these 67 had been returned as having invalid e-mail addresses. There were then some 363 letters sent out by "Snail Mail" which also included sending A Newsletter to all the invalid e-mail addresses. A suggestion was made that The Newsletter be uploaded to The GLARAC WEB Site and viewed by having a link to a facility called "we transfer" (Views on this would be welcomed). Garry pointed out that the Printing and posting of everything was very tiring & quite expensive. Cost savings had been made by purchasing compatible inks which had halved the cost of Printing.

Martindale /Alrewas Mr. Vincent Marcroft

With the sad loss of our former stalwart, Life President/Chairman David Woodcock there was no Service held at Martindale this year as The Committee did not have the details of who to contact in that area. Since the AGM our Member John Clarke had undertaken to organise this Calendar event. Date to be advised at a later date.

The Meeting at The National Arboretum, Alrewas was considered and the decision was taken to revive our Service there, the date to be decided.

The London Cenotaph Mr. Greg Monteith

Reported that there had been major changes by The Royal British Legion to the criteria for our participation in The Parade at The Cenotaph on Remembrance Day. This seemed to stipulate that only Veterans or their immediate dependents would be allowed to take part and that the e-mail that Greg had received was very confusing. Our Chairman David Emery, (being a Member of The RBL) had phoned on behalf of GLARAC to obtain clarification of this e-mail. David was advised by The Parade Organiser, that nothing of GLARAC or its aims was known by them. After a short discussion it was agreed that 1st generation dependents only would be allowed to March, and that The RBL would contact Greg. Greg advised that following discussion with The RBL he would request 6 tickets as at least although greatly reduced there would be a GLARAC Representation on The Parade.

AOB

- 1) The Chairman reminded all present of The Dedication that afternoon of The New Memorial Plaque that would take place at 1600 hours, in The Belvedere Gardens, Plymouth Hoe.
- 2) Garry Carter advised that he was still in possession of The Plaque that he had, had returned from The "D" Day Museum. The Museum had decided to only show items relative to "D" day. He also advised that he was following up on 2 options. The Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth, or The Royal Naval Association, Portsmouth.
- 3) Naomi Monteith asked if we had any knowledge as yet regarding The Maltese 80th Anniversary Service. However, until we have a definite date & venue nothing is known at this stage.
- 4) Our Association Member, George Godley (Australia) had contacted the Association regarding a Service of Remembrance during 2020 in Harstad Norway. The date that he was looking towards was some time in the June. Date & details to be advised.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for all the hard work that had gone on during the past year. There being no further business The Chairman David Emery closed The Meeting at 1110 hours. The next AGM Meeting to take place on Saturday June 6th 2020 at The Invicta Hotel, commencing at 1000 Hours.

Saturday afternoon saw us in The Belvedere Gardens to witness The Dedication of our New Plaque in Memory of The loss of the 1531 Men on the 3 Ships. The welcome to the Service was performed by our Chairman David who advised that The Plaque was originally the Dream of our late Life President & Chairman David Woodcock and due to the legacy from the Estate of Robin Samson this had been made possible. The service of Remembrance was conducted by our own Minister Elaine & her husband Bishop Adrian. The Royal Naval Association Plymouth were in attendance with Their Standard Bearer. During the Service, a Poem was read out by Vincent our Secretary, Our own Bugler Stephen Benwell from The Royal Marines sounded The Last Post & following a Silence The Reveille. The Words of Remembrance & The Kohima were spoken by our Chairman David. During The Service an Officer of The Association, Mr. John Lavel laid a Wreath in front of The Plaque. The Dedication Ceremony and the unveiling of The Plaque was performed by Liz Jones (Founder Member) and her Sister Mary. Unfortunately during The Unveiling of the Plaque, we experienced a Summer shower of rain which added a sprinkle of tears to our Floral Tributes. One of our Members commented that" the Summer Shower was our dear departed Life President & Former Chairman David Woodcock, shedding tears as he was watching The event and had not been able to be with us".

The Chairman thanked The Plymouth RNA and their Standard Bearer for their attendance. He also thanked personally Stephen Benwell for his services.



Saturday Evening saw us again in The Invicta Hotel for our Main Social Evening, This was well attended & a good time was had by all. Our Raffle Mafia Dolly (Dorothy who had during the year, scoured as many places as possible to obtain Raffle Prizes) once again worked hard, raising Money for the Association funds.

Sunday 9th June.

The Service of Remembrance took place in St. Nicholas Church, HMS Drake, Devonport. The Service was well attended and The Ships Wreaths were laid by :-HMS Glorious, John Perry (Australia), HMS Ardent, David Gates, HMS Acasta, Dorothy Emery. Followed by a personal Wreath from Roy Honey. The Last Post & Reveille were performed by once again, Stephen Benwell & his Colleague from The Royal Marines. The words of Remembrance & The Kohima were spoken by our Chairman David Emery MBE.

The Service was taken by a new Padre and it was felt that he made an excellent job of The Occasion.

Following The Service we all walked over to The Senior Rates Mess, where an excellent Buffet had been arranged by Annette Hellier MBE & The Catering Staff. A contingent of The Royal Naval Association Plymouth who had joined us on The Hoe the previous day were also our guests on this occasion and they were welcomed by The Chairman.

The Chairman gave a short address thanking all for their attendance and hoping that everyone would enjoy themselves David in his capacity as Treasurer expressed his concern that during the past year there had only been 40 Donations towards the running of The Association. The sum raised being far outstripped by the cost of The Distribution of information & The Buffet. He then handed over to another Officer of The Association Capt. Rolfe Monteith RCN, Ret. Who wished to address all present on his continuing to search for the Truth of the Loss of GLORIOUS, ARDENT, ACASTA.

July 2019

A point of interest that has occurred, our Chairman had an invitation to attend The Cadet TS Talent Headquarters, in Stoke on Trent, to witness The Commissioning Of RNR Officers who are in charge of The Cadets in the midlands and Lancashire areas, Chairman David noticed that 2 of The Cadets wore TS Ardent Cap Tallies. After all the Formalities were over, he approached The Officer and The 2 Cadets about their TS Ardent affiliation. He was quite surprised to find out that the connection was with The Ardent that was sunk on June 8th 1940. Then it was discovered that their C/O was Admiral Lord West who was The Captain of The Ardent that was sunk in The Falklands. On being asked what the Officer (Lt. Karen Black RNR) and the Cadets knew of The Ardent they represented, he was surprised by their answer. They knew absolutely nothing of The Ship HMS Ardent H41. David then set about putting them in the picture about the salient points regarding The Ardent and her subsequent loss.

Following a chat with The GLARAC Committee Members it was agreed that the remaining Memorabilia that we have relevant to Ardent would be passed to TS ARDENT in order to assist them to raise the £38,000.00 they need to rebuild their Headquarters. These items had been bought to Plymouth on numerous occasions in order to sell them, but no interest had been shown in them. The items to be passed over are Cuff Links, Lapel Badges, Post Cards and one Ardent Mug. Chairman David had also compiled a folder of Documents & Paper Work that reported on The Action of June 1940 that had appeared over The Years in various Newspapers. Also Photographs and a montage of paintings depicting The three Ships, with a DVD Copy of The BBC Documentary shown in 1997, and also a DVD of The Triumph & Tragedy of Glorious. These are due to be presented to them after all The School Holidays.

This had now taken place at the TS Meeting on the 9th September 2019 in Macclesfield.

Visit to Bollington & Macclesfield Sea Cadets

Karen Black <tsardentco@btconnect.com>

Wed 11/09/2019 20:37

To: david emery <dg.david@hotmail.co.uk>

Dear David,

Many thanks for visiting us on Monday evening, it was a pleasure to see you and the cadets enjoyed your little chat with them. Please could you pass on the following email to the GLARAC Association:

Dear Association,

I would like to thank you for the memorabilia that you have sent us so that we can sell it and raise funds for the unit. It is greatly appreciated as every penny will help us achieve our goal of a new unit on the Wharf. The memorabilia you sent us is of great importance to TS Ardent.

Thank you once again

Yours,

Karen

Lt (SCC) Karen Black RNR | Commanding Officer
Bollington & Macclesfield Sea Cadets | Chestniffs District
Mobile: 07704439380 | Unit: 01625 576336
tsardentco@btconnect.com

Deaths

Our sincere apologies for any grief that may have been caused to the Family of Mrs. Grills for inadvertently stating that she had died in the previous year, Mrs. Grills who for many years had placed the Wreath on The Hoe had passed away some years ago, it was Mrs.Grills Daughter Carol, who had taken over the duties of placing The Wreath on The Hoe who had passed away the previous year.

David Woodcock Hon. Life President of The GLARAC Association, Shirley Barker, Daughter of Mr. Mrs Gates, Mrs.Dorothy Cordina , Mrs. Jenny Honey,(whose brother had been lost on The Glorious).
Mrs Maria Carmela Azzopardi (Mother of Sam Azzopardi Chairman GLARAC Malta) Mrs. Pauline Wilcox from Jersey in The Chanel Islands.

Forth Coming Events For your Diaries

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you wish to attend any of the events below it is important that you notify the relevant person of your interest as soon as possible

- 1) 22 March 2020, Malta Service of Remembrance, 1000 hours, The National Maritime, Museum, Birgu.
Contact Mr. Sam Azzopardi by e-mail: salvuaz@hotmail.com
- 2) 12 April 2020 Service of Remembrance 1100 hours
The National Arboretum, Alrewas names to :-
Contact Chairman David by e-mail: dg.david@hotmail.co.uk
- 3) 16 May 2020 Re dedication of The Train HMS GLORIOUS at The Kidderminster Station, Severn Valley Railway Worcs.
All attending to be on site at 1130 hours.
Contact Chairman David e-mail: dg.david@hotmail.co.uk
Confirmation of your attendance is imperative if you will be attending
- 4) 5/6/7/June 2020 Plymouth Weekend Please complete and return Attached Forms by May 13th 2020 to Naomi at e-mail: naomi.monteith@gmail.com
IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to The Invicta Hotel double booking the function room we have now had to change the location for both the AGM and the social on the Saturday evening. The AGM will now be held at Naomi's house (7 Brunswick Street, Plymouth, Devon PL2 1BR). The social on the Saturday evening has now changed to The Pub on the Hoe which can be found at 159 Citadel Road, The Hoe, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 2HU.
- 5) 7/8/June 2020 a visit to The Harstad Memorial Plaque, Norway, with visits to other interesting Sites planned.
Contact George Godley should you be interested by e-mail: georgegodley@hotmail.com

- 6) 8 November 2020 Remembrance Day Parade The Cenotaph,
Contact Greg Monteith for any details e-mail:
Pgm.quincy@hotmail.co.uk

As can be seen from the Forthcoming Events for your Diaries we now have the date for :-

- 1) The Malta Service of Remembrance. The Maritime Museum is situated in the old Royal Naval Bakery by the Harbour Side in Vittoriosa. The Museum has many interesting Artefacts relative to The Royal Navy and well worth a Tour of The Facility.
- 2) The National Arboretum in itself is well worth visiting to view all The Monuments that are dedicated to all The Services and Organisations that wish to Remember all those people that have been lost through War. The Arboretum is a well looked after Facility with so much to offer. There is a Tractor Train that tours the whole area for those who find walking a difficulty.
- 3) The Dedication of The Train carrying the Ships Name Glorious is now fully refurbished and will be taking her place on The Severn Valley Railway with The other illustrious Trains that carry Ships Names, HMS Exeter, HMS Hood, HMS Defiance, HMS Hercules, and HMS Ark Royal. The Management of the refurbishment of HMS Glorious have extended an invitation to The Glarac Ass. For this event.

Warning to anyone visiting Malta

There is a Company (Discover Access) operating in Malta, that Employs Touts to get people into Sales Meetings in order to sell Holidays via a type of Holiday Ownership The Costs quoted for their plans can be variable ranging from £1500.00 plus, depending which contract you may be offered.

During the one to one Sales Presentation you will be invited to purchase the Holiday plans that they offer. They offer two types of Contract, 1 is Prefixed PRED 9114 and the other is Prefixed PREV 9115. Both contracts at a glance appear to be the same and you may be led to believe that they are both subject to a 14 day cooling off period. However this is not the case the PRED 9114 has a clause that states that the Contract is immediately Binding and cannot be cancelled, unless you are careful you will miss this clause and consequently you will find yourself committed to paying for something you may not want after you have cooled off. I would suggest that you check on Line to see the reviews regarding the Company before committing yourselves.

GLARAC ASSOCIATION Remembrance Service Plymouth
HM Ships Glorious, Ardent and Acasta

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To assist us make the necessary arrangements would you please indicate the number of people within your party that will be attending the following events during the Plymouth weekend:

- Friday 5th June - A very informal get together at a location TBD
- Saturday 6th June – 10am The AGM at Naomi’s house - 7 Brunswick Street,
Plymouth, Devon PL2 1BR
- Saturday 6th June – 4pm A Service of Remembrance at the Naval Memorial
situated on the Hoe
- Saturday 6th June – 7.30pm to 11.30pm Our main social evening of the year
in the Pub on the Hoe, 159 Citadel Road, PL1 2HU
- Sunday 7th June – 10am The service of Remembrance at HMS Drake
(Remember to complete an application form!)
- Sunday 7th June – Immediately after the Church Service a buffet in the
Warrant Officers Mess HMS Drake

If you would like to be added to the mailing list via email then please ensure that your contact information is correct on page 1 and tick here

Please note that your details may be passed on to other members with a similar interest in the GLARAC Association but they would not be passed to any other third party.

If you would like to be removed from the mailing list then please ensure that your contact information is correct on page 1 and tick here

**APPLICATION FORM TO ATTEND THE GLARAC ASSOCIATION
REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – SUNDAY 7th JUNE 2020**

HM Ships Glorious, Ardent and Acasta

Please provide the following information and return the completed form no later than 13th May 2020 to:

Naomi Monteith 7 Brunswick Street, Plymouth, Devon PL2 1BR or email
naomi.monteith@gmail.com

**WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION THERE WILL BE NO ACCESS TO THE NAVAL
BASE ON SUNDAY 7thJUNE 2020**

Please state your Nationality:

Which Ship are you associated with: Glorious / Ardent / Acasta

Crew Members Name:

Your name:

Your address:

.....
.....

Email address:

Telephone number:

Your car registration:

Your car make, model and colour:

Names of ALL persons in your party:

1: 2:

3: 4:

5: 6:

Please indicate if anyone in your party is physically handicapped (e.g. a wheelchair user) and add any additional details that may be relevant:

.....

Do you wish to lay a personal wreath after the service? Yes / No

Remembrance Day 2019

As in previous years, the GLARAC Association laid wreaths to remember those lost from HMS Glorious, Ardent and Acasta on Remembrance Day.

In Southsea 6 representatives from the GLARAC Association attended the Naval Memorial Service on Southsea Common. The wreath was laid by Grandchildren of Garry and Rebecca Carter.



Due to changes made by the British Legion there was a slimmed-down GLARAC contingent at the Cenotaph in 2019. Greg Monteith and Mick Facey, represented the Association on the march, on Sunday 10th November. At the Cenotaph, the GLARAC wreath was handed over and laid alongside the other wreaths. The GLARAC Association was mentioned briefly in the commentary by David Dimbleby.