

The Glarac Newsletter 2016- 2017

The purpose of a newsletter is to keep the membership advised of the activities that take place during the year to perpetuate the memory of those family members who were lost in Norwegian waters on the 8th June 1940.

Malta 2017

Due to the commitments of The Maltese Government hosting The European Summit, The GLARAC (MALTA) Committee were unable to hold their Annual Service of Remembrance in The Maritime Museum, Vittoriosa. Their Chairman Mr. Saviour Azzopardi therefore arranged that The Service would take place in the form of a Mass to be held in The Church of St. Lawrence, Birgu. This to be followed by a buffet in The Church Hall. The names of all The Maltese Crewmen who were lost on THE GLORIOUS were read out during The Service. The Service was narrated by Victoria Butters. During The Service wreaths were laid by The British High Commissioner to Malta and also Mick Facey (UK) in front of a poster which showed photographs of all The Maltese who were lost. The GLARAC (UK) Secretary Mr. Vinny Marcroft spoke the words of The Seamen's Prayer. Mr. Mick Facey & Mr. Vinny Marcroft were Members of The Association from The UK. The Royal Naval Association (Malta) were also in attendance and our thanks go to them for their continuing support and Assistance.

During The Year there was a book launch of a story written in Maltese by Mr. Ronald Bugeja who lost his Grandfather Giuseppe Francica on board The GLORIOUS. Mr. Bugjeba works in the media industry and has now joined The GLARAC (Malta) Committee, with his help it is hoped that The Perpetuation of The Memory of those who were lost will be widely circulated. There is also the prospect of a documentary film being made of those tragic moments of June

8th 1940. The Script for this is being written by Mr. Saviour Azzopardi and on completion it is hoped that filming can commence. The Maltese Committee are also working on plans to visit the local schools to keep the students advised of all that occurred when The Three Ships & crews were lost June 8th.1940.

The other item on their agenda is that a Permanent Memorial will be erected to all those who were lost. Meetings are taking place with The Curator of Fort St. Angelo, (During the time of The British period in Malta The Fort was known as HMS St. Angelo) All Maltese Seamen who entered the Royal Navy were first stationed there for their initial training. The hope is that the Monument will be placed in Fort St. Angelo. An artist is at present working on several plans for a memorial. Once The Maltese Committee decide on which one they feel is the most appropriate, work will commence to raise the funds necessary for the project. The response to date has been most encouraging.

Best wishes are also in order for The Chairman of GLARAC Malta in the new position that he has taken on. Both he & his wife Iris are now employed as Baby sitters for their new Granddaughter Eve, who was born on the 21st. August. Congratulations to all.

On the sad side :- The deaths are noted of Irene Bellotti and Marie Francica

On The Sick List Mrs. Dorothy Cordina, Mr. Vince D'Agostijno, Mrs. Cyra Galea Butters, Mrs. Doris Stockhill

We wish all those on the sick list a full and speedy recovery.

**The Maltese Service of Remembrance for
2018 will take place on March 18th**

Martindale

The Service of Remembrance was held in The Church of St. Peters, Martindale. This Service was originally held by The Fleet Air Arm (FAA) in memory of the pilots who were lost on The GLORIOUS. The reason this church being selected for the service by the FAA is due to there being a stained glass window dedicated to Lt. Cdr Parkin RN a pilot who was killed onboard The GLORIOUS, whose family Commissioned The Window and are local to the area. Due to the diminishing numbers of FAA Members, GLARAC some years ago were asked to take the service over. Our Hon. President David Woodcock confirmed that we (GLARAC) would continue to hold the service each year for those (particularly in The North) who couldn't make the journey to Plymouth. The Service will continue each year for as long as Association Members wished it to.

Following the service a small social meeting took place in The Howtown Hotel of The Association Members who attended the service, where they enjoyed sandwiches, coffee and a chat.

The Martindale event for 2018 will take place on April 29th

Please contact our President for details if you would like to attend.

e-mail dwoodcock123@btinternet.com

Phone No 01229 462 414

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO VISIT TO ALREWAS DURING THE YEAR 2018

PLYMOUTH

Friday 9th June 2017 Members of The Association met in the bar of The Invicta Hotel for a chat & a drink. The evening was very successful particularly as we had visitors join us from Australia.

Saturday 10 June 2017 Invicta Hotel The AGM took place commencing at 1005 hours. The Chairman opened the meeting by asking all that were present to stand & remember all that had lost their lives in The Action of June 8th 1940 and also the Members who had passed away during the past 12 Months.

Apologies were received & noted

The appointment of Officers took place. The Chairman pointed out that he had taken over the Chairmanship the previous year until a Chairman was appointed. As no one had come forward, The Chairmanship would continue under his direction.

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|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Chairman..... | David Emery MBE |
| Secretary..... | Vincent Marcroft |
| Treasurer..... | David Emery MBE |
| Membership Officer..... | Vincent Marcroft |
| Web Site Officer..... | Gary Martin |
| Distribution Officer..... | Garry Carter |
| Liaison Officer - Plymouth..... | Naomi Monteith |

Reports were received from all The Officers of The Committee for the past year.

The Chairman thanked The Committee Members for all their hard work over the last 12 Months in perpetuating the Memory of all who lost their lives on board The Three Ships.

The reports were accepted as a true record & signed off accordingly.

Matters arising

The Chairman reported that there had been a Proposal that three Members of The Association be appointed as Honorary Officers of GLARAC. The customary wait for this to be included on to the next years agenda was waived as none of the three to be honoured were present. The vote for the waiver was unanimous by all who were in attendance at The AGM.

To be Honoured were :-

- 1) Mr. Rolfe Monteith Captain RN Ret. For all his hard work researching The History of The Actions that took place on the 8th June 1940. A research that is still ongoing.
- 2) Mr. John Lovell (Son of Cdr. Lovell HMS GLORIOUS) for all his financial support which is sent from his home in Hong Kong.
- 3) Mr. Harald Isaccsen (Norway) for all his assistance on the occasions of The Association Members visits to Norway and also for taking care of our Memorial Plaque in Harstadt Norway.

Our Hon. President David Woodcock spoke in support of the proposal and informed the meeting of all the help & assistance that had been afforded to him by The Three people concerned.

Gary Martin also reported that a special presentation had been made to Mr. Harald Isaccson earlier in the year as a thank you for his efforts.

The President proposed that The Three Members be honoured accordingly, seconded by The Chairman.

A Vote taken of The Membership present showed unanimous agreement to the proposal and the motion was duly carried.

The date for the meeting in June 2018 will be advised as soon as a date has been decided.

Being no further business The Chairman closed the meeting at 1125 hours.

Saturday afternoon 10th June 2017

A short, well attended Service of Remembrance was held on The Hoe conducted by our President David Woodcock. The words of Remembrance spoken by our Chairman David Emery MBE.

Saturday Evening 10th June 2017

Members gathered in The Function Room of The Invicta Hotel for a well-attended social. Our Raffle Mafia Dollies Dorothy Emery and Rebecca Carter were hard at work ensuring that no one escaped buying raffle tickets, the funds going to assist The Perpetuation of all that The Association stands for. The evening was very successful and a good time was had by all.

Sunday 11th June

Our Annual Church Service took place in The Church of St. Nicholas situated in HMS Drake. This year we had excellent support from the children who attend The Church. The children had been given a project relative to The Three Ships, various drawings and floral cut outs had been created by the children. The cut outs when put into a bowl of water curled to form the shape of a flower dedicated to The Ships.

The Last Post was sounded by a Royal Marine Bugler (whose Grandfather had served on The Glorious,) followed by a two minutes silence and then the reveille was sounded. The words of Remembrance were also spoken during The Silence.

Association Wreaths were laid by:-

Mrs. Yvone Gallienne-Williams HMS GLORIOUS,

Mr. Gary Martin HMS ARDENT

Mr. Brian Blackah (Australia) HMS ACASTA

Family Members of Crew Personnel of each Ship,

Followed by personal wreaths from Association Members.

Following The Service Members were invited into The Senior Warrant Officers Mess for a buffet and the presentations that were to take place. The Raffle Mafia Dollies, (Dorothy & Rebecca) were once again hard at work ensuring that no one got away from them and we had an excellent response to The Raffle.

Captain Rolfe Monteith RN Ret. and Mr. John Lovell were asked to stand. There followed an introduction, to all present, of The Service that they with Harald Isaccson (Norway) had afforded The Association and that they had been Awarded the Positions of Honorary Officers of The Association, their names appearing on The Official Letterheads of The Association. The two Recipients present were completely surprised at the presentation and both gave their thanks accordingly.

The Chairman then asked all Committee Members to stand in order that The Membership knew who they were, they were then all thanked for their hard work over the last year.

Once again an excellent Afternoon Social Event.

Note: The GLARAC committee would like to raise an important point regarding the buffet numbers. Naomi received 77 confirmations of attendance to the buffet in the Senior Warrant Officers Mess but only 50 people turned up. We therefore paid for people who didn't turn up, and this was very costly to the GLARAC association. Please can members let Naomi know in advance if they have signed up for the buffet but then cannot attend. Many thanks for your understanding.

Remembrance Parade at The Cenotaph

On Sunday 12th November 20 Members of The Association gathered in London for The National Service of Remembrance and The March Past. Five members attending for the first time. For the second year running everyone assembled on Horse-guards Parade, before being marched through Horse-guards Arch to join other contingents already assembled and formed up on Whitehall.

As silence fell at 1100 hours, at the sound of The Chimes of Big Ben and The Royal Horse Artillery gun salute we paused to remember our relatives lost on The Three Ships. After the sounding of The Last Post by The Royal Marine Buglers, Prince Charles led the wreath laying at The Cenotaph, then followed a short service carried out by The Bishop of London.

Then came the climax of Remembrance Day, The March Past. Our contingent was led by CPO Andy Slater (a serving Member of The Royal Navy). The Associations wreath was carried by Mr. Saviour Azzopardi, (Chairman of GLARAC Malta). (Our Wreath was later spotted on The Steps of The Cenotaph). Marching past and saluting The Cenotaph, accompanied by the Music of The Massed Military Bands and the cheering of thousands of spectators who had turned out on the very cold morning, was a very moving experience to all concerned.

The Salute on Horse-Guards Parade was taken by Prince Edward.

After being dismissed on Horse-Guards, we proceeded to The Leicester Arms for drinks and lunch. We were joined there by members of The Canadian Veterans Association,(yes I know that I said that last year was their final march) but they are still going. My special thanks go to our President David Woodcock and CPO Andy Slater RN for keeping us all Shipshape, all my fellow Marchers particularly GLARAC (Malta) Chairman, Saviour(Sam) Azzopardi and his wife Iris who had come over from Malta to join us on The Occasion.

Remembrance Day Portsmouth

Mr. Garry Carter attended The Royal Naval War Memorial situated on The Sea Front in Portsmouth and laid a wreath beside The Memorial on behalf of The GLARAC Association to all the Portsmouth ratings lost on June 8th 1940 onboard the 3 Ships

With great sadness we report the death of our staunch supporter Kevin Walsh on the 16 August 2017. For many years Kevin was the Distribution Officer for The Association. Kevin will be sorely missed by all that knew him. Our sympathies are extended to all his family.

The Sick Bay

We have been advised of the sickness of Liz & Colin Jones during the past year. Liz we understand had undergone surgery during the past few months. Colin & Liz were founder Members of the Association, Colin being our original Treasurer. Our best wishes go to them both & we now hope that they are fully recovered.

NB: THE ASSOCIATION IS SELF FUNDING WITHOUT A SUBSCRIPTION PER MEMBER BEING IN PLACE, WE WOULD GRATFULLY APPRECIATE YOUR DONATIONS TO HELP TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF OUR LOVED ONES THAT WERE LOST.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION TO "HMS GLORIOUS ACC". AND FORWARD TO OUR TREASURER :- Mr. David Emery MBE, (Hon Treasurer) "Alisios" 2a Castleton Road, Stoke on Trent, ST3 7TD

Future Events 2018

Malta 18th March 2018

To be held in The Maritime Museum Vittoriosa
For details Contact Mr.Savoir Azzopardi Chairman (Malta)

e-mail address salvuazz@hotmail.com

Martindale 29th April 2018

Contact Mr. David Woodcock (Association President)

e-mail address dwoodcock123@btinternet.com

Phone No.01229 462 414

Plymouth 1st–3rd June 2018 inc.

Friday 1st June get together for a

Chat & drink 1930-2000 hours Invicta Hotel on The Hoe

Saturday 2nd June AGM 1000 hours Invicta Hotel on The Hoe

Saturday 2nd June Service on The Hoe 1600 Hours beside The
Memorial

Saturday 2nd June Social Evening in The Invicta Hotel 1930 Hours

Sunday 3rd June Church Service St. Nicholas Church HMS Drake

Devonport 1000 hours followed by a buffet in The Fleet Chiefs Mess

Contact Mrs Naomi Monteith Plymouth Liaison Officer

e-mail Address naomi.monteith@gmail.com

Phone No.01752 707 717

Remembrance Day Parade The Cenotaph London

11th November 2018

Contact Greg. Monteith (Parade Liaison Officer)

e-mail Address pgm.quincy@hotmail.co.uk

Please Note that it is most important that the appropriate
person knows who will be attending the various events by
either returning the attached Forms or by e-mail

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

Please provide the following information and return the completed form no later than **13th May 2018** 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 3RD JUNE 2018

Please state your Nationality:

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

Crew Members Name:

Your name:

Your address:

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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:

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

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 social events during the weekend:

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|---|-------|
| Friday 1st June 2018 – A very informal get together in the bar of the Invicta Hotel | |
| Saturday 2 nd June – 10am The AGM at the Invicta Hotel | |
| Saturday 2 nd June – 4pm Service on The Hoe | |
| Saturday 2 nd June – 7.30pm Social at the Invicta Hotel | |
| Sunday 3 rd June – 10am HMS Drake church service | |
| Sunday 3 rd June – Afternoon HMS Drake – Warrant Officers Mess | |
| (Immediately after the church service) | |

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

The Invicta Hotel can be found at the following address: 11/12 Osborne Place, Lockyer Street, The Hoe, Plymouth PL1 2PU