

Newsletter 2015 – 2016

March 15 2015 MALTA

The Annual Service of Remembrance took place in The National Maritime Museum Victoriousa Malta. The Service is to perpetuate The Memory of The Crewmen who were lost on Board The Three Ships HMS GLorious, HMS ARdent, HMS ACasta but in particular The Maltese Crewmen who served on Board HMS Glorious. The contingent of Maltese Crewmen on Board The Glorious was the largest contingent of Maltese on board any British Warship.

The Guest of Honour on The Occasion of The Service was The President of Malta. Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. The other Honoured Guests were The Mayor of Santa Lucia, Councillor Fredrick Cutajar & his wife. Also present were Members of The Maltese RNA, The Crosbie RNA & The Uttoxeter & District RNA. with Members of The GLARAC Association also in attendance. The number of people who attended were approximately 140.

Her Excellency was met on arrival by Mr.Saviour Azzopardi & his wife Iris, also Mr. David G. Emery MBE (Hon Treasurer GLARAC) & his wife Dorothy.

The Welcome greeting to all in attendance was given by Mr.David G.Emery MBE, Hon. Treasurer of The GLARAC Association, & Hon.Chairman of The RNA Uttoxeter & District, who also Supervised the Service.

Following The Greeting a DVD presentation was shown, showing The Tragic Loss of The Three Ships.This had been produced by Mr.Saviour Azzopardi (Who narrated The DVD) & Mr.Emile Vassallo.

The Service was Conducted by Fr. Avellino. During The Service The Names of those Maltese Crew who were lost in The Action were read out by their Relatives, The Hamrun Scouts Played The Last Post & Reveille & The words of Remembrance were spoken by David G.Emery MBE.

Two Poems were read during The Service one by Alfred Mallia and the other Flowers of The Sea by Mrs.Cyra Galea who's father Edward Butters had written the Poem.

A Wreath was laid in Front of The Honours Boards by Doris The Daughter of Vincent Zahra who had died the previous year, a staunch supporter of The Aims of The GLARAC Association.

Mr.David G. Emery MBE invited her Excellency The President of Malta to address the people that were present and then to unveil a commemorative Plaque. The Plaque that Her Excellency The President of Malta unveiled had been designed & produced by Mr.Saviour Azzopardi, who also had made the Small Replica's that had been presented to The people present.

This was followed by The Maltese National Anthem.

Following this Mr.David G. Emery made The Announcement that Mr.Savoior Azzopardi had been responsible for all the Memorial Boards that were to be seen surrounding The Lectern which carried Photographs & details of The Maltese Men who had been lost on June 8th 1940.

Mrs.Mary Iraci also performed admirable services to the Occasion in writing to all The People Of Malta who attended, arranging the Buglers, & generally assisting with all The Arrangements. Also it should be noted that Mrs.Mary Iraci personally paid for all The Administrative Costs That were involved. A Great vote of thanks is due to here for all the work that she carried out.

Mr.Savoir (Sam) Azzopardi was then appointed as The Chairman of GLARAC Malta by Mr.David G. Emery MBE who wished him every success in his new Duties.

Following the end of The Formalities, everyone was thanked for their attendance & invited to join in the light refreshments that GLARAC had provided.

May 3 rd. 2015 Martindale Cumbria

Once again a Service of Remembrance was held in The Picturesque Church set high on The Hills of Cumbria. The Church, (St. Peters) is of great interest to GLARAC Association due to the Stained Glass Window there that is dedicated to an Officer from HMS GLORIOUS. The Members in attendance were :-

Mr.David Woodcock our Honorary Life President, Mr.Kevin Walsh, Mr.Vincent Marcroft, Lt.Cdr. Parkins & his family, & 8 Members of The Clarke family who had travelled down from Glasgow bringing with them various items concerning their relative Ordinary Telegraphist Dominic Logue of The GLORIOUS. Vincent Marcroft & Kevin Walsh were particularly interested in meeting The Clarke Family and viewing the items that they had bought with them as their relative Norman Walsh had been on The Same Mess-Deck as Dominic Logue. Mr. David Woodcock also bought with him various Albums that we of interest to all present. Following The Service everyone made their way to the Howtown Hotel where Sandwiches & Coffee were served. All in all a very amicable & friendly social occasion.

The Plymouth Weekend of Remembrance June 05/06/07 2015

June 5th. 2015

The weekend commenced with a small gathering of our Members in the State Room of The Holiday Inn. Those present enjoyed a very sociable & friendly evening meeting up with old friends.

June 6th. 2015

Our AGM commenced at 10.00 am & was well attended. Being no Chairman the Proceedings were chaired by our Life President David Woodcock. As we had no Secretary, Vincent Marcroft agreed to take the minutes of The Meeting. The following Officers of The Association offered themselves for re-election :-

- Treasurer David Emery MBE,
- Membership Sec., Vincent Marcroft,
- WEB Site Officer Garry Martin.

The Members present voted unanimously the Officers be re-appointed & serve for a further Year.

Each Officer present reported on their results of the past year.

Following The Reports a unanimous vote of agreement was given by all present that the Minutes be accepted.

Our Life President asked for volunteers to fill the vacant Positions on The Committee :- Distribution Officer, Secretary, & Plymouth Liaison Officer. Gary Carter offered his services as Distribution Officer & Vincent Marcroft offered to undertake the taking of Minutes at all future Meetings. Both offers were accepted.

Being no other business The Meeting was closed.

June 6th 2015

During the afternoon A short Service of Remembrance was held on The Hoe in Front of The Memorial Plaques. The Service was well attended & during The Service The Words of Remembrance were spoken. Following The Service, Flowers & a Remembrance Cross were placed by Members to remember their loved ones.

June 6th 2015

A Social Evening took place in The State Room of The Holiday Inn, this was well attended & a great evening was had by all. Our regular Raffle Mafia Dolly Dorothy had organised the Raffle & this proved very successful to The Association Funds.

Present on this Occasion were visitors from Holland, Mr.Mrs Frank Tookey, & also present were Mr.Saviour Azzopardi & his wife Iris from Malta. Saviour (Sam) was there in his new Roll as The New Chairman of GLARAC Malta. All visitors were introduced to The Association Members present.

June 7th 2015

Our Main Service of Remembrance took place in The Church of St. Nicholas in HMS Drake. Our Service was included into the main regular Sunday Church Service, with special emphasis being placed on our Association. Two Royal Marine Buglers Sounded The Last Post & following a 2 Minute Silence The Reveille was sounded. Wreaths were laid by Family Representatives of The Crewmen who were lost on The Three Ships. All in all with The Associations 3 Wreaths there were also a further 7 Private Wreaths laid.

Following The Service, a Buffet took place in The Senior Rates Mess in HMS Drake. During this Social Occasion a Wine Raffle was held, again organised by Raffle Mafia Dolly, Dorothy. This again raised very valuable Funds for The Association. A Tapestry that had been sewn depicting The Three Ships from an original Painting by Mr. Anthony Myers was donated by Mrs Jane Young for Auction in order to raise funds for The Association. The Bidding raised quite a substantial sum of money. The highest Bidder being Mr.John Lovell whose Father was Commander Arthur Lovell second in Command of HMS Glorious. Mrs. Young was thanked by all present for The Tapestry. Also with The Tapestry was a Model of a Swordfish, one of The Aircraft carried by HMS Glorious. The Model Maker being Louis Young, the son of Jane Young.

Mrs Mary Wark had baked a large cake which she donated for The Occasion, this showed a White Ensign with the 3 Ships crests . Mrs. Wark was thanked for the Cake by our Life President David Woodcock.

Following a surprise Presentation to David & Dorothy Emery of Cut Glass Wine Goblets for their Services to The GLARAC Association, it was suggested by David Woodcock that Dorothy cut The Cake with a Ceremonial Sword. The Sword being too heavy for Dorothy, assistance was given by

Mary Wark & David (Dorothy's Husband). Everyone present (some 80 plus people) all had a generous helping of The Cake.

The Life President David Woodcock, thanked all The Association Officers for the work that they had carried out during The Year making The Association the success that it was.

Special thanks were given to during the Occasion to Mrs. Jane Young, Mrs. Mary Wark, David & Dorothy with a very Special Thank you from David Emery to Louis for his help with The Money Raising Events.

Our Honorary Life President David Woodcock expressed his great delight on behalf of The Association at being able to welcome the attendance of Mrs. Adrienne Cross Aitkin the daughter of Air Vice Marshall Sir Kenneth Cross (RAF). Who, in 1940, was at the time the Squadron Leader who requested permission to attempt the first Landings of Hurricanes on board an Aircraft Carrier. Landings that were 100% successful.

Mr. John Lovell Son of The second in Command of HMS Glorious, (Commander Arthur Lovell),

Mr. Justin Redman & Family The Grandson of (Lt. Commander J. R. Barker Capt. of HMS Ardent).

Captain Rolfe Monteith Royal Canadian Navy (Ret) for all The research that he had carried out on behalf of The Association.

Disappointment was expressed that The Heritage Flight had been unable to do a Fly Past with a Swordfish Aircraft this being due to The Aircraft having Engine problems. The disappointment being twofold,

- that there were members of our Association who had Flown The Aircraft in The Past & seen it operational
- The Swordfish Aircraft was synonymous with HMS Glorious having embarked the first operational Squadrons, exercised night flying & landings at night on a Carrier & practised Harbour Attacks. Both the latter being successfully employed in The Attack on The Italian Port of Taranto.

All in all a very successful day was had by all.

Following the closure of the Weekends events, Naomi Monteith offered to take over the responsibilities as The Liaison Officer for HMS Drake & also The Arrangements for all aspects of the social Bookings for Plymouth. This offer was accepted by The Members of The Committee and therefore Naomi Monteith, with Gary Carter(who took over The Distribution side of The Association) were both accordingly appointed to The Committee.

Norway

Monday the 8th. June 2015 was a special day for The GLARAC Association, it being the 75th. Anniversary Year of The Sinking of HMS Glorious, HMS Ardent & HMS Acasta in Norwegian Waters By The German Battle Cruisers Scharnhorst & Gneisenau during the evacuation of Norway.

The time when Approximately 1531 men were killed in the action,

This Action still remains controversial to this day as The Official Reports were originally suppressed by a 100 Years Secrecy act and, which, at that time, received very little press coverage.

After drifting in The Arctic Norwegian Waters for some two & a half days, 35 survivors were landed at Thorshavn in The Faroes. The survivors were unaware that they were unfortunate victims of a Naval engagement that many consider was the Royal Navies single greatest disaster of WW 2.

During The GLARAC AGM of 2014 it was agreed that Members of The Association would revisit HARSTAD where a GLARAC Memorial Plaque had been dedicated some 5 years earlier.

A contingent of GLARAC Members made their way to HARSTAD Norway on Monday the 8th of June 2015 (this followed The Services of Remembrances & Social Occasions held in Plymouth the previous weekend) and met up with other GLARAC Members from Australia & Ireland, Hong Kong & Canada.

A Wreath had been laid that Morning on Longitude 68*26N (The estimated position that HMS Glorious had slipped beneath The Waves) by George Godley from Australia & his Family also assisting was Mr.Diamuid Hayes from Eireland.

Later in the Day all those present went to the Water's edge at the exact time & date that HMS Ardent (The First Casualty of The Action) slipped beneath the Waves, a Toast was proposed & drunk to all The Men who lost their lives on The Three Ships & to The Souls who were later to lose their lives in The Carley Rafts.

Tuesday the 9th June 2015

This was the first full day of Activities. 15 people boarded a bus to go to The Trondenes Peninsular. The Journey overlooked the course that The Destroyers HMS Ardent & HMS Acasta took when travelling from Harstad to the open sea prior to their fateful rendezvous with HMS Glorious. The Fjord was exceptionally picturesque, the Sea Black, the area Snow white & the Sky an azure blue. Our destination was the Trondenes Church for a Service of Remembrance. The Church was built

during the 13th. Century & is the World's most Northerly Stone Church, 3 KM north Of Harstad on a peninsular overlooking The Fjords entrance into Harstad.

A simple Service of Remembrance took place, a guest of Honour being The Former Mayor of Harstad, Mr. Helge Erikson who was in attendance. The Service being conducted by The Norwegian Pastor Bjorn Mathiassen. The Naval Hymn without accompaniment was sung with everyone's thoughts being on The Men who would have sung The Hymn in The Carley Floats following the Action. Everyone I found this to be very emotional.

Following The Service everyone gathered around The GLARAC Memorial Plaque. Tributes were paid to all the men from The Three Ships who had perished. Mr. Diamuid Hayes from Ireland read The Poem, Flowers on The Sea. This Poem was written by Mr. Edward Butters, a Maltese GLARAC Member in Memory of his Father Steward Cyril Butters of HMS Glorious, one of the Maltese Crewmen who were lost that day. The Maltese had more Crew on The Glorious than any other Ship of The Royal Navy.

Following moments of Silence, Relatives solemnly placed Wreaths beside The GLARAC Memorial Plaque. Mr. M. Facey for HMS Glorious, Mr. G. Martin for HMS Ardent, & Mr. George Godley for HMS Acasta.

How fitting then, that with Harstad in the distance to our right, that our Plaque faced those same water . Beside The Plaque were The Wreaths proudly displaying their individual Ships Crests.

The Plaque designed by our David G. Emery was the latest of those displayed at the following sites, The National Arboretum Alrewas, St. Nicholas Church HMS Drake Devonport, The Senior Rates Mess HMS Drake, The Maritime Museum Malta, The D Day Museum Portsmouth.

The Mornings activities over, the Group adjourned to The Adjacent Historical Centre where 5 years earlier, on the occasion of The 70th. Anniversary we had been entertained & exchanged Gifts.

This year GLARAC wished to present a most significant Painting by The Artist Kenneth Woodcock. The Painting depicted the landings of a Hurricane Monoplane some 200 miles east of Harstad as piloted by the then Squadron Leader (Later Air Vice Marshall) on to The Deck of HMS Glorious. This, he & his Squadron achieved against the advice of Farnborough who had considered that The Flight deck of an Aircraft Carrier too small to accommodate such a feat. By achieving the landings this paved the way for the Spitfire & The Hurricane to be modified to become The Seafire & Sea Hurricane.

Following The Presentation our Group were invited to spend time in The Museum musing over the local History from Prehistoric Times to The Present.

The Group then visited The Local Naval Base where The Famous "The Adolf Guns" were positioned on the high ground, approximately another 2 miles North from The Heritage Centre. The Guide for this tour was Mr. Harald Isachsen an authority on The Massive Complex which was first installed

during 1941-1943, & was fully operational until 1961. The Complex being finally decommissioned in 1963-1964. The Battery originally had 4 massive 40.6 cm (16 inch Guns). These were originally designed for the 56,200 Tonne Z Class German Battleships, each barrel weighing 158.6 Kg. & able to propel a Shell weighing 600 Kg up to 56 Kilometre's in distance. (For example from the Battery to & past The Northern Tip of The Lofoten Islands.

During 1945 Norway had Requisitioned The Battery until it's closure during 1964. The last firing of these great Guns was in 1957. This was a most educational & fascinating visit.

Having reached the end of The Trondenens Peninsular we were now on our return. En-Route we visited The Harstad Cemetery. Interned here in The Cemetery is Telegraphist Jack Pilkington D/SSX24223 who served on HMS Glorious. Telegraphist Jack Pilkington originally came from Nelson in Lancashire. Despite a 5 year search for any of his relatives none have been found. A short Service of Remembrance was held at his grave site & a Wreath was laid in his Honour on behalf of GLARAC by Mrs.Eggington & Mrs.Warner.

Wednesday 10th June 2015

On this day we had arranged a visit to Narvik, (a day of heavy rain) this caused us no problems as we had hired a bus for The Occasion. Our Journey took us passed many Bridges that had been erected since the 2nd World War & we saw the positions of The Battles that took place for Narvik. In one instance we saw the position where HMS Eskimo had her Bows Blown off. We were travelling along the Fjords where The Royal Naval Vessels had travelled from Narvik to Harstad.

We arrived at The Museum in Narvik & found The Building to be quite small with a Mezzanine Floor. The Museum concentrated on Equipment from The Battles for Narvik & surrounding areas.

A small room of The Museum had been allocated as a Cinema showing the Battle for Narvik. Our Group was shown two very interesting Films. One being a German propaganda film that had been discovered in an attic & had never been released. The Film showed the destruction of The British Ships during those fateful days.

During the last film, a lady entered the Room & asked if we were anything to do with HMS Ardent, she introduced herself as Mrs. Pearce The Daughter in Law of A/B Seaman William S.A.Pearce RFR D 31. Mrs.Pearce was quite overcome with emotion when advised of our Association with The Three Ships, The Ardent being one of them. We invited her on our Bus for The visit that we had planned for The Narvik Cemetery. At The Cemetery we held a short service conducted by a Chaplain friend of Mrs.Pearce. Garry Martin Laid a wreath at The Headstones of A/B Mills Father of our Member Barbara Gough, & also Yeo. Arthur Headley. Both men being from HMS Acasta. Mrs.Pearce also laid a Cross in Memory of her Father in Law. A/B William S.A.Pearce. This we found to be a remarkable coincidence that we were able to pay our respect to 3 Crewmen from The Battle.

Thursday 11 June 2015

This was to be our last full day of our visit to Norway. From Harstad we motored along Toppsundet towards the open sea, realising that we were retracing the course that the Ships had sailed 75 years previous.

The day fortunately was bright, but with intermittent clouds & Sunny Spells. Furthermore the Sea was Calm to Moderate, as most importantly we were to spend 5 hours at sea, onboard a converted Fishing Boat. This Boat was reminiscent but smaller than The Borgund, the Vessel that picked up 35 survivors & taking them to Thorshaven in The Faroes.

Our genial Norwegian Skipper stopped his engines in position 69°00N. 16°16.5E, a point just West of Grytoy Island. We were now facing the open Sea. The Skipper lowered The Norwegian colours as a mark of deep respect to HMS Glorious, HMS Ardent & HMS Acasta & Mrs. Pauline Eggington placed our final Wreath over the side into the Sea. Mrs. Pearce the read our final Prayer. All with our own personal thoughts as we watched The Wreath bobbing along the waves in Remembrance of all the Crewmen who had succumbed some 75 years ago.

The Norwegian Colours were raised, the engine restarted & with moistened eyes we made our way back to Port with the realisation that we had paid our respects & tributes on behalf of The GLARAC Association, using the position of 68°35N: 4°32E as the central position of The 1531 men who had lost their lives on that fateful day, June 8th 1940.

Our small group of GLARAC Members who attended the Memorials in Norway would like to express our sincere & most grateful thanks to :-

- John Lovell (Son of Commander Arthur Lovell, The Second in Command of HMS Glorious)
- Mr. Justin Redman (The Grandson of Lt. Commander J.R. Barker, Captain of HMS Ardent)

Without their Financial Support the content of The Visits in Norway would not have been possible.

The National Service of Remembrance

On Sunday the 8th November, 28 Members of The GLARAC Association assembled in Whitehall to attend the 2015 Service of Remembrance at The Cenotaph. This was by far to date, the largest Muster that The Association had had since our original attendance in 2005. The Group included 5 Members who were taking part for the first time.

Our Contingent wore New Arm Bands that bore The Names & Ships Crests of The 3 Ships that we all pay special Homage to. HMS Glorious, HMS Ardent & HMS Acasta. The Arm Bands had been specially commissioned for the occasion of the 75th. Anniversary of their Sinkings.

For everyone present, it was a very moving Occasion- from The Tolling of Big Ben, The firing of the Field Gun, The Two Minutes Silence & The Last Post. The Wreath Laying was led by Her Majesty The Queen followed by Dignitaries from all The High Offices of The Common Wealth & Government. Following a short Service led by The Bishop of London the Main Parade Marched Past The Cenotaph Accompanied by the sounds of The Massed Military Bands. The GLARAC Wreath was handed over at The Cenotaph by one of our Members Mr. Adrian Glover which joined The many Wreaths that were there.

Later as we Marched past Horse Guards Parade, Prince William took The Salute. Finally, mention should be made of the appreciation to the entire Parade by the thousands of Members of The Public who had turned out to watch The Spectacle.

After dismissal from The Horse Guards Parade, The GLARAC Members proceeded to The Leicester Arms, Piccadilly Circus, where they were joined by a Contingent of Canadian Veterans for refreshments.

I would like at this stage, to thank our Treasurer David Emery MBE, for organising the design & purchase of The Arm Bands.

On a final note – we found it a bit of a climb to reach the other side of Piccadilly Circus. As this was found to be stressful following all the Standing & Marching that The Remembrance Day entails, I have been given the unenviable task of visiting all The Hostelryes (in the area before next year), to see if there is a more suitable premises available to us.

Oh! It's a tough life as an Officer of GLARAC undertaking such an arduous task, but someone has to do it.

Greg Monteith

Cenotaph Contingent Co-ordinator GLARAC

WITH GREAT REGRET & SYMPATHY
THE FOLLOWING KNOWN DEATHS OF MEMBERS ARE ADVISED

Mr. Joseph Vella (CANADA) Mrs. Sheila Welch, Mr. Royston Roberts,

Mr.D.Scott, Mr. M.Andrews Mrs. Dorothy Lowdon Mr.Harry Hoose

Founding Member of GLARAC Mr. Leonard Hare Mr.Thomas Brinley (Bryn) Jones

Members known to be on The Sick List

Kevin Walsh, Gerry Moran, Jenny Honey, George Lowdon
Mr.Maurice Cole

We hope that they all recovered successfully & we look forward to seeing them in The Future

Births

A Grand-daughter to Garry & Rebecca Carter. The Association
Wish The Family every good fortune for The Future

Message from our Life President Mr.David F. Woodcock

Dear Members, I would like to thank all the People concerned, who worked so hard to make our activities during 2015, the great success that we have all enjoyed. I also wish everyone a very Happy & Prosperous New Year for 2016 & I look forward to seeing as many of our Members as possible during the coming year. Thank you all

David

General Info

There is a DVD Available of The Tragedy of The Glorious. Anyone interested in obtaining Copy please contact Vinny our Membership Officer.

On e-mail clarionst@yahoo.co.uk
& provide details for a copy to be sent to you.

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO MEETING
AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM
STAFFORDSHIRE DURING 2016

Forthcoming Events 2016

Malta

Service of Remembrance The National Maritime Museum Vittoriosa Malta

Sunday 03/04/16 @ 1030 hrs.

Contact Mr.S.Azzopardi Chairman GLARAC Malta
e- mail salvuazz@hotmail.com

contact David G.Emery MBE Hon Treasurer GLARAC
e-mail dg.david@hotmail.co.uk
Phone 01782 397746

Martindale

Service of Remembrance 17 April 2016

Contact Mr.D.F.Woodcock Hon. Life President GLARAC
e-mail dwoodcock123@btinternet.com
Phone No. 01229 462414

Plymouth

Friday 3 June 2016 Get together in The Bar at The Holiday Inn

Saturday 4 June 2016 In The Invicta Hotel on The Hoe

- The AGM 4 June 2016, 1000 hours, The Invicta Hotel
- A short Service of Remembrance on The Hoe 1600 hours
- A Social Evening 1930 hour in The Invicta Hotel on The Hoe.

HMS DRAKE Devonport Sunday 5th June 2016

- Service of Remembrance St.Nicholas Church 1000 hours
- Following The Church Service a Buffet in The Senior Rates Mess HMS Drake

Contact Mrs.Naomi Monteith Plymouth Liaison Officer
e-mail naomi.monteith@googlemail.com

Diamond Freight Stoke on Trent Saturday 18th June 2016

To celebrate 15 Years Trading Diamond Freight, who's Vehicles carry The Silhouettes & Crests of British Royal Naval Ships including HMS GLORIOUS, HMS ARDENT, HMS ACASTA are holding a Buffet & Display of their Vehicles at The Naval Cadet Centre, Stoke on Trent.

For details please contact David, e-mail dg.david@hotmail.co.uk

The Cenotaph London Sunday 13th .November 2016

Please contact for all details & ticket availability
Greg e-mail pgm.quincy@hotmail.co.uk

