

# GUARDIAN ENSIGN



The Federation of Naval Associations Newsletter

Issue 59 March 2018

## FEDERATION OF NAVAL ASSOCIATIONS AGM & REUNION 2018

Friday 18th May to Monday 21st May 2018

Join us at the

Hallmark Hotel City Centre, Derby

We will be visiting the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday, this is included as part of your weekend package

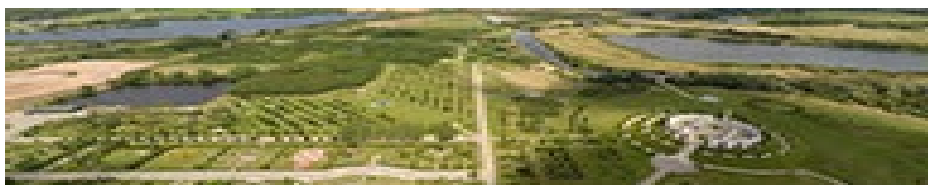
Complete the booking form at the back of this issue and return it to IOW Tours as soon as possible in order to secure your place



Welcome to the latest issue of the Guardian Ensign. I am looking forward to seeing you at the AGM and Reunion, to be held at the Hallmark Hotel, Derby, on 18-21 May. If you haven't already booked make sure to complete the booking form at the back of this issue, and return it to IOW Tours.



This year the Reunion price includes a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum and a ride on the road train. There have been several changes since I was last at the Arboretum and I'm looking forward to visiting the Remembrance Centre.



Sad to say, but we cannot continue producing the Guardian Ensign without some input from you, the members. I am sure many of you have a story to tell of your time in the RN that would be of interest to others. Please put pen to paper and send your contributions to The Secretary - FNA, 7 Cobgate Close, Whaplode, Spalding, PE12 6SX, or email: [secretary@f-n-a.org](mailto:secretary@f-n-a.org).

Don't forget, if you are interested in purchasing one of the FNA Polo Shirts, please contact Dave Poyser on Tel: 01623 822079 or Email: [dave.poyser43@btinternet.com](mailto:dave.poyser43@btinternet.com).

A comprehensive stock of FNA items is available from Robbie Robson. Contact Robbie on [robbie.fna@gmail.com](mailto:robbie.fna@gmail.com) or at 12 Rainton Street, Old Penshaw, DH4 7HQ Tel: 01905 847058.

*Cliff*

## Q-Ships

Cobh is a town in Ireland, on Great Island in Cork harbour. Cobh is gaelic for Cove. In 1750, Smith the historian, when referring to Cove village, said: "it was inhabited by seamen and revenue officials".

In the 19th century, due to its naturally protected harbour setting, the town became an important tactical centre for naval military base purposes, particularly at the time of the Napoleonic Wars. This led to the town becoming a British naval port with its own admiral.

In 1849 the name of the town was changed to Queenstown, to honour Queen Victoria who had visited Ireland during that year.

Being one of the major transatlantic Irish ports, Queenstown was the departure point for 2.5 million of the six million Irish people who emigrated to North America between 1848 and 1950. It was also a major embarkation port for men, women and children who were deported to penal colonies such as Australia. In 1912 Queenstown was famously the final port of call for the RMS Titanic when she set out across the Atlantic on her ill-fated maiden voyage. In 1915 survivors and dead alike were brought to Queenstown when the RMS Lusitania was sunk by a German U-boat.

During the First World War Queenstown was a naval base for British and American destroyers operating against the U-boats that preyed upon Allied merchant shipping. Q-ships, heavily armed merchant ships with concealed weaponry, designed to lure submarines into making surface attacks, were called Q-ships precisely because many were fitted-out in Queenstown.

In 1920 the town changed its name to Cobh. Due to its tactical military importance the port remained a UK sovereign base until it was handed over to the government of the Irish Free State in 1938.

Cobh remained an important harbour and from 1960 to the mid 1980's Verolme operated a shipyard. The last ship built there by Verolme was the Irish Naval Service's LÉ Eithne (P31).

## Bodies of WWII sailors dumped in mass grave

It has been claimed that the remains of WWII sailors who died on British and Dutch warships were secretly dumped in a mass grave near the port of Brondong, in East Java, by modern-day metal scavengers as they rifled through wrecks illegally lifted from the sea bed.

The wrecks are regarded as treasure troves by the salvagers and up to 40 WWII-era vessels have been removed from the waters off Indonesia and destroyed by operators seeing to cash in on the valuable metals on board. These include HMS Electra, HMS Exeter, and HMS Encounter.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman has said that 'The British Government condemns the unauthorised disturbance of any wreck containing human remains. Desecration of wrecks of war and merchant vessels is against International Law, which also provides protection for war graves. Under International Law naval warships and associated artefacts enjoy protection through Sovereign Immunity'.

Around 900 Dutch sailors died in the Battle of the Java sea on HNLMS De Ruyter, HNLMS Java, and HNLMS Kortenaer. They were sunk, along with UK, Australian and US vessels, in 1942, during one of the costliest sea battles for the allies, only to be the target of the illegal metal traders between 2014 and 2016. Dutch divers, planning to put plaques on the vessels, found they had vanished in 2016.

The Indonesian government has insisted it is not to blame as there was no formal request for them to be protected.

In January the National Museum of the Royal Navy and the Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust said they were linking up in an effort to deter those planning to rob sites in UK seas. They will use satellites, radar and sensors to monitor suspicious activity near wreck sites, the Royal Navy said.

*Taken from a report in The Guardian, Mon 22 Jan 2018*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



### HMS Ganges Association - 13-16 April 2018

The AGM and Reunion will take place at Mill Rythe Holiday Village, Hayling Island on the weekend of 13th to 16th April 2018. For more information contact IOW Tours, 3 New Road, Lake, Sandown, IOW, PO36 9JN. Email: [enquiries@iowtours.com](mailto:enquiries@iowtours.com) or Tel: 01983 405116. For details of membership of the Association please contact Ken Bushnell, Membership Secretary, 7 Rivers Street, Yew Gardens, Waterlooville, PO7 5FR. Tel: 02392 252812 or Email: [gangesmemsec@gmail.com](mailto:gangesmemsec@gmail.com)

### RNE & WEBA - 28 Sept to 1 October 2018

The AGM & Reunion will take place at the Hallmark Hotel, Preston, PR25 4JX. Details can be found on the website: [www.rneweba.org.uk/](http://www.rneweba.org.uk/)

### RNPSA - 5-6 October 2018

Contact the Secretary, Leo Whisstock, for more details. RNPS Association, Sparrow's Nest Gardens, Whapload Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1XG. Telephone: +44 (0) 1502 586250 or Email: [hq@rnpsa.co.uk](mailto:hq@rnpsa.co.uk)

### Survey Ships Association - 26-29 October 2018

The Survey Ships Association will be holding its twenty-fourth reunion at the Holiday Inn, Hull Marina on the weekend of 26th to 29th October 2018. For information on membership and reunion please send a SAE to: The Secretary SSA, 17 Eliza Mackenzie Court, Lindisfarne Close, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 2SB, Email: [secretary@surveyships.org.uk](mailto:secretary@surveyships.org.uk), or Telephone 023 9232 4795.

*If you wish to have details of your Reunion and AGM listed here, please send the details to [secretary@f-n-a.org](mailto:secretary@f-n-a.org)*

## HOTEL INFORMATION



Hallmark Hotel City Centre  
Derby Road  
Derby  
DE1 2SQ

- 102 Bedrooms
- Colour Television
- Tea/Coffee facilities
- Hairdryer
- Trouser Press
- Telephone

All rooms have ensuite bathroom,  
Tea & Coffee making Facilities,  
TV & Direct Dial Telephone



### Hallmark Hotel Derby

The Hallmark Hotel Derby is a luxurious four-star boutique style hotel set in the heart of Derby. Originally a majestic Victorian building, it has been sensitively refurbished into a stunning boutique-style hotel featuring the finest of modern amenities.

Located within tranquil, secluded gardens, the Hallmark Hotel Derby is conveniently situated in close proximity to the city centre and is conveniently opposite the Derby Railway station. Moreover, the East Midlands Airport is just 8 miles (13km) away and the hotel is within easy access of the M1 motorway. The hotel also boasts an ample amount of free on-site parking.

Each of the newly refurbished rooms featured at the Hallmark Hotel Derby offer the finest of modern amenities in a stylish, contemporary design, whilst yet retaining its authentic character. All are equipped with flat-screen TVs with Freeview digital channels and modern ensuite bathrooms.

Enjoy a relaxing dinner in the hotel brasserie which offers fine dining featuring dishes derived from the finest of local and international cuisine, made from the finest and freshest of local ingredients.

### Federation of Naval Associations Reunion 2018

**Friday 18th May - Monday 21st May 2018**

Isle of Wight Tours Ltd  
3 New Road  
Lake  
Sandown  
Isle of Wight  
PO36 9JN



Phone: 01983 405116  
Fax: 01983 405584  
Email: enquiries@iowtours.com



All information is for guidance only and details are subject to change without notice

## Federation of Naval Associations Reunion Booking Form 2018

To be held at the

### 4\* Hallmark Hotel City Centre

Derby Road, Derby, DE1 1SQ

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

Price includes:

- 3 nights half board, en-suite accommodation
- Private dining each night in your own function room
- Saturday Night 4 course Gala Dinner with suitable entertainment
- Wine or juice reception on Gala Night
- Tot of Port for the Gala night toast
- Saturday Day trip to the National Memorial Arboretum including a 1 hour guided road train tour of the main memorials
- Free Parking

**3 night/ 4 day package £199**

**2 night/ 3 day package £154**

#### Personal Details

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Telephone Number including Dialling code.....

Mobile Number .....

E Mail Address .....

Your Party

Names of other persons included on this booking form.....

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Number of Persons.....

Rooms required: Double.....Twin.....Single.....

Whilst every effort will be made to accommodate all special requests this will be done on a first come first served basis and not guaranteed.

Special Requirements such as diet / walking difficulties – Hotel does have a lift

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The more you can tell us about the special needs you may have the easier it will be for us to accommodate you in the best place.

All prices are inclusive of VAT @ 20%.

Book Now to avoid disappointment, places are limited.

Cheques to be made payable to IOW Tours Ltd.

Please return this form with your remittance to:

Isle of Wight Tours Ltd, 3 New Road, Lake, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 9JN.

**ALL HOLIDAYS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AT THE TIME OF BOOKING. SPACE IS NOT GUARANTEED UNTIL THE DEPOSIT IS PAID.**

A non refundable deposit of £10.00  
Per person is required with this booking form.

#### Travel Insurance

We recommend that Travel Insurance is taken. IOW Tours can arrange this for you.

We do / do not require insurance Please delete as required.

I enclose a Deposit or Full Payment\* of £.....

for .... Persons (delete as applicable) or

Debit my Access/Visa Switch / Delta Account Card Number

Switch/Delta Only, Issue Number..... Valid From Date

Expiry Date

Signature

Cardholders Name.....

Security Number

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## FEDERATION COUNCIL

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