



THE DASH

The Newsletter Of The Channel Dash Association



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Welcome to this update edition of the 'The Dash'. The purpose of the special edition is to let everyone know of recent changes and activities that have occurred recently.

At the February Members Meeting, Peter Nixon, our President and former Chairman, relinquished the post of President and, following a discussion with members present at the meeting agreed to accept the appointment as Chairman once again. This is a temporary measure to take us through to the AGM in July where nominations will be invited for the Posts of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and Committee Members. Papers notifying members of the forthcoming AGM and Elections are enclosed.

As the Association was without a President, your committee at its last meeting prior to the members meeting on 11 April 2011, discussed the matter of the Presidency and unanimously agreed to recommend to members present at the April meeting that Malcolm Cornwallace be proposed. This was duly done and accepted. Malcolm has been a loyal and generous supporter of the CDA and in 2010 was made a life member. The Association is happy to have his continued support.

Admiral the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL

It is with great pleasure that I can inform you that our Patron, Admiral the Lord Boyce has been appointed a Knight of the Garter. I have sent him a message from the Association congratulating him on his elevation.

Laura Sandys MP

Laura has been a keen supporter of the Channel Dash since its inauguration and this year kindly agreed to become a Vice Patron of the Association. Laura laid the Association wreath at the 825 NAS Memorial Monument on February 12th accompanied by the Vice Chair of Thanet DC and the Mayors of Ramsgate, Margate and Broadstairs & St Peters. Once again the day went well. We also had young people and staff from the local Sea, Royal Marine and Air Cadets lending dignity to the occasion. Last Post and Reveille was magnificently performed by the Sea Cadets.

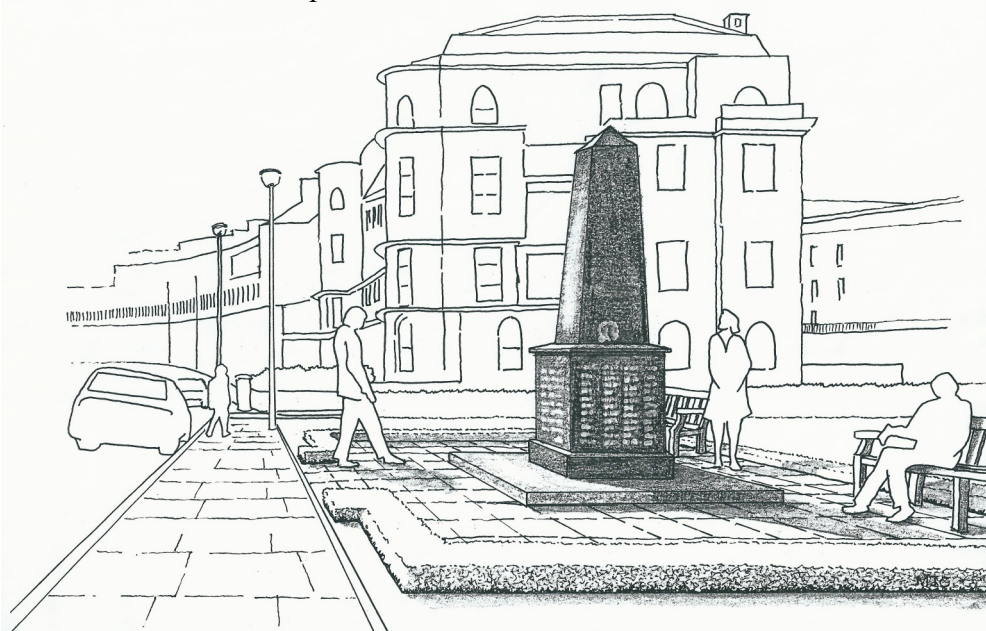
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Last summer the BBC filmed on location at the Royal Harbour, Ramsgate. The filming was for the next series of the popular programme 'Coast'. I am delighted to inform you that the first programme will feature an article on the Channel Dash and will show an interview with our Vice President, Reg Mitchell. You will recall that we had a feature in an earlier edition of our Newsletter 'The Dash' in which Reg related his account of the battle. He was on MTB48 out of Dover. One of only 5 which tried to attack the German ships. Reg witnessed the Swordfish fly over and saw some of them shot down. The BBC have informed me that the series commences:

Sunday 5 June 2011 starting at 2100hrs

The Memorial Monument to 'Operation Fuller' which the Association hoped to have commissioned and built during 2011 in time to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the event still continues to move forward although at a slower rate than planned as there are still some issues which need to be resolved in respect of the Planning Application. The current and previous Chairmen will be holding a site meeting with Dover Town Council on Friday 3rd June to move progress. It is clear that the monument will not be completed in time for anniversary date however, we still hope to have the monument completed during 2012.

Artists Impression of the CDMT Monument at Dover



Fundraising toward the monument continues to progress with three recent significant donations. Hornby Models have donated £5000.00, the Drapers Company have also donated £5000.00 and the Lottery Fund 'Awards 4 All' have donated £6300.00 toward the cost of staging and hosting the unveiling and dedication ceremony.

The Association are particularly pleased with the Hornby donation as it is part of a deal whereby Hornby, to coincide with the 70th anniversary, will announce the launch of a special 'Limited Edition' Channel Dash boxed set. The set will comprise of a Fairey Swordfish and a Spitfire. A new painting has been commissioned for the box lid which depicts the Swordfish attempting to attack the Scharnhorst.

The box will also contain other collectible items such as a CDA Lapel Badge, car wind-screen sticker depicting the CDA logo, details of 'Operation Fuller', suitable postcards of the battle and the moment RAF Spitfires on patrol discovered that the German ships had departed Brest. There will also be details of the CDA/CDMT along with Application Forms for membership or for making a 'Gift Aided' donation toward the monument and the on-going maintenance of both monuments. The Box will also have a forward by our Patron, Admiral the Lord Boyce. Further details will be announced later this year.

In the meantime, planning is starting for the Memorial Service next 12th February. It is expected that there will be a significant service and wreath laying at the 825 NAS memorial Monument in Ramsgate Royal Harbour and perhaps a major Church Service. Members views are always welcomed and appreciated on all matters relating to their Association. Please contact the Chairman or any of the committee with your thoughts and ideas.