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The Dash

News and Views of
The Channel Dash Memorial Trust



Vol.1 Issue 6. Oct. 2010

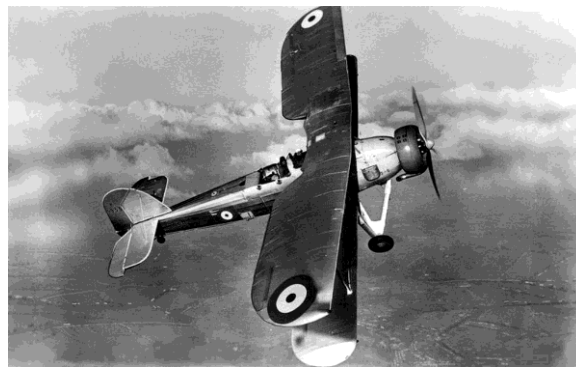
Ed. J T Williams 01843 297245

Welcome to your Winter newsletter

We are making steady progress towards funding the Dover Memorial. This will commemorate all those who took part in 'Operation Fuller'. It will be placed on the sea frontage at Dover and will be unveiled in 2012. We need to recruit more members and make people aware of our aim and future plans. When you have read your newsletter please pass it on to others.

Post-Memorial we will carry the story of the 'Channel Dash' forward for future generations. I hope to put together information sheets for schools and colleges plus talks etc, anything that will enhance the memory of those who played a part in the Channel Dash. Should you feel that you could play a part in promoting the Channel Dash Memorial Trust please feel free in contacting me;-

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For your bookshelf

Osprey Aircraft of the Aces. No.75. By Andrew Thomas.
ISBN.978-1-84603-178-6.

The Royal Navy only regained control of its own Fleet Air Arm shortly before the start of World War 2, and although its aircrew were well trained, in the early years of the conflict they suffered from a paucity of suitable modern carrier-borne fighters. It was not until the advent of a navalised variant of the Hawker Hurricane that it had a fighter of modern performance. By 1941 the first American naval fighters had begun to enter service, these proved most effective. Some 36 pilots achieved five or more victories with the Royal Navy.

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In this issue:

In remembrance.



J T Williams

Next Meeting:

21st February 2011

Future features for your news-letter

I am setting up an archive relating to all aspects of the Channel Dash. We need to seek and conserve documents and photographs relating to 'Operation Fuller'. I should like to create a section on all aspects of military operations within the English Channel covering all the major conflicts. A full coverage of units will give a clear picture to future generations. For those new members who have limited knowledge as regards the above I have listed all those members of No.825 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm who took part in the events of February 12th, 1942. I shall also seek out information relating to the role of German Forces, listing ships both large and small. We have a fairly comprehensive listing of enemy destroyers and coastal craft, and I shall build and enhance this this as far as possible. If you would like to put pen to paper and submit an article then contact the secretary. Remember, this is your news-letter it will provide a forum for members views.

To all our members -
A Happy Christmas and a safe New Year.

No. 825 Squadron Fleet Air Arm

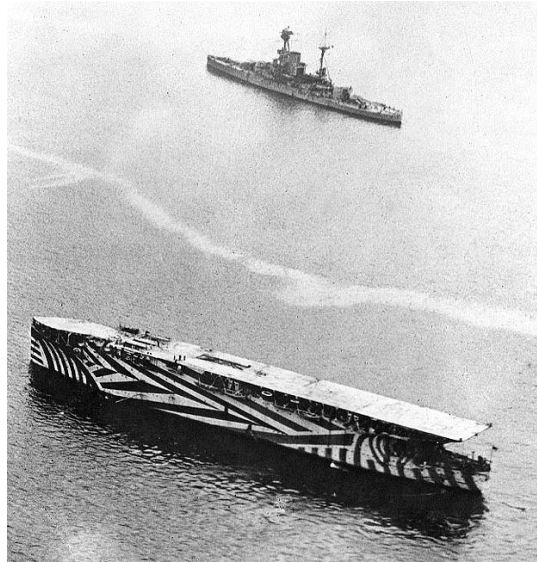
Badge; On a blue field, a Maltese Cross, each arm per pale red and white surmounted by an Eagle rising proper.

Motto: - Nihil Obstat (nothing stops us)

Formed on the 8th October 1934, as a spotter reconnaissance squadron in H.M.S. Eagle.

Served on the following carriers: -

H.M.S. Eagle
H.M.S. Glorious
H.M.S. Furious
H.M.S. Argus
H.M.S. Victorious
H.M.S. Ark Royal
H.M.S. Avenger
H.M.S. Vindex
H.M.S. Campania
H.M.S. Puncher
H.M.C.S. Warrior
H.M.C.S. Magnificent
H.M.C.S. Theseus
H.M.C.S. Ocean
H.M.C.S. Albion
H.M.C.S. Bulwark



H.M.S. Argus



H.M.S. Eagle

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H.M.S. Worcester - 12th February 1942

Class/Type: - Modified W Class Destroyer

Displacement: - 1100 tons.

Compliment: - 134.

Max. Speed: - 34 knots.

Pennant No. D.96

Builder: - White

Date Launched: - 24th October 1919.

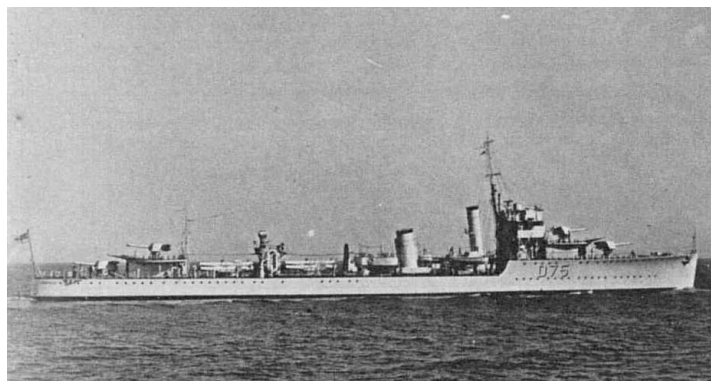
Fate: - Sold 17th September 1946, scrapped Grays, Essex.

Became an accommodation ship in 1944.

“The Battle of the East Coast” (1939 - 1945) By J.P. Foynes 1994

I.S.B.N. 0952155524.

H.M.S. Worcester was hit by eight shells in three minutes, three from the battle cruiser and five from Prinz Eugen. The devastation was frightful. The eight and eleven inch shells tore holes up to ten feet across below the waterline and on the bows and deck. A mast and funnel were shot away, the lower bridge, Wardroom and Radio Room were wrecked. Ammunition lockers amidships exploded and the whole crew of a 12 pounder gun were killed when shells fell on either side of the nearby torpedo tubes. The deck was spattered with blood from end to end, with an arm or a leg lying here and there. The crew losses were 23 dead or missing and 45 wounded. She was later towed to Chatham for repairs.



Casualty List H.M.S. Worcester

Date of Action: - 12th February 1942.

Enemy units: - Gneisnau and Prinz Eugen.

Crew member - Burial list Shotley Cemetery

Able Seaman - Arthur Beg No.P/JX 44619 aged 23 yrs.

Able Seaman - John George Dowel No.P/JX 165585 aged 28 yrs.

Petty Officer Stoker - Frederick F Dondell No.P/KX79522 aged 38 yrs.

Telegraphist - Dennis Victor Gibson No.P/LD/X5104 aged 20 yrs.

Able Seaman - George Grant No.P/SSX29468 aged 24 yrs.

Able Seaman - Walter Charles Hill No.P/JX175343 aged 22 yrs.

Petty Officer Cook - Thomas H. McGee No.P/MX51049 aged 26 yrs.

Leading Telegraphist - Ronald Eric Pearce No.P/SSX31401 aged 20 yrs.

Leading Stoker - Basil Roy Robinson No.P/KX86350 aged 24 yrs.

Telegraphist - Edward E. Ruddick No.P/SSX33409 aged 21 yrs.

Able Seaman - Norman Saunders No.P/SSX33597 aged 19 yrs.

Able Seaman - Eric Hugh Ward No.P/SSX33207 age unknown.

Able Seaman - Charles Edward Galliers No.P/SSX35615 aged 20.

Able Seaman - William John Ilett No.P/JX263974 age unknown.

Petty Officer - Lawrence William Newman No.P/JX136459 aged 26.

*'May their sacrifice
Never be forgotten'*

“We will remember Them”

“What an heroic stage for them to meet their end on. Behind them, their homeland, which they have left with hearts steeled to their purpose, still in view”.

Wilhelm Wolf, Scharnhorst.

Losses: - No.825 Squadron Fleet Air Arm. Operation ‘Fuller’
February 12th 1942

Lt. Comm. Eugene Esmonde. V.C., D.S.O.
Son of John Joseph and Eily Esmonde of Drominagh, County Tipperary,
Irish Republic.
Buried Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery. Grave 187 RC

Lt. William Henry Williams
H.M.S. Daedalus
Buried Aylesham Cemetery
Block 0 Row A Grave 4

Petty Officer William John Clinton - aged 22 yrs.
JX/143258. H.M.S. Daedalus
Buried Ruislip (St. Martin) Churchyard extension.

Sub Lt. Cecil Ralph Wood
Mentioned in Dispatches. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wood, Husband of
Peggy Ernestine Wood.
Bay 3 Panel 1. Lee-on-Solent Memorial.

Assub. Lt. Robert Laurens Parkinson - aged 21 yrs.
Son of Sir John Parkinson, M.D., F.R.C.P. and Lady Parkinson of
Marylebone, London. Bay 3 Panel 1. Lee-on-Solent Memorial.

Leading Airman. Henry Thomas Albert Wheeler - aged 30 yrs.
FAA/FX189404. Son of Henry H. and Emily Wheeler of Southend. Bay 3
Panel 3. Lee-on-Solent Memorial.

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Petty Officer. Ambrose Lawrence Johnson. DSM - aged 22 yrs.
FAA/EFX82042 Bay 3 Panel 2 Lee-on-Solent Memorial.

Sub Lt. Peter Bligh - aged 20 yrs. Bay 4 Panel 2 Lee-on-Solent
Memorial.

Sub Lt. David Robert Beynon. RNVR. - aged 27 yrs.
Mentioned in Dispatches. Bay 3 Panel 7 Lee-on-Solent
Memorial.

Leading Airman. William Granville Smith - aged 22 yrs.
FX79499 Mentioned in Dispatches. Grave 1393. Gillingham
(Woodlands) Cemetery.

Lt. John Chute Thompson - aged 27 yrs. Mentioned in
Dispatches. Bay 3 Panel 1 Lee-on-Solent Memorial.

Sub Lt. Eric Herbert Fuller Wright - aged 22 yrs. Mentioned in
Dispatches. Bay 4 Panel 2 Lee-on-Solent Memorial.

Leading Airman. Ernest Tapping - aged 26 years.
FAA/FX76365. mentioned in Dispatches.

Serial Numbers of Swordfish Aircraft lost on
12th February 1942.

W5984.

W5985.

W5983.

W5978.

W5907.

W4523.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Welcome to our seventh issue of 'The Dash'. We are able to report that the changes resulting from our last AGM of July have now been amended with Companies House (the new amendments of our objectives) to meet the Charity Commission's requirements that were approved on 11th October last, are the final step to allow the CDMT to attain charity status. This will give our fundraising agent the ability to apply to those organisations that can only fund a registered charity. It will allow us to apply for a refund of our VAT on the 825 Sqn. Memorial. In simple terms - we shall be a charity. The planning application has been submitted. Our main objective is to increase our membership and fundraising. Please don't forget that donations (however modest) are eligible subject to the donor being a taxpayer. £10 is worth another £2.80 as well! Have a good Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Jim Williams,
Chairman