

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the HMS RELENTLESS ASSOCIATION held at the UJC London on 27th November 2012

ATTENDEES (with 'Forum users')

Roy 'Bingers' Bingley (64-66)

Bob 'BlackieB' Blackburn (66-68)

John 'Nobbyh' Hall (66-68)

John 'Padre' Mills (64-66)

Steve 'Sam185' Newton (64-66)

Kev 'Anchorman' Perkins (66-68)

John 'Tanky' Towers (64-66)

APOLOGIES

John Kilkelly

Terry Stidston

Ian Mackenzie

Mike Langford

Following an informal get together the previous evening, Steve opened the meeting at 0945 and kicked off a discussion on the way forward into the forming of an HMS RELENTLESS ASSOCIATION.

The options open were the immediate forming of a formal Association with the requisite officers; President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer et al or a less formal version along the lines of the 'Lowestoft Association'

(See Options attached, Page 4)

After much discussion it was decided to adopt the Lowestoft version in the first instance, and for a period of two-years.

Dependent upon membership take-up and subject to the wishes of the members, it was envisaged that we adopt the formal version and elect Officers of the Association at the second Reunion in 2014.

Steve reported on his meeting with Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton KCB (ex CO of Relentless 1966-1967) and was pleased to confirm that as the highest ranked ex-Relentless, Sir Geoffrey had agreed in principle to become Patron of the Association.

In order to move to Association forward:

- Kev Perkins volunteered to continue the provision and service of the HMS RELENTLESS website in his role as WEBMASTER.

- John Mills volunteered to undertake the role of TREASURER and to finance an initial 'Mess Fund' of £200 for miscellaneous expenses such as postage, advertising etc. In addition, as a Presbyterian Minister, John agreed to become the Association's PADRE and to represent the Association at the funeral of any Member of the Association upon Crossing the Bar.

- Steve Newton volunteered to act as SECRETARY.

In the interests of continuity, it was agreed that each of these roles would be for a period of two-years. That is, until 30th November 2014

Having at this stage now become **THE HMS RELENTLESS ASSOCIATION**, the assembled members were dubbed Founder Members.

Following a blessing on our endeavours and of the Association by the Padre, the formation of the Association was toasted in time honoured fashion.

Following further discussions, it was agreed that

A new ASSOCIATION tab would be created on the website to store documents such as this and a new ASSOCIATION main thread would be created on the website Forum to enable all members to discuss the formation of the Association and to elicit ideas etc. Action: Kev

We will advertise the formation of the Association and details of a Reunion in the Navy News, similar RNA and British Legion magazines and other media as was felt necessary. Action: Steve / Padre.

Nobby is endeavouring to create a crew list for the 66-68 commission and all attendees at the meeting agreed to create similar lists from their time on HMS RELENTLESS. When created, they should be sent to Steve for inclusion in the Crew List section of the website's History page.

Separately, Tanky has a list of about 50 names he has put together. He will contact them by telephone or letter to draw their attention to the website and invite them to write to the Secretary to become Members.

The Secretary will create a Membership Form to send to everyone – including current members – to collate names and contact details to create an Association Membership List. This list will only be available to registered Members and will not be divulged to third-parties.

Quite some time was spent discussing the logistics of our first Reunion although it was quickly agreed that the **Reunion** would take place on **Saturday 30th November 2013**.

This date is significant in the history of HMS RELENTLESS in that it was the date of the first commissioning in 1942 and it was felt appropriate to our first reunion.

Furthermore, as the 1940s and 1950s commissions were primarily drawn from Royal Naval Barracks Chatham, it would be appropriate to also hold the first reunion in Chatham.

The role of Reunion Organiser was briefly discussed but as no volunteers were forthcoming at this time, Kev volunteered to contact Ian Mac to discuss reunion logistics.

Whilst it is anticipated that everyone will chip in to progress the reunion plans, a prime contact for organising the event WILL be needed. Anyone who wishes to volunteer their services, please contact the Secretary.

In the interim, a variety of destinations were bandied about to which Members might like to make Day Trips to: Chatham Dockyard, HMS Ganges, HMS Raleigh etc. Anyone with an interest in organising such an event please post some information on the Forum

On the subject of Association blazer badges, ties and other HMS RELENTLESS related slops, Bingers volunteered to investigate the provision of these types of item and become the Association's Pusser.

The Secretary thanked everyone for attending this Inaugural meeting of the HMS RELENTLESS ASSOCIATION and the Founder Members thanked Tanky for kicking off the original idea for the Association and to Kev for his sterling work creating and running the Website which has become the catalyst for the forming of the Association.

In response, Kev thanked Steve for the great work he is doing on the history of HMS RELENTLESS and the frequent updates from the logs that he puts in the forum. In addition, he also thanked him for accepting the office of Secretary and that it is up to us to do all we can to help him.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at ~~tot time~~ 1145...

Steve Newton

Secretary of the HMS RELENTLESS ASSOCIATION

27th November 2012

.../Options attachment

TYPICAL ASSOCIATION

Board of the Association

PRESIDENT - *Non-executive Honorary role*

CHAIRMAN - Executive role)

SECRETARY - Executive role) Minimum

TREASURER - Executive role)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - Executive Role

WELFARE SECRETARY - Executive Role

PUBLICITY & LIAISON OFFICER - Executive Role

WEBMASTER - Non-executive role

PADRE - Non-executive role

Board Meetings

- Quarterly
- Any member may attend
- Quorum – 3 executive Board Members

Membership

FOUNDER MEMBER (vote) - Any person who served onboard HMS RELENTLESS in whatever capacity AND who was present at the Inaugural Meeting of the Association (this meeting)

FULL MEMBER (vote) - Any person who served onboard HMS RELENTLESS in whatever capacity (proof required)

ASSOCIATE MEMBER (no vote) - Any family member of someone who served on HMS Relentless in whatever capacity (proof required), OR Any past or present member of the Royal Navy or Royal Marines who served on an 'R' Class destroyer or Type 15 frigate (proof required)

HONORARY MEMBER (no vote) - Any person not meeting the above criteria above but who has performed a service to, or on behalf of, HMS Relentless or the Association and who, in the view of the Committee is deemed eligible.

MEMBERSHIP FEE (for instance)

FOUNDER /FULL Member - £12 per year

ASSOCIATE member - £8 per year

'LOWESTOFT' ASSOCIATION (with thanks to Ian Mackenzie)

We haven't got charitable status as we didn't think it necessary.

We decided via a forum poll to keep everything simple and not to bother with committee's etc. as basically all that need organising is the annual reunion.

We are a non-fee paying organisation and do all our business online via the forum and email a monthly newsletter to all members (THE LOWDOWN).

We leave our status open to review and invite any member to give us their views via a topic on the forum. As far as associations go we have found that the 20% rule seems to apply to most things. Around 20% of members are 'active' on the forum and attend the annual reunion. As forums are not everyone's cup of tea, some appear to have little interest after registering but they all get the monthly newsletter.

We have a Webmaster, Administrator and moderator and we manually validate new registrations on the forum, obtaining new members names, years on board and branch.

We have a volunteer reunion organiser who gets all the help he wants from members and it seems to work fine. Everyone pays for the reunion direct to the hotel.

We also have slops providers who members deal directly with if they want ties/badges.

We purchased our own forum software and fund our server rental from the reunion raffle and have no wish to hold more than a few quid in the mess funds for any minor expenses. We let everyone know what we have in the kitty annually via the forum.

The 'Pussers rum' for the reunion tot time was donated by a couple of our members.

About 2,500 matelot's passed through the Lowie during her 24 years active life and have now found almost 300. If you take into account those who are no longer with us, those not interested or do not have a PC and many who already belong to other associations I don't think we will get very many more but we average 4 - 10 joiners every month. Our thinking is that a membership fee will only put people off from registering with us.

We have a few ex-officer' including 3 former CO's, an Admiral and 2 Captains. At last year's reunion (our first) we had 2 full Admirals present (one of which is sadly no longer with us) this year we have one Admiral and a Captain joining us.

Everyone appears to be happy with our set up and want to keep thing "loose limbed and happy", just like Jack. Our associations aim is simply to reunite old oppo's and foster the friendship off all ex-Lowies via the forum, newsletter and annual reunions.

The **LOWESTOFT** demographics suggest they had 2,500 passing through the ship.

By contrast, the **RELENTLESS** demographics are as follows:

Assume there was a TOTAL refreshment of complement every 2 years

42/43 - 175

44/45 - 175

51/52/53 - 180

53/54/55 - 180

64/65/66 - 180

66/67/68 - 180

Top number 1070 +10% - **1180**

End of 40s commission

The youngest rating of 17 is now 84. Assume the oldest was 35, is now 102
Of 350, maybe **100** are still alive (~30%)

End of 50s commission

The youngest rating of 17 is now 74. Assume the oldest was 35, is now 92
Of 360, maybe **210** are still alive (~60%)

End of 60s commission

The youngest rating of 17 is now 61. Assume the oldest was 35, is now 79
Of 360, maybe **290** are still alive (~80%)

Approx 600 still alive – versus >2000 on Lowie...

Computer aware / informative
360 (~60%)

Other media
240 (~40%)

Sign up to Relentless website
75 (~20%)

Respond to 'other media' info
50 (~20%)

Total interested
125

Attend Reunion
65 ~50% of interested, ~5% of total complement
25 ~20% of interested, ~2% of total complement

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