



Order of Service

used in asking the

Blessing of Almighty God

upon

Her Majesty's Ship Albion

conducted by

The Reverend A. C. Atkin, B.A., R.N.

Chaplain of the Ship

and

The Reverend John C. Creber

Church of Scotland and Free Churches Chaplain

with prayers for Roman Catholics

conducted by

The Reverend Father B. S. O'Connor

in the presence of

The Commandant General, Royal Marines

General Sir Malcolm Cartwright-Taylor, K.C.B.

at Portsmouth

11-30 a.m. 20th November, 1964

The Ship's Company and their Guests are asked to be seated in the Hangar by 1115 (caps off). The Commandant-General, Royal Marines will arrive at this time and inspect the Guard and Band on the Quarter-deck before proceeding to the Hangar for the Service.

Order of Service

(The congregation all standing)

The Captain addresses the Ship's Company in these words:

Brothers, seeing that in the course of our duty we are set in the midst of many and great dangers, and that we cannot be faithful to the high trust placed in us without the help of Almighty God, let us unite our prayers in seeking His blessing upon this ship and all who serve in her, that she may sail under God's good providence and protection, and that there may never be lacking men well qualified to offer in her their work and skill for his greater glory, and for the protection of our realm and dominions.

The Captain then calls on the Ship's Company to ask for God's Blessing on the ship using the ancient call of The Gaelic Blessing (1589)

The Captain: I call on you to pray for God's Blessing on this ship. May God the Father
bleſs her.

The Ship's Company: Bless our ship.

The Captain: May Jesus Christ bless her.

The Ship's Company: Bless our ship.

The Captain: May the Holy Spirit bless her.

The Ship's Company: Bless our ship.

The Captain: What do ye fear, seeing that God the Father is with you?

The Ship's Company: We fear nothing.

The Captain: What do ye fear, seeing that God the Son is with you?

The Ship's Company: We fear nothing.

The Captain: What do ye fear, seeing that God the Holy Spirit is with you?

The Ship's Company: We fear nothing.

The Roman Catholics will then fall out (proceeding to the Quarter-deck for further prayers)

The Service will continue with Hymn 426:

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us,
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but Thee;
Yet possessing every blessing
If our God our Father be.

Saviour! breathe forgiveness o'er us,
All our weakness Thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Lone and dreary, faint and weary,
Through the desert Thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.

THE LESSON

(The congregation all sitting)

JOSHUA 1, verses 6 - 9

Be strong and of good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth: but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage: be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

THE BLESSING

The Chaplain: Let us pray. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

The Ship's Company: Who hath made heaven and earth.

The Chaplain: The Lord be with you.

The Ship's Company: And with thy Spirit.

The Chaplain:

O Thou that sittest above the water floods and stillest the raging of the sea, accept we beseech Thee, the supplications of Thy servants for all who in this ship, now or hereafter, shall commit their lives to the perils of the deep. In all their ways enable them truly and godly to serve Thee, and by their Christian lives to set forth Thy glory throughout the earth. Watch over them in their going forth and in their coming in, that no evil befall them, nor mischief come nigh to hurt their souls. And so through the waves of this troublesome world, and through the changes and chances of this mortal life, bring them of Thy mercy to the sure haven of Thine everlasting Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, for the sake of His Son, through the comfort of the Holy Spirit, save and sanctify you, and carry you on with favouring winds and comfort over the sea and into harbour, according to His own good will: which thing we desire from him saying:

Then shall all say together the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses. As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation: But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Chaplain pronounces this blessing on the ship:

O Lord God Almighty, who blesseth those who put their trust in Thee, let Thy blessing be upon this ship, and upon all those who serve and sail in her; may good success and Thy protection and the guardianship of the Holy Angels be with them always. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

THE PRAYERS

Church of Scotland and Free Churches Chaplain

Let us pray that we may uphold the best traditions of the Royal Navy:

Almighty and Everlasting God, the creator and upholder of men, who hast in every age inspired Thy servants with courage and skill, we give Thee hearty thanks for the example of those who have gone before us and into whose heritage we have entered; for the seamen of our races; for all who in great or small ships have braved the perils of the deep; for all who have given their lives for their country.

And for ourselves, grant, O Lord, that amid the changing scenes of life that we may ever be conscious of Thy ruling hand. Enable us that we may be found watchful at our posts. Lead us that we pursue knowledge with humility. Send us forth to adventure with sober courage. Move our hearts so that we may ever be mindful one of another, sharing our joys and griefs in the work which Thou hast given us to do. Then rest us, Lord, in Thy love and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A prayer for our families:

We thank Thee, O God, that Thou art in every place, and that neither space nor distance can ever separate us from Thee, that those who are absent from each other are still present with Thee. Have in Thy holy keeping those we love, and from whom we shall be separated during this commission, and grant that both they and we, by drawing nearer to Thee, may be drawn nearer to one another in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn 540 (three verses only):

(The congregation all standing)

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep,
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

Strong Son of Man save those who fly
Swift winged across the boundless sky,
Divinely guard them day and night,
Each dangerous hour, each lonely night:
O'er land and ocean safely bear
All those whose task is in the air.

O Trinity of love and power,
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them whereso'er they go:
And ever let there rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Chaplain: Let us pray. (Congregation remain standing.)

The Naval Prayer said by all together, led by the Chaplain:

O Eternal Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens, and rulest the raging of the sea; who has compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end; be pleased to receive into Thy Almighty and most gracious protection the persons of us Thy servants, and the Fleet in which we serve. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea, and from the violence of the enemy; that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth and her Dominions, and a security for such as pass on the sea upon their lawful occasions; that the peoples of our Commonwealth may in peace and quietness serve Thee our God; and that we may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land, with the fruits of our labours, and with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies to praise and glorify Thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Chaplain pronounces the Blessing as follows:

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render no man evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all men; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

The Roman Catholics return

The Commissioning Warrant

(the congregation standing, caps off)

To: Captain J. H. Adams, M.V.O., Royal Navy.

The Admiralty Board, on behalf of the Defence Council, having directed that Her Majesty's Ship ALBION, is to be recommissioned at Portsmouth on Thursday, the fourteenth day of May, 1964, or as soon afterwards as circumstances permit, you are to proceed forthwith to commission her for Home Sea Service and Foreign Service on the Far East Station.

From the date of commissioning, Her Majesty's Ship ALBION will be under my full command. You are to bring to my immediate notice and to the notice of the appropriate local authority, anything which gives you cause for dissatisfaction with the ship or any part of her and with any other matters of importance, in particular those relating to the welfare of the Ship's Company.

Given under my hand this eighth day of May, 1964.

(signed)

SIR NIGEL STUART HENDERSON

Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Officer of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Admiral in Her Majesty's Fleet and Commander-in-Chief, Plymouth Command.

Then shall be sung by all the first verse of the National Anthem.

(During this the Ensign will be hoisted at the after end of the ship, and the Commissioning Pendant will be broken out. The congregation cannot actually witness these events as they occur on the Flight Deck.)

After the National Anthem the Ship's Company and their Guests are requested to sit.

The Captain will then welcome the Commandant-General, Royal Marines and invite him to give a short address.

After the address the Commandant-General and Captain will leave the hangar, and guests are invited to move back to "B" Hangar where a buffet lunch will be served.

The Commandant-General will leave the ship at about 1430; and all guests are requested to be clear of the ship by 1510.