



H.M.S. Daring D05 Association

C/o 22 Coronation Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7JY

Telephone 01983 291673

Email hmsdaring_d05@yahoo.co.uk



Reunion Saturday 10th July 2010

Hi Shipmates,

At long last after a great deal of dithering about possible venues and bearing in mind the TV slogan "Location, Location, Location" it has been decided that the next ships reunion will be on Saturday 10th July 2010 at:-

The White Hart Inn, Calne, Wiltshire. SN11 0AB. Tel 01249 812413

It is an Old World type place and is located quite close to Junction 14 off the M4. The White Hart has 12/13 double room's, some of which can be arranged to sleep three. The cost of a double room is £45 for B&B, (reduced from £75). Hopefully we can fill all the room's.

A Saturday evening carvery will be arranged for us at £6 a head and we can all sit down together.

The owner is aware that we will be arriving and leaving at different time's and day's Friday through Sunday. If we get a really good turn-out, the owner will arrange for overflow room's at another hotel close-by (couple of minute's walk), at comparable rate's.

There is an outside courtyard where we can hold our usual Saturday evening do and in the event of bad weather there is a private room. When booking say you are for the "Daring reunion" For those in the North, this new venue should reduce the traveling time by at least an hour. The traveling time should stay about the same for those in the South and South East and just increase a little for those in the South West.

My usual request, please let me know if you intend to come to the reunion, either by email or phone, otherwise I am in the dark about numbers.

In Memoriam H.M.S. Daring H16. We will remember them.

The 18th February will mark the 70th anniversary of the torpedoing of HMS DARING H16. She sank 30 miles NE of Duncansby Head, Scotland whilst on convoy escort, with the loss of Commander S. A. Cooper who went down with the ship as did eight other officers and 148 ratings, there were only five survivors.



I was the Youngest Survivor of the Daring

The destroyer "Daring" was the sixth British destroyer to be lost since the War began, and the first definitely known to have been torpedoed. The tragic story of her sinking as told by one of the very few survivors. Only five members of the crew of 162 on board the destroyer "Daring", which was torpedoed early on Sunday morning, February 18th 1940, have returned home to tell the tale.

The youngest of these survivors, Able-Seaman William Edward Woodnut, who lives in Plumstead High Street, London, told a representative of The War Illustrated that he would never forget the experience. Called up at the age of 20 in October 1939, he was posted to the "Daring" after two and a half months training.

I was at one of the gun stations on the middle watch looking forward to the time when very shortly I should be in my hammock, when suddenly there was a terrific explosion. The ship broke in half. I was thrown to the deck and saw the funnel falling towards me. Luckily it hit the gun and bounced over into the water. Then I went down with the ship as there was a second explosion. I remember rising to the surface to find the sea covered with oil. An air-lock beneath my oilskins enabled me to keep afloat, and I swam round until I came across two seamen clinging to a Carley float.

One of them clambered aboard and pulled me and the other man up. It was dark, and we could hear the shouts of other men, but could not see them. The stern of the destroyer had returned to the surface, and I understand that one man clung to the propeller until he was picked up by a destroyer's boat. After a time a lieutenant of the 'Daring' swam towards us and calmly asked if he could board us. We pulled him on to the float. He then described how with a splintered oar and bits of wood they paddled away from the wreck, which disappeared after about half an hour.

"We saw what we took to be a submarine," he went on. "Thinking it was British, we shouted as hard as we could. Then it occurred to us it might be the U-boat that had torpedoed us. We did not want to be picked up by them, so we stopped shouting, and the submarine disappeared."

For hours they paddled about, clinging to the float, so that the heavy swell should not throw them overboard. They sang songs and cheered themselves with the thought that they would be entitled to fourteen days' leave. When daylight came there was not a sign of the wreck, of other survivors or of any ship that could rescue them. They were bitterly cold, for sleet had fallen during the hours they had been adrift.

Eventually a destroyer came into view, and they tried to attract its attention. It stopped about a mile away. Then it began to move away. "Our hopes dropped," he said. "Then apparently we were sighted and they approached." He was in an exhausted condition when at length he was taken aboard the destroyer. Two days later he was landed in a Scottish port and received such attention that he concluded that "the Scots are the kindest people on earth."

When the Daring was torpedoed by U-boat ace Otto Kretschmer's U-23 she was one of four destroyers escorting the homeward bound convoy HN.12. from Norway. In the early hours of February 18, about 40 miles off Duncansby Head, Scotland, U-23 sighted the convoy, but while still on the surface became trapped between the two port-side escorts. To escape she attacked the stern destroyer, HMS Daring. Apparently Daring's "darken ship" screens were inadequate, which allowed U-23 to easily target her. Two torpedoes were fired and at least one of them hit Daring and caused a secondary explosion which broke the vessel in half. She sank in two minutes.

There is also a report that the survivors were rescued the submarine "HMS Thistle" which only serves to confuse the history and it was initially reported that Daring was sunk by a mine because the Admiralty did not want to admit that U boats could operate in the North Sea.

HMS Daring D32 (Notes by the author)

For those of you who may not have seen the newspaper reports the new HMS Daring has been having more than its fair share of negative publicity. This time the trouble appears to be with the new Anglo - French "Sea Viper" missile system. After the first largely successful firing of two missiles (unguided) from a moored barge in the summer which were termed "proof of concept", the latest test firings have been a failure. This is now putting the "in service" operational date back yet again and there is talk of installing a Phalanx system as a stop gap measure.

The CEC system which is supposed to integrate the ships sensors with those of the new carriers has not yet been ordered yet alone become operational. (Strange when you think that the ADA radar we had on the old "Eagle" was giving a 3D picture of the air, sea and underwater threats and could transmit the sitraps to the fleet.).

The whole sorry mess sounds very familiar. HMS Bristol was designed as a new class of carrier protection destroyer in the 70's, then the carriers were cancelled and the "Bristol" class and her hi-tec communication system was quietly forgotten. Nelson must be in tears!

Another Shipmate found!

I am pleased to announce that Dave Axfor's website has found another Daring "lost" sheep. This time it's L/s John "Goody" Goodhew ex Quartermaster and watchkeeper. This means that as we now have a full set of Quartermasters we will be going into four watches and from now on you will all need Station Cards to go ashore.

Goody did his time, is married and lives in the Pompey area. I for one will look forward to him filling in a few gaps. Welcome back Goody!!

Daring Fleece Jackets

Father Christmas bought me a very nice full zip medium weight fleece jacket with "our" Darings embroidered ships crest. If you fancy one the company advertise in the Navy News and have a website at www.navyleisurewear.com. I thought the phone code 01983 291744 looked familiar and find it's a long established business in Cowes. It's kept me warm for the recent cold snap.

End Piece

Well that's it for another newsletter, sorry for the lateness in getting the information out to you, I hope you will support the new reunion venue. We have tried to address the "southern" bias and ensure we can all stay at the same location which have caused past problems. My thanks to Mike Starkey for his hard work in researching suitable venues