



L-R: Budge Adams, Anders Petterøe, Jennifer Gerrard, Robert Adams, Finn-Christian Stumoen, Leo Wright, Sheila Cope, Margery Wright, "Scottie" Stumoen, John Gerrard, Jack Woolford.

Norwegian Friends here again — E.L.W.

On Midsummer's Day, 21 June (St. John's Day – "Hans" in Norway, where they make big celebrations, because summer is so short) there was an exceptionally warm-hearted and celebratory small gathering at the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club.

It was the second sequel to Budge Adams' suggestios (Dec. 1994 Newsletter) that in 1995, as part of remembering 50 years ago, the Dover Society should in some way mark the friendliness and generosity of the Norwegians who served with the M.L.s here from 1942 to 1945.

The first sequel was when Budge took eight certificates of Honorary Life Membership of the Society (beautifully printed and framed) and presented them, with Society badges, in Bergen, to Odd Fossum, Per Louis Rønes, Karl O. Bergsvik, Ragnvald Haugen, Mrs Edith Sjøstrand¹, Arthur Johnsen, Karsten O. Moldjord and Finn-Christian Stumoen² on Saturday, 10 June (as near as possible to the 8th, the day of cessation of hostilities of World War II).

It was with the greatest pleasure that we learnt that Finn-Chr. Stumoen and his wife "Scottie" and Anders Petterøe (an historian writing the story of the 52nd [Norwegian] Flotilla) would be coming to Dover for "Hans". Budge and our Chairman and five Committee members entertained them to lunch at the R.C.P.Y. Club. It was a real summer's day, the harbour was looking its

best and our guests were fascinated by the sight of the Coastguard Station, the Harbour Board control station on the Eastern Arm, and the shipping lanes in the Channel. Modern progress.

Finn-Christian made a short speech of greeting, thanks and happy memories in English, such as extremely few Englishmen could make in any language other than their own.

By great good luck it was the day of the Dover District Council Garden Party in Kearsney Abbey and through the good offices of Councillor "Bill" Newman – a member of the Society – an invitation quickly materialised, so that was the next port of call. It was most fitting that our Mayor and Councillors, while remembering the wartime service of our guests should also again express our gratitude for the Christmas Trees which have brightened our last six Christmases, brought to Dover and presented by Finn-Christian Stumoen. This visit was a real European occasion: hands across the sea.

¹ Olav Sjøstrand died a little while ago and his certificate was presented to his Scottish born widow, Edith.

Ragnvald Haugen died on 10 July 1995.

² All, except the last named, live and have always lived, on the heavily indented coastline between Bergen and Trondheim. Until quite recently all journeys along the coastline were, of necessity, made by boat.