



A Very Notable Occasion

Two friends, FINN-CHRISTIAN STUMOEN and 'BUDGE' ADAMS, unite in recording the commemoration, on Saturday, 23rd May, 1998, of the happy friendship that existed between the Royal Norwegian Navy and Doverians during the years 1940-45.

FINN-CHRISTIAN writes, *verbatim* (almost)

“Four members of the Norwegian War Veterans Association came to Dover to attend the unveiling of a plaque, placed on the water front, surrounded by a flower bed formed like the Norwegian flag in colours. Very impressive.

The members of the party were

Commodore Øivind Schou, Commander Hakon Lunde,

Lt-Commander Per Danielsen DSC (two bars) and

Lt-Commander Finn-Christian Stumoen, DSM.

After a short remembrance time in silence for our lost friends, the Vicar of St. Mary's blessed the ground and I said a few words. We then walked to the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club, where drinks and canapés were served.

Commodore Øivind Schou spoke very interestingly about the early days of co-operation with the Royal Navy and presented a model of a Viking ship to the Chairman of the Dover District Council. I include a copy of a letter from our Chief of Staff. Later in the evening we watched some spectacular fireworks”.

BUDGE ADAMS continues:

At the reception Commodore Øivind Schou wittily outlined the Norwegian sailors' activities in the early days of the war and thanked Councillor Bill Newman, Chairman of the District Council, for the part he had played in initiating the whole affair and turning an idea into reality. Councillor Newman's reply was also witty and at times quite humorous.

FINN-CHRISTIAN asked if the *Newsletter* could print the letter of thanks from the Chief of Staff of the Royal Norwegian Navy in reply to the District Council's invitation to the Dedication ceremony and, as Councillor Newman raised no objection, here it is:-

To the Chairman of Dover District Council

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Norwegian Naval Veteran Association I am grateful for the invitation to Dover Seafront on 23rd May at 5.30 pm in connection with the Memorial plaque, followed by a reception at the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club...

Four members of the Norwegian Naval Veteran Association whereof three served in Dover during the war, will attend.

I have learned that the connection between the Norwegian 52nd Minelaying Flotilla and Dover District Council is still flourishing.

Your kind gesture in setting up a memorial stone in the town, and now a plaque at the water front is much appreciated.



I therefore would like to present the Dover District Council with a remembrance of times gone by. Commodore Øivind Schou has accepted to represent me at the occasion.

I wish you all the best with the occasion.

Yours sincerely,

HANS K. SVENSHOLT,

REAR ADMIRAL, R.N.N.

FINN-CHRISTIAN continued: It is difficult to mention names... but Donna Sowerby, Denise Ryeland, Bill Newman and J. P. Moir I have had close contact with. Great thanks also to everyone in Dover District Council. I'd like to quote what Hakon Lunde, M.P. said when we arrived home. "I cannot remember to have had such a good tour before".

PREPARING for the MILLENNIUM

*by Donna Sowerby,
Arts & Events Manager
for Dover District Council*

THE YEAR 2000 OFFERS AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY for individuals and organisations to join together and share in a 'once in a lifetime' worldwide celebration. Moreover, as the new Millennium approaches, there is also the potential to shape the future, developing new policies and programmes. The District Council has developed this mission statement for the Millennium: *"The year 2000 offers the unique opportunity for local communities to be a part of this worldwide festival which will aim to unite and inspire people all over the District in celebration of the Millennium"*

The national theme 'Time to Make a Difference' has been adopted by the Government and is aimed at providing a focus for regional and local themes.

The Millennium Commission is offering local authorities many opportunities for greater community

involvement through a range of activities and celebrations, as well as providing financial support through award schemes and grant funding programmes. So far, £1.7 billion has been awarded by the Millennium Commission to community based projects

VISION 2000 a new millennium



DOVER DISTRICT