

# Zeebrugge Day

*Alan Lee*

April 23rd, St. George's Day, saw the annual commemoration of the daring Zeebrugge raid in 1918. Although the military value has sometimes been questioned over the years, the heroism of those taking part never has. The occasional drizzle did not detract from the moving ceremonies both at the memorial service and at the Town Hall for the ringing of the Zeebrugge Bell.

After the completion of the formalities we entered the Dover Town Council offices for tea and coffee. Here my daughter Denise noticed one of the original Olympic torches that had taken the flame from Dover to London in 1948. We had a most interesting chat with the owner who turned out to be an ex Royal Marine from Deal. He had been selected as a torch bearer whilst still serving abroad. His leg of the relay, about 2 miles in those days, was near Barham at night.



In 1947 it was known as the austerity games; the competing countries even donated food. The relay was much simpler - straight from Dover to London not like this year's over hyped, over commercialised long-winded trip around the whole of the

British Isles.

Talking with the old veterans was a most interesting and eye opening experience, especially for Denise.



*1948 Olympic Torch*



*Zeebrugge Bell*

