

The Affray Submarine Memorial Trust

Progress Update No. 3

We have some excellent progress to report this month. Firstly, the good news is that the casting of the bronze plaque is now complete. It will be shipped from the casting foundry in Sheffield in the coming days and it will then arrive to the stonemason in Guernsey, who will attach it to the stone block that will form the memorial. The stone itself is made from Portuguese blue granite, it will stand about 5'-9" high and weigh more than 6 tons. It will occupy a prominent public place at a roadside location, overlooking the sea where the Affray now lies. Every passing motorist or pedestrian will not fail to notice it.



The plaque at the casting foundry, ready for shipping to the Channel Islands

Much progress has been made in finalising the construction of the Affray Memorial. Already we have, for example:

- Prepared a structural report on the Memorial as a requirement of the Planning Permission,
- Completed the casting the bronze plaque and arranged shipment to Guernsey,
- Consulted with the States of Alderney for a road closure order during the unveiling ceremony,
- Arranged for vegetation clearance around the area where the monument will be erected,
- Planned the arrangements to ship the stone plinth for the memorial from Guernsey to Alderney,
- Organised sightseeing trips for “rest day” activities on Sunday 15th and Monday 16th April 2012,
- Booked tables in local restaurants for evening meals, for those who have requested them,
- Discussed with TV & Radio media, for news broadcasts on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th April 2012,
- Coordinated local hotel bookings, for those who have requested them,
- Arranging advertising and distribution of publicity leaflets,
- Ordered the manufacture of a stainless steel box for the “Time Capsule”,
- Ordered a full size “White Ensign” Royal Navy flag for the unveiling of the memorial.

During the course of next month, we intend to carry out the following:

- Import the granite block from Portugal to Guernsey for the stonemason making the plinth,
- Relocating of two public benches near to Douglas Quay, to make space for the memorial,
- Excavate and complete the concrete foundations for the stone plinth,
- The stonemason on Guernsey will start cutting and carving the stone plinth,
- Improvements will be carried out to the footpath surfacing, where the monument will be displayed,
- Arranging for newspaper photographers and reporters to cover the events,

The BBC News team will be in attendance on Monday 16th April to record the proceedings in Alderney and this report will be shown on the Monday evening TV news. The BBC radio team will also broadcast a live interview, which will be aired locally in the Channel Islands. The Alderney branch of the Royal British Legion is also participating and they will be providing standard bearers, as well as coordinating the delivery of the wreaths and assisting with placing them at the memorial.

The memorial unveiling is of course an outdoor event, but the weather should be mild in mid-April and the adjacent Braye Beach Hotel is literally only a few yards away from the location of the memorial. We have hired the use of the hotel bar lounge and the outdoor sun deck, which will be available to our Affray friends. Complimentary drinks and light refreshments will also be available to Affray guests, including a tot of genuine Navy rum for the toasts! The anticipated number of guests invited to the unveiling ceremony has now exceeded 100 persons, but there is still room for more! Any relatives, dependents or friends of the Affray are all very welcome to attend the unveiling ceremony. Please get in touch with Martin (e-mail address below), if you are interested in participating, or you would like a copy of the proposed itinerary. Advice on the availability of public transport options from the UK mainland and hotel accommodation in Alderney is also available if required.

The date for placing the “Time Capsule” into the foundations of the memorial has been brought forward to Thursday 12th April 2012, instead of Sunday 15th April, as previously announced. This is because of the logistics of getting the stone block to Alderney in time for the completion of the

memorial before the unveiling on Monday 16th April. Please therefore contact Martin Allen at martinallen01@hotmail.com in order to discuss arrangements for submitting any copies of items for inclusion in the capsule.

The Trust has now applied for membership of the “Association of Guernsey Charities”, an organisation which raises donations and provides grants for local charities in Guernsey and Alderney. When our membership is accepted, we will be eligible for grants in the future. We have agreed with the local Royal British Legion branch in Alderney, that poppy wreaths will be laid at the Affray memorial on every anniversary of the sinking on 16th April and also on Remembrance Sunday every year. Hopefully, any future grants will help to pay for these costs.

The Trust is registered as a Charity in Guernsey, Channel Islands and the charity registration number is CH389. Donations towards the initial cost and permanent upkeep of the memorial are very welcome and may be sent from any branch of the NatWest in the UK direct to: NatWest Bank, account number 74320025, sort code 60-09-20. To avoid any possible bank transfer charges, cheques may also be sent by post to: Alderney Trustees Limited, The Old Presbytery, Les Rocquettes, Alderney, Channel Islands, GY9 3TF. Cheques should be made payable to “Affray Submarine Memorial Trust”.

Martin Allen, Volunteer Secretary of the Affray Submarine Memorial Trust