

HMS DARING

Newsletter

April 2017



Images:

Top:

HMS DARING berthed in Haifa.

Bottom:

The ship's company spell out "NAVY" in support of the Navy rugby team.

A shorter edition of the DARING newsletter this month, but expect a final edition after we leave our final port stop – a few days before homecoming!



A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN:

We are now very much on the way home, with our return to Portsmouth just a couple of weeks away. However, there is still lots to do with a busy programme to deliver in a very different environment from the where we have been operating for the bulk of the deployment. Having transited through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean, DARING has now sailed through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus into the Black Sea. Here she will be conducting exercises and port visits with Romania and Bulgaria. By the time you read this we will also have hosted a Royal visit, by our sponsor, Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex. The advanced leave party have already returned to the UK, and are enjoying some well earned rest, ready to return to duty and to allow the rest of the Ship's Company leave from the 12th May. As ever I am grateful for your support to our sailors in these last few busy weeks before homecoming.

Marcus Hember
Commander Royal Navy
Commanding Officer



OP KIPION handover...

Earlier in the month HMS MONMOUTH sailed into the Gulf of Aiden ready to relieve HMS DARING of her operational responsibilities in the KIPION Joint Operations Area (JOA).

DARING's OP KIPION deployment has been busy and varied with Maritime Security Operations, Boarding Operations, and a range of high profile Defence Engagement activities. In the eighth month of a nine month deployment, it is time for DARING to begin the journey home, and the handover with MONMOUTH is a significant stepping stone towards our homecoming next month.

During the Handover itself, the two ships exchanged key personnel for the day to ensure that the regional knowledge and expertise developed during DARING's deployment has been passed on to her successor. MONMOUTH, a Plymouth based Type 23 Frigate, will be operating in the region for the next few months of her nine month deployment.

On completion of the handover, the two Warships conducted a traditional, naval '*high five*'. This involved a sail past with all available hands mustered on the Upper Decks to spray their opposite numbers with the Ships' hoses, and to cheer and wave – sadly MONMOUTH choose to steer well clear of the superior range of DARING's hoses.

Handover complete, the Type 23 Frigate has now become the UK's primary maritime presence in the Region equipped for tasks including Maritime Security Operations, Defence Engagement and Disaster Relief.

The handover marks a significant point in our deployment and let us look towards transiting the Suez back into the Mediterranean for our last few weeks of work before we can return to Portsmouth. We send all our best wishes to the crew of HMS MONMOUTH as they assume this important role.

Images:

Top left:

DARING fires her hoses towards MONMOUTH

Top right:

Monmouth returns fire

Army Navy Match:

The crew of HMS DARING have been doing their bit to show support for the upcoming 100th Army Navy Match to be held at Twickenham on Saturday 29th April.

We have now completed the "Road to Twickenham" – covering 1100 miles by running, rowing, and cycling (in fact the Ship's Company have covered nearly twice that distance by bike alone). We have also gathered on the flight deck for the phot featured on the front page of the newsletter.

Most importantly two members of the ship's company will be representing the Navy on the day: AB Davies and ET Griggs. The ship's company will be watching the match together in the hangar.

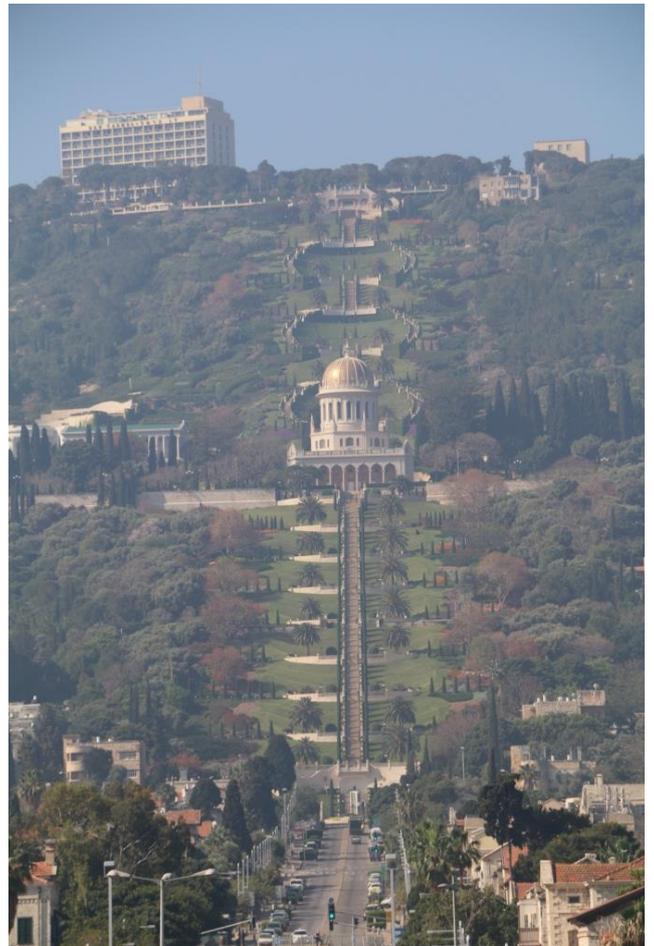


DARING visits Haifa...

After transiting through the Suez Canal HMS DARING made her first Mediterranean stop of the year – the port of Haifa in Northern Israel. Escaping the already stifling heat of the Red Sea we were greeted by slightly milder temperatures, ideal for a busy few days of exploring as we enjoyed a well earned N1 stop.

For most of the Ship's Company this was their first time in Israel and tours were organised to take the Ship's Company to Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Masada, and Mount Carmel.

In Haifa itself DARING was berthed looking straight up Mount Carmel towards the Bahia Temple that dominates the landscape, and only a few minutes walk from the German Colony with lots of restaurants (and a MacDonald's!). Haifa is a major port for the Israeli Navy and we were able to host many of their sailors and show off our ship. DARING also took to the sports pitch – playing rugby matches against the Haifa Wild Boars. Both the men's and women's teams won their matches; and afterwards the Boars hosted the Ship's Company for drinks back in the town.



Images:

Top: The Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem

Bottom left: The men's team in action

Bottom right: Ship's company in the streets of the Old City, Jerusalem

Left: The Bahia Temple, Haifa

Bottom middle: The women's teams



