

# DOVER MARINE STATION

and

JOHN GERRARD

## *The Great War's Unknown Warrior*

The Society has recently been most fortunate in receiving a number of rare and interesting books from our newest Vice-President, Lady Mary Jarrett.. widow of Sir Clifford.

One particular book that has taken my attention is a history of Dover during the Great War, written by J. B. Firth for Leney's Brewery.

In the last chapter there is an interesting analysis of troop and other movements through the Marine Station during this critical period in our history, the main elements of which are as follows:

Number of special trains run	101,872
Number of overseas men (incl leave) carried	12,141,933
Number of wounded men carried	1,215,886
Number of vehicles carried	4,827
Tons of mail carried	198,820

Probably the most moving event took place on the 20th November 1920, when with great ceremony and solemnity the body of the Unknown Warrior was transferred from HMS Verdun to a special train on its way for re-burial at Westminster Abbey on the following day.

The Society has received a number of requests that this important event should be recorded for posterity and following discussions with the War Graves Commission, the Western Front Veterans Association and encourage-

ment from Mr David Atwood, one of our members, the committee recently agreed to arrange for the erection of a suitable commemorative plaque within the station.

The plaque will be sited adjacent to the famous War Memorial and the inscription will read:

NEAR THIS SPOT ON 20TH NOVEMBER 1920  
THE BODY OF THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR  
WAS BROUGHT ASHORE FROM  
HMS VERDUN  
ON THE WAY TO ITS FINAL RESTING PLACE  
IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.  
DOVER SOCIETY 1997.

In Portland stone, it will measure 20 ins x 10 ins and will be fixed to the wall of the new cruise terminal reception office where thousands of future cruise customers will see it. It is being prepared by the local monumental masons Cleverley & Spencer and the cost of supplying and erecting it will be £329. If any members wish to make a specific donation towards this cost it would be greatly appreciated.

It is hoped that the plaque will be unveiled with suitable ceremony by a high ranking army officers sometime next spring and further details will be provided to members at a later date.