

ST GEORGE'S DAY 2001

Reported by Derek Leach

THE TRADITIONAL ST. GEORGE'S DAY ceremonies in Dover to commemorate the historic and heroic raid by the Dover Patrol on the German U boat and naval base at Zeebrugge on 23 April 1918 had an extra ingredient this year which was the official unveiling of the new oval plaque on the Town Hall. This was the outcome of

wording and Dover District Council's Conservation Officer obtained the necessary listed building consent. Whilst unveiling the plaque the Town Mayor, Councillor Gordon Cowan, read the inscription.

The ceremony was preceded by an inspection by Colonel Smith, Royal Marines, of those on parade in front of the War Memorial - some 50 members of the Royal British Legion including twelve standard bearers, plus Jack Hewitt, representing the Scout Movement and, strangely, three members of the Dover Society who had also been put 'on parade'.



discussion amongst Dover Society members and in the local press about whether the Zeebrugge Bell and its associated stone panels mounted on the Town Hall were sufficiently prominent for passers-by to notice them and to realise what the bell represented. Various alternative sites for the Bell were mooted but it was decided that an additional plaque at eye level plus cleaning and relettering of the original stone panels would suffice. The Dover Society took the lead in the project and part funded it. Dover District Council, Dover Town Council and the City of Bruges also contributed. Dover Museum approved the



Ceremony at the Town Hall