

18 where we were able to view the special exhibition on the Dover Patrol and the Zeebrugge raid.

After 83 years it is good that Dover (and Zeebrugge, where a similar parade and commemorative service took place the previous weekend) still remembers those brave servicemen and can reflect on the

horrors of war and pray that one day war will be a part of history but not part of the present or the future.

Footnote: If there is anyone not aware of the details of the Zeebrugge raid, Newsletter 38 included a report of the talk to the Society by Donald Sykes about the raid.

Photographs by Derek Leach.

The **DOVER PATROL & ZEEBRUGGE RAID** *Exhibition*

Reported by Derek Leach

I visited the Dover Museum exhibition on 1st June during half term week when the Museum was holding a Family Day. It was crowded with families and groups of Brownies with Museum staff at full stretch answering their many questions.

The story of the Dover Patrol during the First World War will be familiar to Dover Society members but this exhibition helps to take the mind back almost a century to those momentous years for Dover, the British Navy and the country. Beginning as a very small naval unit, the Dover Patrol grew to be one of the most important and famous of the war with its key roles of protecting Channel shipping and supply routes (both to and from France as well as the essential convoys through the Straits), chasing submarines, manning the mine and net barrage across the Channel, bringing back wounded soldiers, bombarding German positions in Belgium and culminating in 1918 with the Zeebrugge Raid, perhaps the most famous raid in British naval history which is still commemorated every year in Dover on its anniversary, St. George's Day.

The exhibition was an interesting and varied mixture including paintings, photographs, artefacts (including an incendiary bomb), posters, permits, medals, sheet music (A Long Way to

Tipperary), poems, models of ships and a non-stop video film of the Zeebrugge Raid. I was particularly impressed by an excellent model of Zeebrugge Harbour showing the positions of the British ships, the actual wooden memorial to the Trawler and Minesweeping Patrol containing 300 names thought to have come from Old St. James' Church after it was damaged during the Second World War, a first-hand account of the raid from the actual diary of a leading seaman, a Dover Freeman's Casket made in 1919 for Lloyd George from decking and fittings of HMS Vindictive that played a leading role in the raid, Vindictive's grappling iron recently moved from the Sea Front on its way to a new location and a fine portrait of Sir Roger Keyes, the Vice-Admiral in command of the Dover Patrol and the Zeebrugge Raid.

The exhibition also included a section on Dover itself during the First World War but, as I am booked to give a talk to the Society on that subject later in 2002, I shall refrain from going into any detail.

In all this was an excellent effort by Museum staff to make today's Dovorians more aware of the role Dover and the Dover Patrol played during the First World War. The exhibition is on until 9 September, so if you haven't seen it yet, do go along.