



*The Commanding Officer, Officers & Ship's Company  
H.M.S. Opossum*

*request the pleasure of the company of*

*Lt Cdr & Mrs S. Edgar*

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*at the Re-Dedication Ceremony*

*on Saturday 14 November 1981 at eleven o'clock*

Dress: No. 5's  
Lounge Suits

R.S.V.P.  
Wardroom Mess Secretary



The Ceremony and Order of Service  
for the Re-dedication of  
Her Majesty's Ship  
Opossum



at 1100 on Saturday, 14th November, 1981

at HMS DOLPHIN

## **PROGRAMME**

- 1045 Ship's Company muster by Divisions on HMS DOLPHIN jetty  
(wet weather routine in Pandora theatre)
- 1100 Ceremony of Re-Dedication
- 1200 Reception in Atlantis Club
- 1400 Submarine open to families
- 2000 Commissioning Dance in Atlantis Club

## HMS OPOSSUM

### Previous ships to bear the name Opossum

Brig Sloop 237 tons 10 guns	Built at Gillingham Launched 9 July 1808 Sold 3 February 1819
Sloop 236 tons 10 guns	Built at Sheerness Launched 11 December 1821 Sold 1841
Screw Gunboat 284 tons 1 gun 2 howitzers	Built at Northam Launched 28 February 1856 1857 Fatsham Creek 1859 Pei-Ho Forts Sold November 1895
Destroyer 320 tons one 12pdr. 12 cwt. Q.F.	Built at Newcastle Launched 9 August 1895 8 August 1918 with M.L.'s sank U.C. 49 Sold 1920
A.A. Frigate ex sloop 1350 tons six 4 inch eight 2 pdr.	Built by Denny Launched 30 November 1944 1952-1953 Korea Sold 1960

# Order of Service

The Captain will read the Commissioning Warrant  
The Ensign will be hoisted and the Masthead Pendant broken

## THE ACT OF DEDICATION

*The Captain shall address the Ship's Company in these words:*

Seeing that in the course of our duty we are set in the midst of many and great dangers and that we cannot be faithful to the high trust placed in us without the help of Almighty God, let us unite our prayers in seeking his blessing upon this ship and all who serve in her.

*The Captain shall call on the Ship's Company to ask for God's Blessing on the ship, using this ancient call:*

### FROM THE GAELIC BLESSING, 1589

*The Captain:* I call upon you to pray for God's blessing on this ship. May God the Father  
bless her.

*Ship's Company:* Bless our ship.

*The Captain:* May Jesus Christ bless her.

*Ship's Company:* Bless our ship.

*The Captain:* May the Holy Spirit bless her.

*Ship's Company:* Bless our ship.

*Then this hymn may be sung:*

He who would valiant be  
'Gainst all disaster,  
Let him in constancy  
Follow the Master.  
There's no discouragement  
Shall make him once relent  
His first avowed intent  
To be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round  
With dismal stories,  
Do but themselves confound—  
His strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might,  
Though he with giants fight:  
He will make good his right  
To be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, thou dost defend  
Us with thy spirit,  
We know we at the end  
Shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away!  
I'll fear not what men say,  
I'll labour night and day  
To be a pilgrim.

## THE READING OF THE GOSPEL

*The Gospel and the prayer following shall be read by the Roman Catholic Chaplain:*

The Pharisees sent their disciples to Jesus, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone; tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar—and to God what belongs to God'.

Let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of thy peace;  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

## THE PRAYERS

*to be said by the Chaplain, Church of Scotland and free Churches:*

*Let us give thanks to God for all who have inspired us by their example and pray that we may uphold the best traditions of the Royal Navy.*

Almighty and everlasting God, the creator and upholder of men, who hast in every age inspired thy servants with courage and skill, we give thee thanks for the example of those who have gone before us; for the seamen of our nation; for all who in great or small ships have braved the perils of the deep; for all who have given their lives for their country. For ourselves, grant, O Lord, that we may ever be conscious of thy ruling hand. May we be found watchful at our posts. Make us ever mindful of the needs of others, sharing our joys and bearing their burdens in the work which thou hast given us to do; and keep us always in thy love and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Let us pray for our homes*

O God, who sent thy Son, Jesus Christ, to live in an earthly home for our sakes, we pray thee to bless our homes, and all who are in them; grant that we may always remain faithful to them, and they to us, and help us to remember that though time and distance part us, we are all one in thee for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Let us pray for perseverance.*

O Lord God, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that is not the beginning but the continuing of the same until it be thoroughly finished which yieldeth the true glory; through him, who for the finishing of thy work, laid down his life: our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*This hymn or some part of it may be sung:*

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O ruler of the earth and sky  
Be with our airmen when they fly:  
And keep them in thy loving care  
From all the perils of the air.  
O let our cry come up to thee  
For those who fly o'er land and sea.

O Trinity of love and power,  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them whereso'er they go:  
And ever let there rise to thee  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

## THE BLESSING OF THE SHIP

*The Chaplain:* Our help is in the name of the Lord.

*The Ship's Company:* Who hath made heaven and earth.

*The Chaplain:* Let us pray.

O LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, LET THY BLESSING BE UPON THIS SHIP, AND UPON ALL THOSE WHO SERVE AND SAIL IN HER: MAY GOOD SUCCESS AND THY PROTECTION AND THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE HOLY ANGELS ALWAYS BE WITH THEM, IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT. *AMEN.*

*All shall say together the Lord's Prayer:*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

*Led by the Chaplain, the following prayer shall be said by the whole Ship's Company:*

### THE NAVAL PRAYER

O Eternal Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens and rulest the raging of the sea; who hast compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end; be pleased to receive into thy Almighty and most gracious protection the persons of us thy servants, and the fleet in which we serve. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and of the air, and from the violence of the enemy; that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen ELIZABETH and her Dominions; and a security for such as pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions; that the inhabitants of our Island and Commonwealth may in peace and quietness serve thee our God: and that we may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land, with the fruits of our labours, and with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies to praise and glorify thy Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render no man evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all men; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all evermore. *Amen.*

# HMS OPOSSUM — Ship's Company

## Commanding Officer

Lieutenant R.J.K. Burston, Royal Navy

## Officers

Lieutenant D.I. Lister  
Lieutenant J.P. Creedon  
Lieutenant D.M. Vaughan

Sub Lieutenant L.A. Chapman, C.A.F.  
Sub Lieutenant P.D.D. Hendry  
Sub Lieutenant C.J. Williams

## Chief Petty Officers

D. Meeker  
G.R. Humphrey  
R. Clarke  
I. Critchley

R.D. Jackson  
D.J. Sharp  
B. Jackson  
C. Stephenson

A.G. Critoph  
J.B. Kershaw  
J.R. Senior

## Petty Officers

R. Brennan  
G.E. Mancell

R.P. Page  
D.M. Davies

A.J. Holt  
T.G. Solarz

## Leading Rates

N.J. Hodge  
J.D. Byrth  
S. Goffin  
K.F. Kemp  
E.V. Lethbridge  
C. Liney

I.T. Bailey  
R.G. Bloomfield  
F.R.A. Vickers  
T.A.G. Dillon  
S.R. Stevenson  
P. Brownley

P. Kraan  
D.K. Sheath  
D.D. Hall  
D.I. Pemberton  
M.J. Wilson

## Able Rates

G.H. Sowter  
A.N. Jones  
P.T. Mathias  
S.R. Moss  
J. Poulton  
P. Hancock  
H.A. Jones  
M.R. Honnoraty  
S.M. Salt

I.P. Callow  
N. Lambert  
L.J. Girdlestone  
A.J. Roberts  
B.S. Cooke  
A. Pender  
P.A.B. Church  
P. Jevons  
G. Sowerby

D. Platts  
M.A. Green  
A.J. O'Sullivan  
W.C.K. Monsen  
E.N. Bowe  
P.T. Jeal  
M. Park  
R.C. Lovegrove  
R.J. Page

## BATTLE HONOURS

CHINA	1856-1860
KOREA	1952-1953