

The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships

Hon. Admiral: H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO

53 'Little Ships' will be sailing to Dunkirk on Thursday 27th May to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the evacuation of 338,000 British and Allied troops from the Beaches and Port in 1940

Every five years the English Channel witnesses an extraordinary sight as the small armada of 'Little Ships' commemorates one of World War II's most dramatic operations. The Admiralty named the evacuation Operation Dynamo. 338,000 British and Allied troops were withdrawn from the beaches and port of Dunkirk in over nine days during May/June 1940. Every one of the 53 'Little Ships' returning in a fortnight took part in the historic evacuation 70 years ago.

The fleet will depart from Ramsgate Royal Harbour on Thursday 27 May and return from Dunkirk on Bank Holiday Monday 31 May. The day before it sails has been designated Dynamo Day 2010 and will be packed with events to commemorate one of WWII's most remarkable achievements [www.dynamo-ramsgate.com]

The programme for the Little Ships visit to Dunkirk is as follows:

Thursday May 27th

0630 Little Ships depart Ramsgate Royal Harbour clearing the breakwater by approx 0700. They will be giving passage to one or two veterans, while the rest will be travelling by coach.

Up to 25 Little Ships will have on board an RN Rating from HMS Collingwood to acknowledge the close links between the Royal Navy and the Little Ships

On leaving, fly pasts by two aircraft of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (probably spitfires) and separately by a Swordfish from the Royal Navy Historic Flight

1500 approx (local time) arrive in Dunkirk weather permitting at the Ecluse Watier (lock)

The fleet will be escorted across the channel by HMS Monmouth, a Type 23 Duke Class frigate and HMS Raider, a P2000 Archer Class patrol and training vessel, attached to Cambridge University Royal Naval Unit, MV Appleby, a Maritime Volunteer Service vessel and the Ramsgate lifeboat.

The Little Ships will be berthed in the Bassin du Commerce in the town centre.

Friday May 28th

1100 Mayor's reception in the Town Hall

Saturday May 29th

1130 Service of Commemoration at the Allied Memorial on the beach at Dunkerque. Two students from the Dunkerque theatre school read a text in English and French, published in Paris Soir on 8th June 1940 - "Et ce fut la dernière nuit de Dunkerque".

The flame of Remembrance is lit by the French Secretary of State in charge of Military affairs and veterans (or his representative)

Then follows the tolling of a bell in honour of those who have lost their lives and one minute silence. National Anthems of the British, French, Czech and Belgians are played and the French Secretary of State salutes the emblem followed by the flag bearers of the veterans associations

The Little Ships will circle off the beach during the ceremony and a Lancaster of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will fly over the fleet..

HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO, Honorary Admiral of the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships, lays a wreath on behalf of the Association.

Period Military vehicles will be stationed near the memorial.

Sunday May 30th

A number of streets will be named in memory of Operation Dynamo. The City of Dunkerque band will play during the naming.

Rue des Little Ships
Rue de la Bataille de Dunkerque et de l'Operation "Dynamo"
Rue Amiral Baxter
Rue Sir Bertram Ramsay
Rue Major General Alois Liska (Czech liberator of Dunkirk)
Rue Capitaine Jean Becaert

Monday 31st (Bank Holiday)

0600 Little Ships depart Dunkirk escorted by the Royal Navy and Ramsgate lifeboat.

1500 approx (local time) arrive Ramsgate

Further information may be obtained from the website: www.adls.org.uk OR

Andrew Young Hon PRO ADLS email: dandrewyoung@hotmail.com tel:01179246194

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