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# QUARTERDECK

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The Friends of HMS Trincomalee

Summer 2021



**The Foudroyant 1931 to 1937**

**Paint Analysis of HMS Trincomalee**

**Sea Training Courses on the Foudroyant**

**Notification of 2021 Annual General Meeting**

**Future Events**

**Mess Deck Cryptic Crossword**

*Notice is hereby given of our:*

**Annual General Meeting 2021**  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**  
**Via the internet “zoom” facility**

**AGENDA:**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019
3. Chairman’s report
4. Treasurer’s report and accounts ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021
5. Election of Trustees
6. Appointment of Honorary Auditor
7. Any other business (Notified to the Secretary prior to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021)

Members interested in joining the Committee are warmly encouraged to make themselves known to the Secretary of the “Friends”.

All candidates for election need be nominated by at least one member of the present Committee.

The closing date for all nominations to be received by the Secretary is Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

The Autumn Quarterdeck in November will have further details, including access to the accounts’ report, a list of the candidates standing to become Trustees and a voting form. This voting form may be used and either scanned then emailed to the Secretary, or sent by post to the Secretary, for receipt prior to Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Those members wishing to attend the “zoom” meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 need to provide a contact email address for their invitation to the “zoom” meeting to be sent, this email address should be notified to [events@friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk](mailto:events@friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk) (see page 47).

**Ruth Turner, Hon. Secretary**

## EDITORIAL

Earlier this year the paint analysis of HMS Trincomalee was undertaken. This was funded by the Friends. A preliminary report of the findings has been produced and a taste of what was discovered is in this issue of the Quarterdeck.

In the spring we finished looking at our ship during its time at Falmouth as TS Foudroyant under the care of Geoffrey Wheatly Cobb. The newspaper articles cover the period from his death until just before the Second World War.

Among the “archives” I found a publicity leaflet for the sea training courses held aboard the Foudroyant around 50 years ago. I daresay that it will bring back memories to a few of our members.

Our Annual General Meeting this year will be different from previous ones, as you will see on the page opposite. Any members interested in become trustees to help with the running of our charity are encouraged to make contact with the Secretary. The officers of the Friends of HMS Trincomalee have used the “zoom” internet facility to meet virtually and a few events for members using “zoom” have been arranged.

Good luck with this year’s cryptic crossword.

Hugh Turner

*Any correspondence concerning the Friends Association should be sent to:*

**The Secretary, Ruth Turner**  
**Pinewood Lodge, Hude, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Barnard Castle,**  
**County Durham DL12 0QW**  
**E-mail: [secretary@friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk](mailto:secretary@friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk)**

*Correspondence and contributions for the magazine to:*

**The Editor, Hugh Turner**  
**Pinewood Lodge, Hude, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Barnard Castle,**  
**E-Mail: [magazine@friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk](mailto:magazine@friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk)**

*Membership matters directed to:*

**The Membership Secretary, Martin Barker**  
**E-mail: [membership@friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk](mailto:membership@friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk)**

## SOME NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ABOUT THE FOUDROYANT 1931 to 1937

**Saturday 27 June 1931 Western Morning News:**

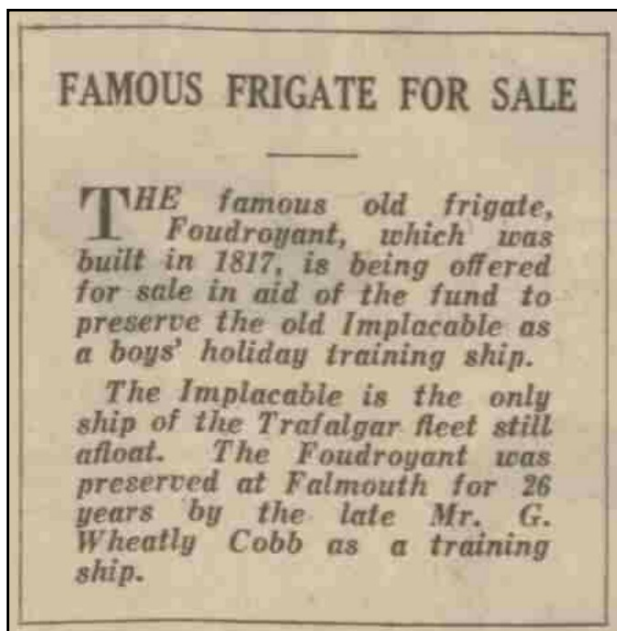
### **FUTURE OF THE FOUDROYANT**

Mrs. Cobb, interviewed by a representative of "The Western Morning News" on the future of the training ship Foudroyant, said that nothing will be done until her husband's will has been proved.

Mrs. Cobb had no knowledge of the suggestion that the vessel should be moved from Falmouth to London.

Offers have been made for the purchase of the ship.

**8 July 1931 Derby Daily Telegraph:**





**Friday 10 July 1931 Western Morning News:**

**OLD WOODEN WALLS  
FATE OF THE IMPLACABLE AND FOUDROYANT**

Officers of the Royal Navy are naturally interested in the fate of the old Implacable and Foudroyant, but it must be realised that there is little or no chance of both ships being preserved, and if the service were to be consulted as to which of the two is to be saved – if one is to be sacrificed – there is little doubt that the choice would go to the Implacable. It is evident, too, that in the present state of the country's finances there is no hope whatever of the Government coming to the rescue by bearing the appreciable share of the cost of maintaining the two ships; and there is no willingness on the part of the public generally to shoulder the burden of the cost.

The changed attitude of many people towards the question of preserving the veterans of old wars is perhaps due to the fact that there are in existence so many ships that helped to save the country from defeat in a war waged within the memory of most of those now living; indeed, some warships whose names will be famous for generations because of the parts they played in the Great War have already gone to the ship-breakers, and their passing was almost unnoticed.

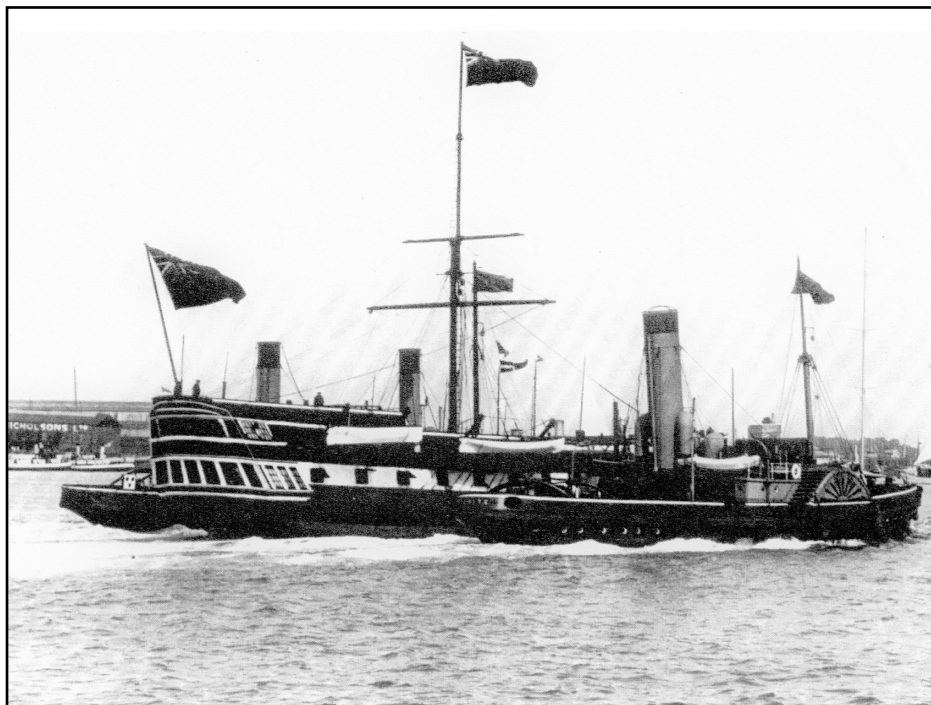
**17 June 1932 Western Morning News:**

**THE FOUDROYANT  
TO GO TO PORTSMOUTH IF SEAWORTHY  
From our own correspondent, Portsmouth**

It has been decided to move the old training-vessel Foudroyant from Milford Haven to Portsmouth, if found sufficiently seaworthy to make the passage.

This statement was made to me by Col. H. Wyllie, superintendent of the Implacable, now fitting out for service as a boys' holiday training-ship here.

"We are having the Foudroyant surveyed," Col. Wyllie said, "and I hope it will be possible to get her here in the next fortnight. She will be used as an overflow ship for the Implacable, recently come from Falmouth."



*The Foudroyant arriving at Portsmouth 26 July 1932*

## **Tuesday 26 July 1932 Portsmouth Evening News:**

### **OLD FOUDROYANT AT PORTSMOUTH**

The old frigate Foudroyant arrived at Portsmouth this morning from Pembroke. She was taken up the Harbour where she will be berthed ahead of the holiday training ship Implacable, and used as an overflow ship in order that 250 boys may be accompanied at the same time during the height of the school holiday season.

The Foudroyant was formerly the Trincomalee, and was built in 1817.

The boys under training will be in charge of Col. H. Wyllie and his staff, and during their stay in Portsmouth will be instructed in the rudiments of seamanship. The most promising boys will be given a short course in small boat management. It is hoped to get boys from all sorts of organizations, and in time to get boys from the public schools to join with boys from the industrial centres of the country. Each party will be accompanied by its own officers, the boys being trained by the Implacable's staff, while Colonel Wyllie will conduct the courses for the officers.

[ The Foudroyant, which was towed from Pembroke during the week-end, is to be berthed ahead of the Implacable, off Hardway, in Portsmouth Harbour ... Wednesday 27 July 1932 Western Morning News]

## **Wednesday 28 September 1932 Portsmouth Evening News:**

### **THE OLD IMPLACABLE**

#### **Training the Young Idea at Portsmouth**

#### **COL. WYLLIE'S APPEAL**

In the words of Vice-Admiral L.A.B. Donaldson, an honorary member of the Portsmouth and Southsea Rotary Club, Col. Harold Wyllie turned over gallant pages in the history of the old sailing navy when he spoke to members of the club yesterday on the Implacable, the old 74-gun two-decker, which is now in the upper reaches of Portsmouth Harbour, with the Foudroyant, as a holiday training establishment for boys of all classes.

The establishment is under the command of Col. Wyllie, and yesterday, after tracing in detail the history of the ship, from the time she was launched at Rochefort in 1800 as the Duguay-Trouin, her fight with the Victory at Trafalgar, her capture by Sir Richard Strachan, and her 100 years of gallant service under the White Ensign until she was brought to Portsmouth last June, Col. Wyllie told the Club something of the aims and objects of this very important work which has been established in the Harbour.

While the Implacable was at Devonport being reconditioned, £30,000 was spent on the ship, and Col. Wyllie told the Rotarians that they had now got to make her justify her existence and the money which had been spent on her by still carrying on service, just as she had done in the past. This year they had had boys from various parts of the country, including the poorest part of London, and the cadets of H.M.S. Excellent. Under the scheme the boys come to the ships (Implacable and Foudroyant) during their holidays, and the instruction they were given was such as would be useful to them in after life. They were taught swimming, life-saving, discipline, cleanliness, rowing and sailing, knots and splices, and elementary seamanship. The discipline was just strict enough to see that the ship was kept clean, that time was kept, and that the boys came to look upon the ship as their own. The boys were given a holiday, they were fed as well as possible, and they were sent home with a pride in themselves and a pride in the Implacable.

In appealing to the members of the Club to help the scheme by every means in their power, Col. Wyllie invited them to tea next Tuesday afternoon on board the ship, and expressed the hope that in the future Portsmouth and Hampshire boys would take advantage of the unique facilities which existed on board the

Implacable.

The President, Rotarian the Rev. W.J. Dennis, was in the chair, and Col. Wyllie was thanked on the proposition of Vice-Admiral L.A.B. Donaldson, who said that Col. Wyllie and his late father were the greatest authorities on rigging and on what was right and wrong in the old sailing ships of the Navy. To them the old sailing Navy was everything, and he regarded the late Mr. W.L. Wyllie's panorama of the Battle of Trafalgar in Portsmouth Dockyard as the finest sea picture there was probably in the whole world. The Navy was greatly indebted to them both.

### **Thursday 23 August 1934 Northern Daily Mail**

... Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, donned scout's uniform for the first time since his illness when accompanied by his daughter, he visited the Sea Scouts on the Implacable and Foudroyant at the Sea scout meet at Portsmouth last week.

Heralding his return to activity, the Chief Scout writes in the 'Scouter':-

"... I come back like Rip Van Winkle, to find that in my absence the movement has gone on all the better for it in the hands of the different responsible heads. One thing has not come off to the full extent that I hoped for, and that is a bid accession of scoutmasters. We urgently need to extend the movement in these days of out-of-work lads and world unrest, so as to bring the very poorest under good influences and healthy training. To this end we must exert ourselves to bring in more men as scouters."



*Lord Baden-Powell*

## **Friday 24 August 1934 Derby Evening Telegraph**

The Chief Scout donned Scout's uniform for the first time in this country since his illness when, accompanied by his daughters, he visited the sea scouts on Implacable and Foudroyant at Portsmouth and put the finishing touch on their enjoyment of Sea Scout Week.

He was met at the pontoon by Mr. Robert Hole, Assistant Headquarters Commissioner for Sea Scouts, and rowed to the ships in a gig manned by the 43<sup>rd</sup> Oxford Sea Scouts in the wake of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brighton Sea Scouts' motor boat, White Star, which is making a publicity cruise of the South coast towns.

After tea on Implacable, the Chief Scout yarned to the boys who had clustered informally round him.

## **Thursday 29 July 1937 Dundee Evening Telegraph**

### **GIRLS' HOLIDAY IN TRAINING SHIPS Will Sleep in Hammocks and Scrub Deck**

Two hundred and seventy girls, chosen from all parts of the country, will begin an unusual holiday on August 20.

They will go into training in seamanship on board the training ship Implacable, the last surviving ship of Trafalgar to remain afloat, and the training ship Foudroyant, in Portsmouth Harbour.

The girls are members of the Sea Rangers branch of the Girl Guides' Association.

They will be divided into watches and will follow the ordinary ships' routine. They will sleep in hammocks, scrub decks and boats, and receive a comprehensive training in rowing, sailing, swimming, knotting, splicing, sail-making and signalling.

## **Wednesday 25 August 1937 Portsmouth Evening News**

### **MAKING HER SHIP-SHAPE**

The 270 girl sea rangers who are receiving a week's nautical training in the old "wooden walls" Foudroyant and Implacable in Portsmouth Harbour are pioneers

of their sex in this sphere of training.

It is the first time that this branch of the Girl Guide movement has “gone to sea” and the experiment appears to be working admirably. There is no doubt that these enthusiastic girl sailors of 16 years of age and over will be good missionaries of the joys of life in the salt sea air or behind a spreading sail in a freshening breeze.

Under proper supervision they are showing they are quite capable of “manning” a capstan, mending a sail, or stowing a hammock. In future it will be possible to say with greater truth when a vessel leaves the quayside that we hope “she” will have a safe return to the “hes” left behind!



*Lady Baden-Powell (Olave)*

Lady Baden Powell is coming to Portsmouth tomorrow afternoon to visit the girl Sea Rangers who are spending a week in the Foudroyant and the Implacable. The head of the Guide movement will be rowed up harbour by Guide officers and escorted by two gigs manned by Sea Rangers.

## Paint Analysis on HMS Trincomalee

In March this year 71 samples of painted areas around our ship were analysed by Lincoln Conservation, which is a specialist research and consultancy service within the University of Lincoln. The work was done for the National Museum of the Royal Navy at Hartlepool, and funded by the Friends of HMS Trincomalee with a report by Paul Croft.

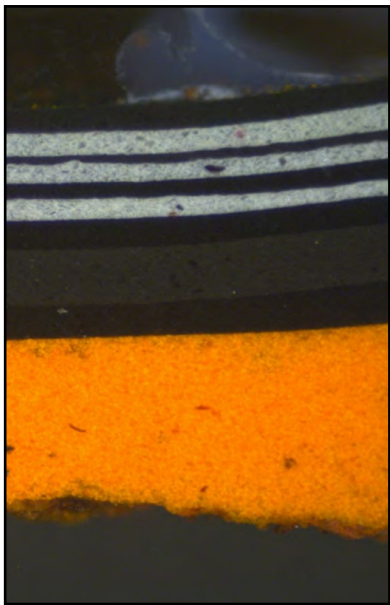
5 of these 71 samples revealed only recently applied paints, applied during the restoration and preservation of the ship at Hartlepool. This period being identified as Phase 4. The complete lack of earlier paint in some samples suggested that these had not been painted until the restoration. An example of this is the mast bits in the forward area of the gun deck.

This sample, number 10, revealed five applications of black alkyd oil paint with a thick layer of red oxide primer at the base.



*Site from which sample 10 was taken*



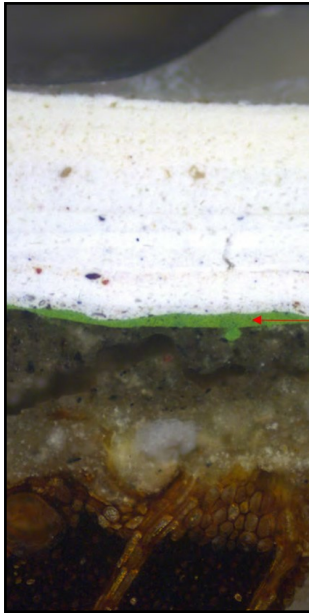


*Sample 10*

31 of the 71 samples had paint layers from the earliest time of the ship, classified as Phase 1. In some cases a lime wash was found directly above the original teak confirming the early date of its application, as in sample 44.



*Site from which sample 44 was taken*



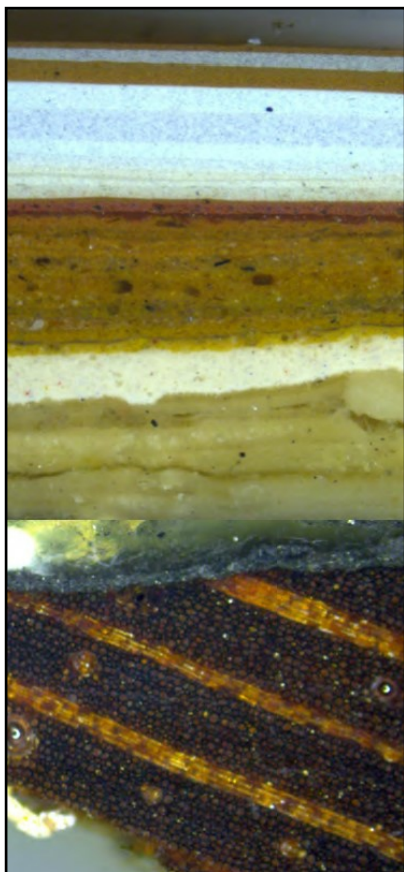
*Sample 44*

Traces of this early lime wash were found on the heavy deck beam in the Captain's Cabin, on the deck beam close to the capstan, and on the timbers in the bread room as well as in other sample sites.



*Site from which sample 26 was taken*

Sample 26 was taken from a pillar capital, and revealed the earliest, Phase 1, paint application to the original teak as a charcoal black oil paint with a varnish layer above it. In Phase 2/3 ochres, followed by reds were used, and then in Phase 3/4 pale blues followed by brown with grey primers.



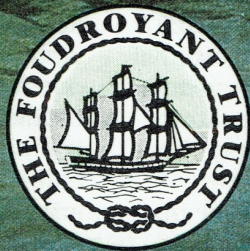
*Sample 26*

All the samples are being used to get a better idea of what the ship would have looked like at different times in her history. We look forward to the results of this.



# FOUDROYANT

## SAIL TRAINING COURSES





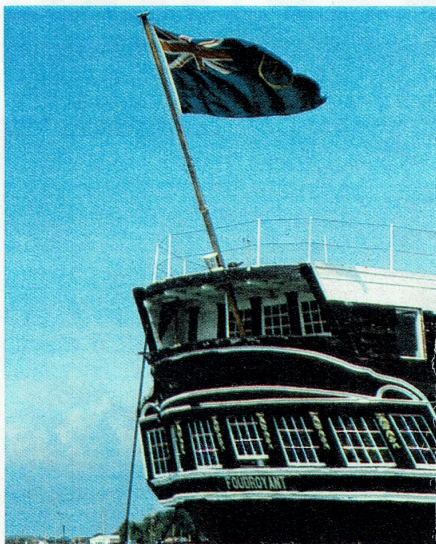
## THE FRIGATE FOUDROYANT

Foudroyant was built as a flush deck frigate in Bombay, India and was commissioned into the Royal Navy as H.M.S. Trincomalee.

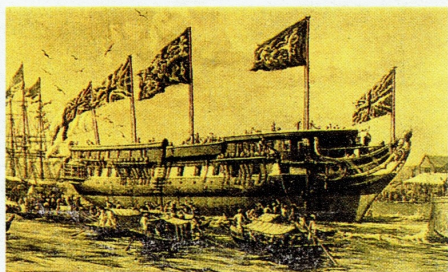
Launched in 1817, she is the oldest British warship afloat and is moored in Portsmouth Harbour. After fitting out she arrived in Portsmouth on April 30th 1819 and was placed in reserve until 1847 when she sailed for the West Indies. She spent three years there policing British interests and then returned to U.K. waters.

In 1852 she sailed for the Pacific station, where she served with distinction in many varied roles.

During five years in the Pacific she logged some 118,000 nautical miles. After returning to England,



Trincomalee was re-named Foudroyant, the name she has kept to this day.



Trincomalee was laid up again until 1861 when she joined the Royal Naval Reserve as a training ship. In 1897 she was placed on the disposal list by the Admiralty and was eventually purchased by a Mr. G. Wheatley Cobb, to replace his training ship H.M.S. Foudroyant, which was wrecked off Blackpool earlier that year.

Foudroyant is now owned by The Foudroyant Trust and serves as a training ship for children, students and apprentices.

### RESTORATION

Although Foudroyant is sound for her age, continuous restoration work has to be undertaken. Replacing six inch thick planking and teak frames one foot square in section is a formidable task. Skilled shipwrights, using age old construction methods and traditional tools work with an artist's eye for the ship and a sense of history of her origin.



## THE TRAINING COURSES



Few adventure training courses can boast such an enviable position such as Foudroyant enjoys. Situated on one of the world's busiest waterways, the frigate is moored in Portsmouth Harbour surrounded by such attractions as H.M.S. Victory, the Mary Rose, H.M.S. Alliance and the submarine museum, Portchester Castle and Spit Bank Fort out in the Solent. Visits to these are arranged giving a valuable introduction to Britain's nautical heritage. The ship's main function today is to provide young people with a residential course in the basic nautical skills of life afloat, rowing and sailing. This together with an expedition to the Isle of Wight and other places of interest combine to make it a true adventure conducted

in a happy holiday atmosphere. The trainees sleep in hammocks and take their meals on the mess deck in the traditional shipboard style of Nelson's era. Teachers accompanying school groups are invited to join in all the activities and have their own cabins and use of the ship's Wardroom.

### SCHOOL COURSES

Even with a 24 hour course we manage to include a history of the ship, a tour of the harbour, rowing in a gig and a sail in a life-boat. This makes for an interesting and action packed day followed by a night on board sleeping in a real hammock.

Weekly Course. 13-16 year olds.

2½ Day Course. 11-13 year olds.

24 Hour Course. 9-11 year olds.



## TRAINING PROGRAMME



### ROWING

Almost as popular as sailing, is rowing (or boat pulling as it is correctly called,) in gigs made especially for Foudroyant. The trainees soon learn to pull together and are proud to display their new found talent in the Ship's Regatta at the end of each week's course.



Courses are highly flexible and can be tailored to suit any special requirements or differing needs.

### SAILING

'Wayfarer' sailing dingies, manned by experienced instructors, provide the best possible start for a beginner. A safety boat is always in attendance and non-swimmers need have no fear as strict precautions are observed at all times and life-jackets are worn for all trips and activities away from the ship.

Further sail training is undertaken in converted ship's lifeboats in preparation for a sailing expedition to the Isle of Wight which is undertaken each week.



### ONBOARD

To supplement the practical training, inboard work is also carried out. Trainees learn the basic knots normally required in boats as well as chartwork and coastal navigation. Lectures on tides and weather patterns are also included during the week.



## FURTHER INFORMATION



Foudroyant is used on a regular basis by many schools each year as an Adventure Sail Training location and is also used by commercial firms wishing to send apprentices on Outward Bound type courses. These courses are designed to extend the physical and mental qualities of the trainees.

In conjunction with harbour training 'Contesta', a five berth yacht is used to extend the sail training function of Foudroyant. It is available to firms not wishing to send more than four apprentices to tackle an Outward Bound type course to develop their leadership qualities and self-confidence.

The yacht is also available to all

individuals over the age of 18 who wish to gain their Competant Crew and Day Skippers Certificate and for those who wish to log experience and hours necessary to qualify for their R.Y.A./D.o.T. Yachtmasters Coastal and Offshore Certificates.

Trips are normally arranged to include the Isle of Wight, the Channel Islands or a French Port.

The instructors used for these courses are all highly qualified and experienced.

The ship and her training facilities have been inspected and approved by the Department of Education and Science.



## SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Due to the attractive position of Foudroyant in Portsmouth Harbour, many social functions are held on board for private and commercial bodies with the aim of raising funds for the Trust. For further information write to the Captain Superintendent at the address on the back of this leaflet.



## BOOKING AND JOINING

### BOOKING

Please complete the application form and return it to the Captain Superintendent along with the booking fees as laid down in the scale of charges.

On receipt of the application form, with deposit a statement will be sent, showing the balance of fees due, which should be paid at least 14 days before commencement of the course.

A refund of the deposit/balance will only be considered on production of a Doctor's certificate or in special cases allowed by the Captain Superintendent.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Captain Superintendent (not to an individual) and cheques, postal orders, etc. should be made in favour of "The Foudroyant Trust".

Provisional bookings for individuals, school groups and other parties may be made at any time, but such bookings must be confirmed as early as possible, accompanied by the requisite booking fee for the number of places required.

### PLEASE NOTE

School and other authorities who make provisional bookings six to twelve months in advance are particularly requested to note that confirmation of numbers is required at least four months before the date of their course to ensure that the places they require are reserved.

### NOTES

A well stocked Tuck-shop selling soft drinks, sweets, postcards, stamps, and good quality souvenirs is open every evening.

Transistor radios, fixed blade knives, matches and smoking materials are NOT permitted to be brought onboard by trainees. Adult students are allowed to smoke at certain times. Chewing-gum is NOT allowed onboard. Girls should wear pyjamas and must bring a housecoat or similar clothing for use at night. All personal gear should be marked with the owners name. Requests for the return by post of lost or mislaid clothing cannot be entertained unless accompanied by the sum of £1.00 for postage and packing. This sum will be returned if the article cannot be found.

### CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

2 sets of warm clothes.

Changes of personal clothes (enough for week).

Pyjamas. (Nightdress not suitable onboard).

Gym-shoes, trainers or sailing-shoes.

A sleeping-bag and a pillow-case.

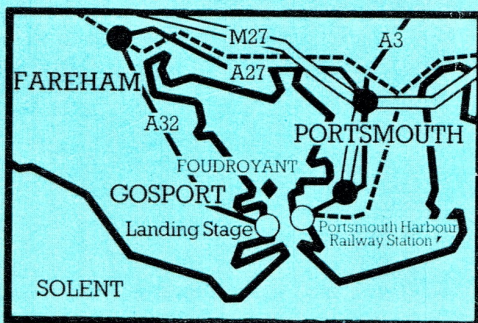
Notebook and writing paper.

Toilet articles.

Swimming gear.

Waterproof clothing.

Fishing gear (optional). No rods.



### TRAVEL

By British Rail. To Portsmouth Harbour Station, thence to Gosport Landing Stage by the Harbour Ferry.

By road. Travel by car or coach to Gosport Esplanade, then onto Gosport Landing Stage.

### ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Foudroyant boats will leave Gosport Landing Stage on Sunday at 15.00 or later by arrangement.

Trainees will return to Gosport Landing Stage at 18.00 on Friday or earlier if required.

For application forms and further requests for details write to . . .

The Captain Superintendent

Frigate FOUDROYANT

c/o G.P.O. Gosport

Hants. PO12 1EH

Telephone Gosport (0705) 582696

## The Officers of the Friends meeting via “zoom” on 7<sup>th</sup> July:



Peter Olsen -Treasurer

Hugh & Ruth Turner

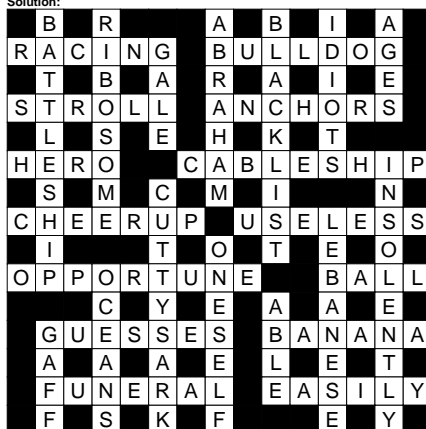
- Chair & Secretary

Martin Barker - Membership Secretary

## Mess Deck Crossword

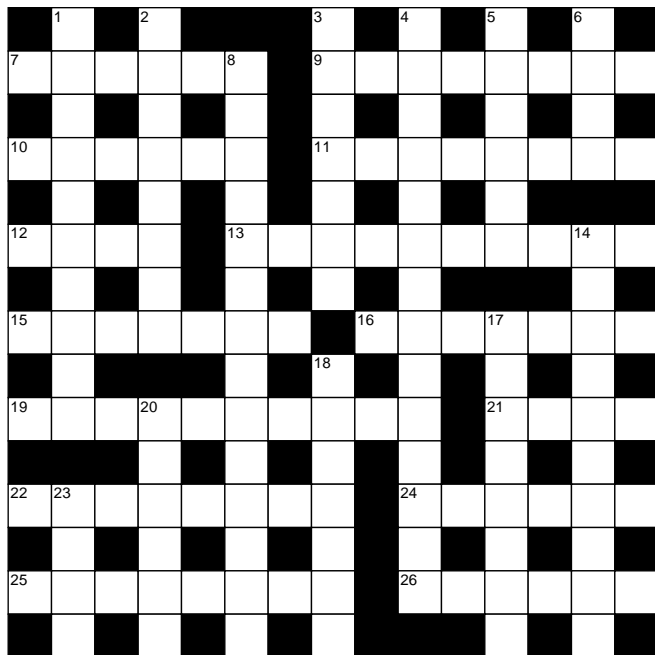
Spring 2021

Solution:



# Mess Deck Crossword

Cryptic - Summer 2021



HDT

## ACROSS

- 7 Castor upset players (6)
- 9 Mingle among one thousand and nine (8)
- 10 Sailor lies about using rope to descend (6)
- 11 Returning sea surrounds the right called sorts (8)
- 12 A thousand to finish repair (4)
- 13 And too evil to be faithful (10)
- 15 Channel bar is where a distress flare is sent (7)
- 16 Go on lad, make a boat (7)
- 19 Appertiser upset beard with jam (10)
- 21 Trial held by Frigates Trincomalee and Amphitrite (4)
- 22 Mad Rita in a form of drama at the seaside (8)
- 24 Look out for the recoil, cannon firing. Search for what the axles need (6)
- 25 Stop wrath. Expose to injury (8)
- 26 Bosun Ken has fallen (6)

## DOWN

- 1 Vessel that can make progress in hard water (3-7)
- 2 Hear sweetheart expected ambrosia (5-3)
- 3 Like an oyster? Four then five in a bundle (7)
- 4 Very fast is how the carpet maker works (2,1,4,2,5)
- 5 Non-Commissioned Officer follows brother's half-tamed horse (5)
- 6 Sound sense to name (4)
- 8 Old sailors lose time about applying additions to cold dish (5-9)
- 14 Sailors start lashing in a beam seen slipping (4,6)
- 17 Fruit Neil distributed at the meridian (4,4)
- 18 Weapon to inspire a marine (4-3)
- 20 At the top atypical after losing tiny extremities (6)
- 23 Could be Charlie's lost in Taunton (4)

# THE FRIENDS OF HMS TRINCOMALEE EVENTS

## AUTUMN & WINTER 2021

During autumn and winter 2021 the Friends are holding three events using the internet “zoom” facility.

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 7.30pm to 8.00pm** – A presentation about Figureheads

**Provisionally Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm to 8.00pm** – A report from the National Museum of the Royal Navy Hartlepool

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm to 8.00pm** – Our Annual General Meeting (see page 26).

Members who wish to be kept up to date with these events, and to receive invitations with access links to the “zoom” meetings should “opt-in” by sending the email address they wish to be contacted by to [events@friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk](mailto:events@friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk)

The data provided will be kept secure and solely used to inform “opted-in” members of events for the Friends.

Further events may be added, which may include a physical face-to-face meeting at a suitable venue later in the year. Notification of these events will be sent to those “opted-in” via the [events@friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk](mailto:events@friendsofhmstrincomalee.org.uk) address, and in the Quarterdeck.



