

QUEEN MOTHER UNVEILS MEMORIAL

To open an extension to the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, comes to Southsea Common. She is to unveil panels on the memorial which commemorate officers and ratings serving in Portsmouth manned ships and those ratings of the Portsmouth Division who lost their lives in the second world war.

Now the Queen Mother addresses relatives of the fallenmen:

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The Queen Mother watches as the panels are unveiled. Fourteen thousand, seven hundred and eighty-seven names are commemorated - including seventy-five men from Newfoundland, and, of course, many whose homes were in Portsmouth itself.

Among the 16,000 relatives present are many youngsters proudly wearing the medals their fathers won. The Queen Mother lays a wreath before the centre panel as her own personal tribute. The memorial and the new panels recall epic stories of battle on the high seas and ships that won new glories for the Royal Navy; among them Ark Royal, Repulse, Courageous and Hood. The unveiling ceremony over, the Queen Mother leaves Portsmouth's Royal Naval War Memorial which stands facing the seas upon which perished the men whose names it honours.