

## PORTSMOUTH



As USCGC Dallas departed Poole, England, the crew reflected on the emotional reunions, cheering crowds, and the faces of the reunited veterans – yet the best was still to come. When Dallas arrived in Portsmouth on Friday, 03 June she joined an International Armada of more than thirty vessels, both military and civilian, representing the Allied Nations of WWII. Incredibly, Portsmouth harbor was overrun with so many visiting ships that many of the larger vessels had to anchor out. Those vessels fortunate enough to moor inside the harbor had to moor two and three abreast. Shortly after Dallas' arrival in Portsmouth, Captain Hull called on the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Dr. Alan Burnett. Captain Hull presented the Lord Mayor with city proclamations from sister cities in the United States, one from Lakewood, Colorado and the other from Portsmouth, Virginia. Captain Hull also made a courtesy call on the Captain of the Port, Rear Admiral Rankin of Her Majesty's Navy. During the visit, the Admiral, who had a panoramic view of the harbor from his office, complimented Captain Hull on the "Smartness with which Dallas had entered the harbor and on its rendering of honors to the Royal Yacht Britannia." Later that same evening Captain Hull, quite



unexpectedly, found himself entertaining four Coast guard veterans who were aboard the Coast Guard manned assault transport Samuel Chase which landed troops at Omaha beach during the invasion. The four veterans were accompanied by their wives and everyone had an enjoyable, albeit emotional time, sharing historic memories. These same veterans were scheduled to be aboard the USS George Washington for the sunrise service commemorating the invasion on the sixth of June, along with President Clinton and other Heads of State and Military Commanders.

The next evening, Queen Elizabeth hosted a dinner at the Portsmouth Guild Hall. In attendance were WWII veterans, President Bill Clinton and the First Lady, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Robert E. Kramek, and various other Heads of State. Later that same evening, Captain Hull found himself in the 100 year old Admiral Nelson Hall, located on the Portsmouth Naval Base, for yet another formal dinner. Present were the commanding officers of every military vessel that participated in the ceremonies, as well as many other high ranking dignitaries. Esprit De Corps ran high that evening as these mariners and soldiers raised their glasses and indulged each other with stories of war and sea. Sunday morning, Admiral Kramek, arrived on board Dallas to accompany the ship on its history making voyage across the English Channel. Although he had only recently assumed the duties of Commandant on 01 June, Admiral Kramek made the most of his first few days in office. He spoke and dined with, not only WWII veterans and U.S. Senators, but President Clinton and various other Foreign Heads of State and his Foreign military counterparts. It is impossible to measure just what kind of or how much impact all this international exposure will have on the Coast Guard, but all signs indicate that Dallas has left positive impressions everywhere she went.

Shortly after Admiral Kramek's arrival on Sunday, Dallas left the harbor and proceeded outbound for the English Channel. As Dallas, with her rails manned, slipped silently by the Naval War Memorial in Portsmouth, she rendered honors before the world media and thousands of spectators on shore as she proceeded to the rendezvous point for the commemorative steaming.

