

Rededication of the monument to the life of Captain Conway Shipley, Royal Navy

1782-1808

By Jackie and Selwyn Kennard

Almost two years after Jackie and Selwyn Kennard and David Wright were made aware of the poor condition of the monument to Captain Conway Shipley at Paço do Arcos and started to organise its restoration, the rededication ceremony was held at 11.00 on Thursday 21st 2017.



The monument before (left) and after (right) the restoration of 2017

The ceremony took place in the presence of Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, Mrs Kirsty Hayes, the Presidente da Câmara Municipal de Oeiras, Dr Paulo César Sanches Casinhas da Silva Vistas, the Presidente das Infraestruturas de Portugal, Eng. António Carlos Laranjo da Silva, the Hon. Owain and Mrs Rowley-Conwy, descendants of Captain Conway Shipley.



Rear Admiral McAlpine, the British Ambassador - Kirsty Hayes, Jackie Kennard, and the Mayor of Oeiras

Also present were: Rear Admiral, P A McAlpine, CBE, the senior British Officer, NATO, Oeiras; Colonel G Manger, Royal Marines and six Royal Naval personnel in uniform; Captain Peter Hore, RN (1805 Club), Alex, Jacques, Gerard, & Georges Defense and Cinitia Costa of Cavan S.A. & Prefabe S.A.; Mark Crathorne, from the British Historical Society and other sponsors who contributed to the costs of the restoration.

The service was conducted by The Right Reverend Dr Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales 2003-2017.



Right Reverend Dr Barry Morgan leads the service of rededication

The Ceremony commenced with the sounding of ‘The Alert’ by Sergeant Pedro Santos of the Portuguese Navy. The Hon O.G. Rowley-Conwy then gave a synopsis of Conway Shipley’s life as follows:

Captain Conway Shipley, Royal Navy

“Conway Shipley joined the Royal Navy on his 11th birthday on 14th August 1793. He joined *HMS Invincible* a 74 Gun 3rd Rate Ship of the Line, regarded as one of the finest fighting ships at that time. He went on to serve in *HM Ships Pheobe* and *Endymion* where he attained the rank of Lieutenant in 1800. *HMS Vanguard* followed promotion and then he served in *HM Ships Durham & Chatham* following which he was promoted Commander in 1803. He was then appointed to *HM Ships St. Lucia and Hippomenes*. He was promoted Captain in 1804 by Sir Sam Hood and served in his Flagship *HMS Centaur*. This was a meteoric rise to high rank by today’s standards.

On 27th March 1804, whilst commanding *HMS Hippomenes* with 14 guns and 90 men, after an arduous chase of 54 hours and a running fight of three hours and 20 minutes, he captured the French privateer *Egyptienne* of 36 guns and 240 men. His gallantry earned him a sword from the Lloyds Patriotic Society. This sword, along with his fighting sword is retained at Bodrhyddan Hall, his ancestral home.



Finally, as Captain of HMS Nymph he led an expedition to cut out a French Corvette, LA Gavotte with 44 guns, but was shot in the head and killed whilst trying to board. His body fell into the river Tagus and was washed up on the beach of Paço do Arcos, known locally from then on as the ‘Dead Englishman’s beach’.

Captain Conway Shipley’s short life was full of adventure and outstanding bravery, which was documented in papers from almost every ship he served in. He was clearly proud to serve his country and I am proud to be here to represent him today”.

The President of the Oeiras Camara, Dr Paulo César Sanches Casinhas da Silva Vistas, then addressed the assembly. Assisted by the British Ambassador, he unveiled the monument after which Dr Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales, led the assembly in The Lord’s Prayer. This was followed by the naval hymn, “Eternal Father Strong to Save” and the final blessing. Sergeant Santos then sounded The Last Post.



Unveiling by British Ambassador, Kirsty Hayes, and the Mayor of Oeiras



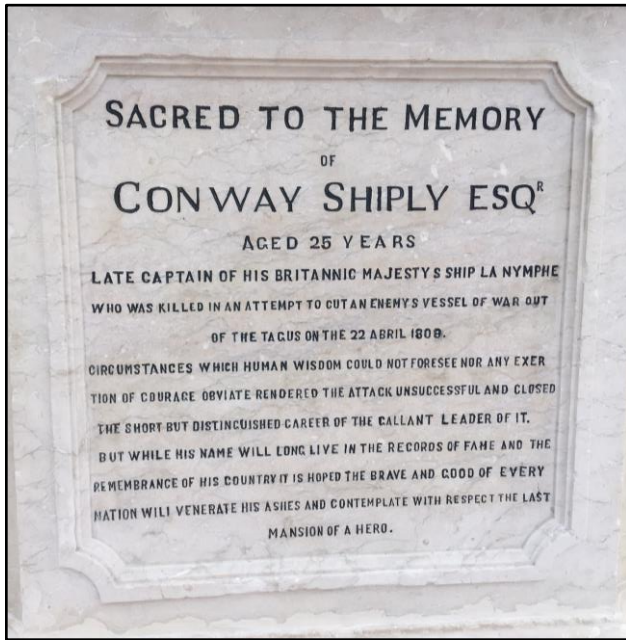
The address by the Mayor of Oeiras, Paulo Casinhas da Silva Vistas

After the rededication, the Oeiras Câmara generously provided canapés and drinks on the Promenade. Invited guests then made their way to the Adega do Palacio de Marques do Pombal for a wine tasting followed by



lunch, during which the British Ambassador, Mrs Kirsty Hayes, thanked all the sponsors for their support, which had made this event possible.





The restored monument to Captain Conway Shipley

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Jackie and Selwyn Kennard met whilst still under basic training with the Royal Navy in 1964. Jackie, already a qualified shorthand/typist, went on to serve on the staff of Commanders in Chief at Plymouth, Malta and finally Portsmouth in the Wrens¹. Selwyn went to sea in HMS Rhyl serving in the Far East and the Mediterranean. In 1975 they were sent to HMS Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, just after Jackie had given birth to their third child. Jackie never stopped work and went on to fill a variety of positions at IBM, Plessey Aerospace and within the John Lewis Partnership. After several jobs at sea and ashore in the UK, Selwyn's career culminated (1993-95) with his appointment as the Commanding Officer of the UKSU at NATO HQ, Oeiras, Portugal. In 2010 they moved to Portugal and quickly involved themselves in a variety of positions within the local community and are Members of the BHSP.

¹ Women's Royal Naval Service