



# HMS Whimbrel Battle of the Atlantic Memorial

## **BRIEFING NOTE**

### **HMS WHIMBREL (1942-49) BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC MEMORIAL PROJECT.**

The Project is now at an interesting and crucial stage. The past three years have been spent completing a wide range of assessments, evaluations and consultations to ensure that the overall plan of establishing the Memorial based on the former HMS WHIMBREL in Liverpool is feasible both technically and financially.

A detailed survey of ENS TARIQ (as she is currently called) in Alexandria in August 2005 has confirmed that the ship is very worthy of being saved from the scrap yard. She is a fine old lady, somewhat tired but predominantly still in her original Second World War configuration. Following an initial proposal, prior to the 2005 survey, to purchase the ship and complete essential repairs and refitting work in Alexandria for an agreed figure of £1M Sterling, the Project sent a confirming Letter of Intent (LOI), via the British Embassy in Cairo, to the Egyptian authorities in March 2006. Whilst the Egyptians have given an indication that they wish to proceed on this basis, a formal reply to the LOI is still awaited. Commander Mike Lovett Royal Navy, the Naval Attaché in Cairo, is chasing the response on our behalf.

In preparation for taking everything forward, the Project has the following 'building blocks' in place:

- A detailed, 200 page 'Refit Specification' listing the complete range of repair and refit work to be negotiated and agreed with the Egyptian authorities. However, this will not be sent to the Egyptians until a formal response to the LOI is received.
- Edition 1 of a "live" Business Plan covering every aspect of the Project's intentions all the way from first purchase to long term sustainability in Liverpool as an historical and educational memorial on a 'cradle to new life' basis. As a living document, it will remain under constant review and revision, especially as regards some conservation and preservation items that cannot be determined until after the ship is "opened up" in Alexandria during the repair and refitting phase.
- Plans to appoint a professional, salaried fundraiser within the next few months who will be remitted to raise an initial £2M as soon as possible to

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meet the £1M cost of purchase, repair and refitting, and the ship's transportation (by heavy lift means – towing home is not feasible) to Liverpool.

The Project will not, however, enter into a formal contract for the combined £1M purchase and repair and refit package of TARIQ until such time as the work content of the Refit Specification is agreed within the proposed £1M figure, **and the initial £2M is secured to ensure the ship's return to the UK.**

Meanwhile, the Project is continuing to discuss matters with its various contacts and advisors, including The National Historic Memorial Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund. The Project would not be eligible to apply to for HLF funding until after the ship's return to Liverpool, hopefully by 2008, the year that city becomes the European Capital of Culture. A berth has already been reserved for HMS WHIMBREL in Canning Dock, at the heart of Liverpool's historical maritime centre.

The most pressing need now is to raise the first £2M. We have already received a very generous donation from the Westminster Foundation and been allowed to draw down on some of this funding for 'pump-priming' purposes. His Grace, The Duke of Westminster is the Project's Patron.

The £40,000 cost of the 2005 survey of ENS TARIQ was met jointly by Liverpool City Council and Objective One funding by the Government Office of the North West.

Further major sponsor and donations now need to be secured or else the Project will stall.

Chris Pile  
Project Manager

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