HMS Penelope Association

The PENELOPE Association was established in 1987 to bring together those who had served in the Royal Navy cruiser of that name (1936-44). The following year it was unanimously agreed that the association should also include those who served on the frigate (F127) from 1963. In this way, it became the means of uniting all those who had served on either ship. The membership is now starting to reflect this. Although most of the members from the wartime cruiser have passed away, there are still a number of survivors from 1944 and more and more of those who served on the frigate (sadly now gone) are now joining. This is something the association is rightly proud of, and fully illustrates the close bond that will always exist between those who served in the Royal Navy, irrespective of when that may have been, and typifies the words of Sir Francis Drake-'All of one Company".

Among the full members who served on the frigate, a number are still serving in the navy today and the association is rightly delighted at this.

Also, the association is delighted to have among its members a number of relatives who's served in one of the two ships. Some of them are children, grand children, brothers and sister of members of the association and some are relatives of men who died when the Penelope was sunk on that fateful day in February 1944. Others just have fond memories of the Penelope for their own reasons and keep the memories alive by just being a member of the association.

The Association keeps in touch through a quarterly Newsletter, The Shadow', so-called because that was the nickname given to the Penelope by the enemy during the war. It contains news of the association, as well as articles relating to the two Penelope's. The association also has strong links with the Blackpool Sea Cadet unit "TS Penelope". This name was chosen for the unit because of the adoption of HMS Penelope (cruiser) during the war years. The link between the association and the town of Blackpool was further strengthened through the happy relationship for many years with the local branch of the Royal Naval Association, which met in the Penelope Mess at the Stretton Hotel North Promenade Blackpool. Unfortunately, the RNA in Blackpool no longer exists.

The association holds an annual reunion weekend in Blackpool, normally the weekend nearest the 18th February, that being the date the cruiser was sunk off Anzio with the loss of 417 lives. Among those that died was the Commanding Officer Capt. G. D. Belben, the association is very proud to have the son of Capt. Belben, David as an Honorary Vice President. David is an enthusiastic and valued supporter of the association. The Association is also very proud to have Commodore Paul Sutermeister; a former Captain of Penelope as it's President.

The Association has its own tie (£7.00) metal lapel badge (£3.00) embroidered blazer badge (£13.00). Should you wish to buy any of these items, please send your money with this application form? (One cheque will do for membership & items)

Website – www.hms-penelope.online

APPLICATION TO JOIN THE PENELOPE ASSOCIATION

To be completed and returned to: -
Ann-Louise Robson Membership Secretary
4 Long Meadow way
Cottesmore Rutland
LE15 7DQ

26 April 2025

I wish to join the association and enclose a cheque for £_____
made payable to: - **HMS PENELOPE ASSOCIATION.**
Bank details for online payments 30 99 50 25581560 please use your name as a reference. Please email ann-louise@hms-penelope.com so we update our members list. If unable to scan take photo and send

(Membership is a minimum of £10:00 per year, renewable each January)
But any extra you may wish to send as a donation, would be most useful and gratefully received.

Name *(FULL)*_____ / _____

Address _____

_____

_____**Post Code**_____

Phone No. _____ _____

Email. _____

I served on the Penelope: - *(Dates)*_____to _____

My Rank / Rate was: - _____**Service No.** _____

If you didn't serve on Penelope, please state your connection with the Penelope.

If you are willing to accept our newsletter by email rather than a hard copy please tick box ☐, This will save the association money.