



THE COASTAL FORCES HERITAGE TRUST

The Coastal Forces Heritage Trust (CFHT) is a charity established in 1994, which aims to advance the education of the public in the history of Coastal Forces and preserve of the ethos of those personnel who have served.

Since its inception, CFHT has been the torchbearer for the memory of Coastal Forces and its mainly RNVR officers and Hostilities Only ratings. Within the current lifetime of the Trust some £1.5m has been raised in support of its aims. Most importantly, the Trust has developed into the acknowledged central foundation around which other Coastal Forces related activities have sought support. As such, CFHT has been the catalyst for development across the whole spectrum of Coastal Forces remembrance and public education.

Prior to 2016 the Trust focused on the restoration of the very few surviving Coastal Forces craft, the collation of Coastal Forces data, recording individual memoirs from surviving Coastal Forces personnel together with the collection of memorabilia. A number of memorial plaques were erected at significant locations where Coastal Forces were based during WW II. In addition, support was given to Coastal Forces Veterans organisations. Byway of an example, CFHT organizes the Annual Allied Coastal Forces Remembrance Service at the former Coastal Forces base, HMS Hornet in Gosport.

In 2016 HM Treasury awarded the Trust £925,000 from the LIBOR Fund, matched by the Trust with a further £150,000, to establish a permanent museum at Priddy's Hard, Gosport. This Museum opened to the public in the Autumn of 2021 and it is now part of the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN).

The museum is named "*The Night Hunters: The Royal Navy Coastal Forces at War*" and the gallery named after the most decorated RNVR Officer, Lieutenant Commander Robert Hichens DSO* DSC** RNVR. In addition to two Coastal Forces warships, the Museum includes state-of-the-art audio visual displays, dramatically highlighting the role of Coastal Forces in two world wars. The Museum aims to educate, inform and inspire visitors of all generation as they learn what their forefathers achieved.

Current projects include consulting on a new northern Coastal Forces Museum based in Hartlepool that will inform the public of other aspects of the Coastal Forces story, the East Coast convoys and clandestine operations in occupied Norway. We continue to provide support, together with the Portsmouth Historic Quarter, for seagoing coastal forces vessels, particularly the British Military Powerboat Collection and HMS Medusa. We are actively pursuing a plan to digitize our extensive archives to enable better access for those wishing to research their family connections or 20th century warfare at sea.



Our main focus for 2026 is a new Coastal Forces Monument, dedicated to the memory of the RNVR officers and 'hostilities only' ratings who served at sea and the shorebased personnel – notably WRNS – who played such an important supporting role. Thanks to the generosity and foresight of the members of the Royal Naval Club in Mayfair, our fundraising has got off to a strong start with a generous donation of £300,000. We are seeking to raise a further £250,000 to complete the project, which has been conceived by the renowned sculptor Amy Goodman in close collaboration with Trustees and Portsmouth Historic Quarter.

This striking monument will stand at Victory Gate, the entrance to HM Naval Base Portsmouth, Portsmouth Historic Quarter, the National Museum of the Royal Navy and the Mary Rose Trust. It will form an integral element of our education programme as well as capturing the imaginations of the 900,000 visitors who will walk within a few metres of it every year.