

Shipmates,

November, 2015

Chairman Robin informed me Fred Kinsey's ashes were to be put into the river Medway from Thunderbolt Pier Chatham Dockyard, Monday 2nd November at 1 p.m.

Two days prior Robin was taken into hospital; unable to attend on discharge so I went alone. At the pier I met Shipmates Ray Lambert, Andy Andrews from Headcorn and Fred from Southend (I think).

Fred's Kinsey's daughter Sharron with her husband and their daughter attended. Mrs. Kinsey, who came from Cambridge by train, one other lady I later learned was Debbie the proprietor of the King Charles Hotel. She knew Fred from his annual wrestle on Superb's behalf for good guest rooms, a dining room with suitable decorations and bar at affordable cost.

On the pier each of Fred's family, in turn, poured a portion into the flow. S.M. Andy Andrews delivered a tribute on behalf of the Superb Association. The procedure, in a burst of sunshine amid fog, was dignified, simple and most friendly, all chatted away. Stoker Kinsey would be well pleased.

Before Mrs. Kinsey was to brave the rail system back to Cambridge an invite from Debbie to all go back to the King Charles' hotel for coffee and tea with a mega plate of various fresh sandwiches. How nice a gesture was that?

"Though the flood may bear him far
I hope he meets his pilot face to face
When he is across the bar".

(Last lines of Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "Crossing the Bar")

Andy Brierley