



DUNCAN'S DISPATCHES

Quips and stories from around Province 7
October 2024

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Blackheath & Chislehurst Circle had the enormous pleasure of hosting a big celebratory lunch for our Brother Bob Gravells on his 100th birthday.





A large number of Brothers from the Province attended to celebrate with Bob and Circle President Brother Frank Savage presented him with a special Birthday Greeting from His Majesty the King and many more Birthday wishes from many Catenians and well wishers. Bob is a War Hero having made two trips on D-Day. Conscripted aged just 18 and choosing the Navy, Bob Gravells was on a merchant ship carrying American troops to the beaches on the afternoon of D-Day.





Motor Vessel Erna was a free Dutch ship with a Dutch crew and he was a gunner. Bob said: “The weather was bad and the invasion was delayed. During that time we took on board, my recollection is 68 American soldiers, wonderful chaps they were. All around my age - 19,20,21, and the Dutch crew all spoke English. The Americans were on the ship for at least three days and as you can imagine their accommodation wasn’t great. It was in the hold.”

It was a great occasion and everyone who had gathered with Bob for his birthday seemed very privileged to have had the opportunity to share in the once-in-a-lifetime moment which we will never experience again.”

PROVINCIAL DINNER 2024



Thanks to Jim Saunders, Provincial President, who organised a wonderful Dinner at Sophies Choice for over 58 Brothers and Ladies in September. The first such event in the Province for many years. Nearly every Circle was represented and it is the wish of everyone who attended that more of these events should be planned!!





THE PRESIDENTS CUP PRESENTATION



Brothers from Meopham and Swanley Circles recently held a joint meeting at the Hartley Country Club and were joined by the ladies afterwards for a very enjoyable dinner. This was also an opportunity for Peter Coward, the Immediate Past Provincial President, to present the Presidents Cup for 2023/24 to Duncan Aitkins of Bromley and Beckenham Circles and this year's Provincial Director. The Presidents Cup is awarded to a Brother who has worked for the good and development of Province 7 Catenian Association during the the year. Duncan has done this and more, and continues to do this for which we thank him.

Article from Peter Coward (Swanley Circle)