

## Appendix 1: Display Brief

### HMS Trincomalee's Figurehead – Lighting and Interpretation Design and Fit National Museum of the Royal Navy Hartlepool



*Figurehead before conservation and in place on the ship c.1900*

#### 1.0 HMS Trincomalee and the National Museum of the Royal Navy, Hartlepool

1.1 HMS *Trincomalee*, built in 1817, is the oldest British warship and is the centrepiece of The National Museum of the Royal Navy's Hartlepool site.

1.2 The Hartlepool site joined the National Museum's portfolio in June 2016, having been previously known as Hartlepool Maritime Experience. The quayside attractions had been managed by Hartlepool Borough Council, whilst the ship was owned and managed by the HMS Trincomalee Trust.

#### 2.0 The Requirement

2.1 Following the conservation and display mounting of HMS Trincomalee's figurehead, taking place in the first half of 2020, the National Museum is seeking an experienced exhibition designer to design and fit lighting and interpretation.

#### 3.0 The Figurehead

3.1 When the ship was restored in the 1990s, the figurehead was found to be suffering from extensive decay and was removed and replaced by a replica. In 2016 it was 'rediscovered' in a storeroom by the Museum's new curator.

3.2 The figurehead is a rare survivor, carved in 1845 by Hellyer & Son, carvers for the Portsmouth Dockyard, in preparation for the ship's first commission. It depicts a turbaned

man, believed to represent a native of Sri Lanka (where Trincomalee is a port). The original design drawing survives in the National Archives, along with several documents pertaining to the commission.

3.3 Dimensions of the figurehead are: Height: 124cm Width: 75cm Depth: 100cm.

3.4 Width of wall for mounting: 318cm.

#### **4.0 The Project**

4.1 The Museum has received funding from the Art Fund Conservation Grants scheme, the Friends of HMS Trincomalee, and others, for the conservation and display of the figurehead, along with a parallel programme of public engagement.

4.2 An accredited conservator is being appointed to begin work in February 2020.

4.3 Public engagement will begin in May 2020 when visitors to the Museum will be able to see the figurehead being painted on site.

4.4 Following the figurehead's unveiling in its permanent position in summer 2020, a programme of talks and tours will commence and a new schools' workshop launched in September 2020.

#### **5.0 Display Concept**

5.1 It is proposed that the figurehead is displayed in the Trincomalee exhibition, a space which tells the story of the ship from its building in Bombay to its restoration.

5.2 The Trincomalee exhibition is currently lacking in any large or colourful objects, and the figurehead would provide a focal point at the top of the stairwell entry point.

5.3 The figurehead will be fitted with a mount and installed on the wall of the stairwell by the appointed conservators.

5.4 At this stage in time, no other modernisation will take place in the gallery. It is therefore required that the new display enhances the space without being too out of place with the rest of the content.

#### **6.0 Display Brief**

The National Museum of the Royal Navy is inviting quotes for the lighting and interpretation of the figurehead, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Track-mounted lighting (old lighting is already in place in the correct area)
- Graphic design and production of a wall backdrop for the figurehead
- Editing of a film taken of the figurehead's conservation for use in interpretation and/or online
- Design and installation of attractive, accessible and imaginative interpretation in an appropriate form for the space and setting

#### **7.0 Budget**

£17,500 has been allocated for the lighting and interpretation of the figurehead in the gallery space.

## 8.0 Timetable

The planned project timetable is as follows:

- February 2020, conservation process begins
- 23 – 29 May 2020 (Whitsun School Holiday), figurehead is returned to site and final week of conservation (painting) takes place within view of museum visitors
- Mid June 2020, installation of figurehead in exhibition space by conservators
- **Mid-June to mid July, installation of lighting and interpretation**
- **mid to late July 2020, public re-opening of the exhibition space following stakeholders' launch event and press call**

## 9.0 Images

Images of the figurehead and gallery space are in Appendix 2.

## 10.0 Further information and contact details

Requests for further information, images, or site visits can be addressed to:

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