

# ROYAL NAVAL PATROL SERVICE MUSEUM



**SPARROWS NEST GARDENS  
WHAPLOAD ROAD  
LOWESTOFT  
SUFFOLK NR32 1XG**

**OPENING HOURS:-  
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY  
MORNINGS 09.30 - 12.30  
CALL 01502 586250 DURING THESE  
HOURS FOR FURTHER DETAILS OR TO  
ARRANGE AN OUT OF HOURS VISIT  
07975623651 AT OTHER TIMES**

**FREE  
ADMISSION**



At the outbreak of the second world war Lowestoft became the Central Depot of the Royal Naval Patrol Service with its Headquarters in the Municipal Gardens known as the Sparrow's Nest. It was originally known as HMS Pembroke X but soon changed its name to HMS Europa.

Our museum, in the original wartime Naval Base buildings, houses a large collection of models, medals, photographs and other related memorabilia and is also the Headquarters of the Royal Naval Patrol Service Association. Our volunteer staff will assist with any queries you may have.

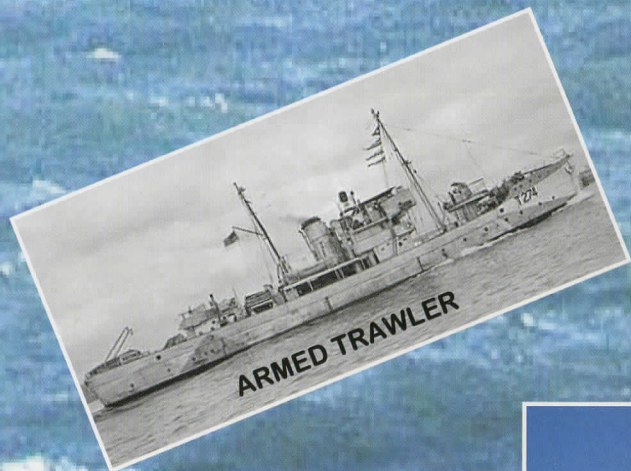


**"In depths we search"**

Web site - [www.rnpsa.co.uk](http://www.rnpsa.co.uk)  
Email - [hq@rnpsa.co.uk](mailto:hq@rnpsa.co.uk)

 - Royal Naval Patrol Service

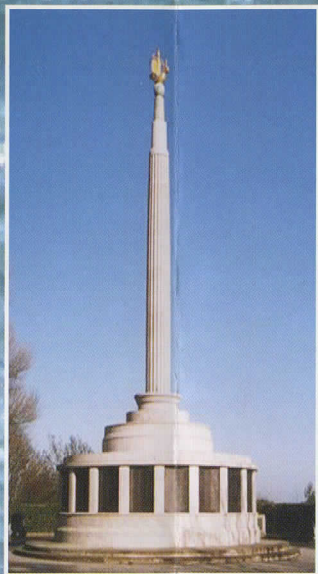




ARMED TRAWLER



DRIFTER



The work of the Royal Naval Patrol Service (RNPS) was Minesweeping and anti submarine patrols and its first ships were converted fishing drifters and trawlers. Soon specially designed minesweepers were built, known as MMS (Motor Mine Sweeper) built in the UK and BYMS (British Yard Mine Sweeper) built in America. Fishermen were drafted into the Royal Navy to man these ships and were supplemented by men from the Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. The RNPS served in all parts of the world during the war clearing mine fields, hunting submarines and convoy escorts.

By the end of the war some 66,000 men had been in the RNPS manning approximately 6,000 ships. Casualties were very high and roughly 14,500 men were killed and 600 ships lost.

Above our museum, in Belle Vue Park, stands our memorial made of Portland stone. It stands 50 ft high and is topped by a golden galleon and around its 40ft diameter base are 17 bronze panels with the names of 2,385 men who were killed and have no known grave but the sea.

The RNPS was considered to be a Navy within a Navy and had 2 nicknames, "Harry Tate's Navy", after an old Music Hall artist and "Churchill's Pirates". Men of the RNPS were, and still are, known as "Sparrows" after their wartime HQ at the Sparrows Nest.

The most important distinction given to the Royal Naval Patrol Service was an exclusive silver badge. Officers and men of the RNPS were awarded this badge after a total of six months service at sea. This unique award was the idea of Sir Winston Churchill. Never before had one section of the Royal Navy been similarly honoured.



MMS - Motor Mine Sweeper



BYMS - British Yard Mine Sweeper