

ABC, Admiral of the Fleet Viscount Cunningham of Hyndhope, had a magnificent funeral in Portsmouth. At his death in July 1963, his body was brought to the Chapel in HMS Victory [now called HMS Nelson], the main shore barracks in Portsmouth, for his laying-in-state. Then, on the day of his funeral, his body was taken with full naval honours, mounted on a gun carriage to the dockyard. There, at South Railway Jetty [SRJ], his body was taken onboard the guided-missile destroyer HMS Hampshire. Shortly after, Hampshire slipped and sailed to the south of the NAB Tower where the Admiral's body was committed to the deep. The whole of Queens Street and the Hard were closed to traffic and barriers were erected for the watching crowds. Just about every living Admiral of the Fleet was in attendance which included HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and Lord Louis Mountbatten*, as well as all members of the Board of Admiralty, and many senior officers who had served under him during world war two. The marching procession involved the use of hundreds of men [mainly] taken from the barracks, ship's in harbour, other Portsmouth shore establishments, Associations, local Dignitaries, local organisations directly associated with the Navy and others, all led, of course, by the Band[s] of the Royal Marines. There was a full ceremonial Guard-of-Honour mounted in the barracks and a second Guard mounted in the dockyard adjacent to HMS Hampshire. Full marks of respect were paid, not only by the Navy as tradition dictates, but by all vessels and on-lookers who witnessed the passing of this, our greatest WW2 sailor.

***Three short years before this in February 1960, and in the same geographical position, Lord Mountbatten had stood on the quarterdeck of HMS Scarborough watching his wife's coffin being committed to the deep.**