

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to begin by thanking Mr Deputy Prefect ;

Captain Philippe STONOR, Deputy Attaché of Defence ;

Commander GILLIER ;

Mr Roger ROUND, president of the HMT *Lancastria* Association and most specially Mrs Jacqueline DUGGAN who has worked very much in corresponding with our services to prepare this ceremony. We offer her a bunch of flowers ;

Mr Mark HIRST, president of the Scottish Association for *Lancastria*, which president of honor is the mayor of Saint-Nazaire ;

The members of the Royal Naval Association and of the Royal British Legion ;

The Veterans ;

The survivors, Mr Forester will be given the Commemorative *Lancastria* Medal on behalf of the Scottish government ;

The 9th Company of commanding and transmissions of the [French] Navy, for the squad of honor.

It is a real work of remembrance that is being done every year and since long, about the greatest maritime catastrophe of all times in the Atlantic Ocean.

Every one can measure the importance of this celebration which goes beyond our borders. Our English and Scottish friends, with whom we keep very strong links of friendship and brotherhood, who come to us here, allow us to confirm our will of not forgetting this terrible event.

Saint-Nazaire owes very much to Great-Britain, its shipyards created by Scotsmen, the British commando in 1942, the *Queen Mary II*. We shall never forget the sacrifice of those who perished at sea.

Nowadays, this tragedy is known and acknowledged. There is a website with many informations and testimonies, but there is also a documentary film broadcast by “*Thalassa*” on TV, as well as an exhibition showing a model of the *Lancastria* which will be unveiled publicly at the semaphore of Cape Saint-Gildas since June 19th.

And finally, dear friends, it is in the name of this faithful friendship that I invite you to celebrate.

Catherine Tesseyre

(Traduction Maryvonne Cadiou)