

CHAIRMAN ON 'VENTUROUS'

SIR LOUIS, CHIEF INSPECTOR & INSPECTOR-GENERAL VISIT EAST COAST PORTS

At 1100 hours on Monday, 4th August, H.M.R.C. 'Venturous' left Custom House, Gravesend, and patrolled via the Thames Estuary to Harwich. On board was the Chairman of the Board. His purpose: to see and learn more about work in the Outfield by visiting ports and creeks in Harwich Collection. He was accompanied by Mr. F.G.J. Sherwin, for whom this was a nostalgic trip, and Mr. C.M. Porter, the Inspector-General.

The first call was at Navyard Quay, Harwich, where the party was welcomed by Mr. W.A. Stubbles, Collector, and Mr. R. Colling, Waterguard Superintendent; together they inspected the new container facilities, and met the Surveyor and Officers.

The next call, on Tuesday morning, was at Felixstowe, the recently developed container port. The party was shown round the dock by the Manager and met Departmental staff engaged in their duties, including those in the Long Room.

Back on 'Venturous' the party made an inspection of the Stow estuary and then cruised up the Orwell to Ipswich, where the Chairman met the local staff while the cutter cleared the locks up to the elegant old Custom House.

0700, Wednesday. 'Venturous' cleared the locks back down after rummaging one of the foreign ships in the port. Thence to Felixstowe where rendezvous was made with the C.P.M. in his blue mini. Then south to Brightlingsea when the Chairman was given instruction in navigation. At the bustling little port, which guards the entrance to creeks popular with yachtsmen, the Chairman again met the local staff. By then the night and tide were falling, precluding the planned visit to Colchester.

Next morning the Cutter set course for the Thames, calling en route in the estuaries of Blackwater and Crouch. Then reluctantly she made her way back to Gravesend where the Chairman's party disembarked after an interesting, rewarding and informative 4 days.

Photographs (taken by 'Venturous' crew):

Right top: Group at Felixstowe; Left to right – Mr. Sherwin, Sir Louis, Mr. D. Mawe (Commander, 'Venturous'), Mr. Porter,

Mr. W.A. Stubbles (Collector, Harwich), Mr. S. Hilton (C.P.O.), Mr. G. Knox (Surveyor), and Mr. I. Trelawny (General Manager, Felixstowe Dock & Railway Co.).

Right Centre: Mr. Sherwin (left), Sir Louis (centre) and Mr. Porter with the crew of 'Venturous'.

Below right: The Chairman disembarks into the outboard motor boat.

Below: The V.I.P.'s snatch a moment to relax between engagements.

