

A retype of a 1923 Portsmouth Newspaper

The Removal of H.M.S. Victory from Portsmouth Harbour

There was much chuntering down amongst inhabitants of Portsea Island at the passing of the Victory ship from its harbour anchorage to No 2 dry dock in the yard.

One of the most unfortunate circumstances in connection with the removal of H.M.S. Victory from her moorings in the harbour, is the loss that must result to watermen who gained such a large part of their livelihood by taking people to and from the old ship, unless some other provision can be made to assist them. In this connection the Mayor of Portsmouth has approached the Admiralty through the Commander-in-Chief in an effort to get a modern battleship moored near to where Victory lay.

Doubtless many people who come here from inland towns and districts and who seldom get an opportunity to see a man of war would be glad to visit an up to date cruiser or battleship, but to have such a vessel more or less permanently is asking rather a big thing. The Admiralty has already intimated that watermen will be allowed to escort visitors to the dockyard and over the Victory and we very much fear that on economical grounds the proposal of concerning the mooring of a large warship can hardly be expected to succeed. It might be possible for a vessel in reserve to be moored in the harbour in the vicinity of Victory's erstwhile mooring, but there could scarcely be any permanency about this.

For my two pennyworth, I think it is a pie in sky thought and out of touch with reality. Much better I would have thought to employ these hapless watermen on a Vernon/Kings Stair route across the harbour to Dolphin and Haslar, putting men in the PAS boat service to jobs elsewhere in the extended yard.