



**BEECH HILL U.S. NAVY & MARINE CORPS  
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION  
Base One Europe**

32 Ardmore Road, Londonderry BT47 3QP Northern Ireland

Phone: 44 (0) 7713 566719



**MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS RECIPIENT OF THE 2015 PADDY HONE AWARD  
8 MAY 2015**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Bill McCulloch, 703-590-1265**

**WASHINGTON, DC—July 29, 2015**

Military Historical Tours was presented the Paddy Hone Award in 2015 for their efforts in recognizing the close relationship between the United States and Northern Ireland during the "Battle of the Atlantic" during WWII. The highlights of the tour back to Northern Ireland was the presentation of a Derry Crystal plaque "The Paddy Hone Award 2015" to Military Historical Tours by none other than Patricia Hume. She was also representing her husband John Hume who was a founding member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the 1998 Nobel Peace Laureate who could not be present at the ceremony due to a health concern. Paddy Hone was Patricia Hume's father, and was one of the many Derry men who found employment during WWII, working for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. The Hume's are patrons of the Beech Hill U.S. Navy & Marine Corps Friendship Association. In the words of former U.S. President Clinton, John Hume remains "Ireland's most tireless champion for civil rights and its most eloquent spokesman for peace." The Paddy Hone Award is for those efforts to promote the close relationship the people of Derry and the United States has shared throughout history and for the promotion of these military and cultural ties between the two countries.

The Battle of the Atlantic was the turning point of the European War and the beginning of the end for the Third Reich. This epic naval struggle was one of the most important events of the Twentieth Century because had the Nazi U-Boats been able to close the North Atlantic Convoy Supply Routes Great Britain and Russia would have been knocked out of the war. Coined by Prime Minister Winston Churchill "The Battle of the Atlantic" was "the only thing that ever frightened me." This was the longest, largest, and most complex naval battle in history and was the longest continuous battle of WWII. The Allies triumph in the Atlantic allowed the eventual ending of the war with Victory in Europe (VE) Day May 8th, 1945.

Military Historical Tours returned with U.S. Veterans in May for the ceremonies in Derry to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of VE Day and U.S. Servicemen who served in Ireland supporting The Battle of the Atlantic. MHT mission was to raise awareness of the anniversary, not just among Veterans, but also among the American people, many of whom are unaware of the commemorations in their honor and the enormity of U.S. Servicemen who trained in Northern Ireland prior to the North African Campaign and the invasion of fortress Europe on D-Day 6 June 1944.

Perhaps, not since the dedication of the Marine Corps Memorial at Beech Hill Country House Hotel had such a large number of veterans gathered to commemorate the service of the Marines, soldiers & sailors who had come to Derry to honor those who had come to Northern Ireland to serve and train during WWII. IT was highlighted by a wreath laying at the Memorial by Deputy Mayor, Alderman Thomas Kerrigan Derry & Strabane District Council, Col David Wall USMCR (Ret) representing the United States and Mark Lusby, Director of Base One Europe Museum as well as other local dignitaries in attendance. The presentation of the Paddy Hone Award was at the Memorial Luncheon at Beech Hill following the wreath laying and ceremony.

**Beech Hill U.S. Navy & Marine Corps Friendship Association:** <http://base1europe.com/2015/05/14/veday70/>

C/O Director Mark Lusby: [mark@thederrywalls.com](mailto:mark@thederrywalls.com)

**Event Contractor:** Military Historical Tours, Inc. (MHT), Woodbridge, VA: [www.mhtours@miltours.com](http://www.mhtours@miltours.com)

Mrs. Patricia "Patsy" Hume, wife of 1998 Nobel Peace Laureate, John Hume presents Col "Dave" Wall USMC (Ret) with the 2015 Paddy Hone Award during the 70th Anniversary of Battle of the Atlantic/Victory in Europe Ireland Tour in May.



The Tour Group at Beech Hill Country House Hotel the site of the U.S. Marine Battalion that supported Base One Europe and Naval Operating Base, Londonderry during WWII 1942-44 was the site of the wreath laying at the 1st Provisional Marine Battalion Memorial.





The Paddy Hone Award 2015



US Marine Corps, Derry, Ireland 1942-44

Beech Hill US Navy and Marine Corps  
Friendship Association

Military Historical Tours of Woodbridge VA