



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



Published 1st
Monday of
the Month

The Semaphore Circular

No 712

The Beating Heart of the RNA

August 2021



RNA 'Back in Action' – Shipmates from a number of Branches attended the only Central Office Open Day of this year. Despite Storm Everts best attempts all went ahead as scheduled and a great day was had by all.

Shipmates Please Stay Safe

If you need assistance call the RNA Helpline on 07542 680082

This edition is the on-line version of the Semaphore Circular, unless you have registered with Central Office, it will only be available on the RNA website in the 'Members Area' under 'downloads' at www.royal-naval-association.co.uk and will be emailed to the branch contact, usually the Hon Sec

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PLEASE NOTE DURING THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS CENTRAL OFFICE IS CLOSED. PLEASE USE EMAIL OR, IF THE MATTER IS URGENT, THE HELPLINE ON 07542 680082.



Staff photo (L – R) Sara Field, Kathryn Brindley, Nigel Huxtable, Lynda Pearson, Malcolm Little, Andy Christie, Julie Royston, Charlie Darlington and General Secretary Bill Oliphant. Missing on this occasion was Mike Gray.

Daily Orders (follow each link) Orders [follow each link]

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Glossary of terms

NCM	National Council Member
NC	National Council
AMC	Association Management Committee
FAC	Finance Administration Committee
NCh	National Chairman
NVCh	National Vice Chairman
NP	National President
DNP	Deputy National President
GS	General Secretary
CONA	Conference of Naval Associations
NCBA	National Charter, Rules and Byelaws Advisor/ Governance Committee

ind Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

RNA Website / Members Area / Downloads /
Circulars / Code (shipmate)

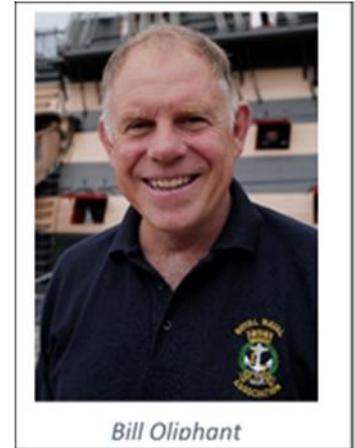
Snail Mail – Postal Address

RNA Central Office,
Building 1/087,
Scott Road,
HM Naval Base,
Portsmouth
Hants PO1 3LT

Dear Shipmates,

As I sit and write this, on the morning of our only Open Day of the year, you may have expected at the end of July that it might have been decent weather. Sadly, it's 10/10 cloud cover, rain is streaking down the window and the Union Flag I can see flying from Southsea Castle is rigid in the Force 6/7 wind. Happy summer!

Nevertheless, it's good to see Branches starting to get back together again after the Covid layoff. I had the very great pleasure of attending the Maidstone Branch's Sea Service on 25 July where there must have been a good six or eight No2 Area Branches represented with their Standards. BZ to all who took part from RNR, RNA and Sea cadets; it was a great turn out from across our naval family. What a pleasure to meet the Mayor of Maidstone too, Cllr Fay Googh; thank you for your support Ma'am and thank you Maidstone Branch for your hospitality and conviviality. The photo below shows Cllr Faye and Maidstone Chairman S/M Gerry Brown at the ceremony. It was the first time I had my uniform on for a while and certainly the first time since lockdown and I have to confess it's not getting any easier to get into those trousers! I take solace from the fact that they were issued when I was 22 years old and they haven't been adjusted – yet!



I took the opportunity on Sunday to remind the Committees that I have money in the Branch and Club Support Fund which I would be delighted to use to help Branches with transport for bringing shipmates down to the Naval Associations Parade at the Cenotaph on 12 September. Please try and make the effort to do this as we are using the occasion to remember all of our shipmates who crossed the bar during the pandemic, whether taken by Covid or not. The new Chaplain of the Fleet, Andrew Hillier, will officiate and the Second Sea Lord, VAdm Nick Hine, will take the salute. The Prime Minister is among the VIP guests invited and No 10 have indicated that he is keen to attend. The RNA minibuses with their wheelchair tailgate lifts will be available

on the morning to collect our more immobile shipmates from their accommodation and we have had a number of serving uniformed offers of wheelchair pushers so there's no need to feel left out if you are less mobile these days. Please let Nigel/Sara know if you are intending to come (admin@royalnavalassoc.com or 02392 723747).

Meanwhile, Conference is almost upon us so please let Central Office know who is representing your Branch as a delegate as soon as possible please. It promises to be a great Conference and, situated in Nottingham, right in the centre of the country, makes it very accessible. Let your Branches voice be heard.

I'll leave you with an amusing moment from last week's hugely interesting Fireside Chat which was delivered by Ian Gardiner RM who educated and entertained us with his stories of fighting in the Omani mountains during the Dhofar campaign in the early 70s. I could see that one of our audience wanted to ask a question and I could just make out his name. "Alan, has a question. Alan...." When Alan spoke and his face expanded from the tiny box to fill the screen, I realised that "Alan" was none other than Lord West!! Welcome to our Fireside Chat Sir.

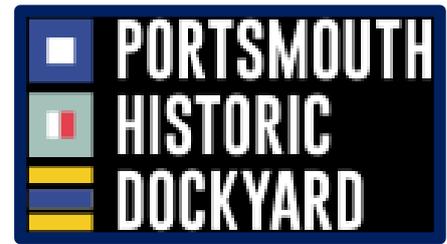
Finally, if you ever wondered how much the RNA means to someone, we had word from QA hospital this week that an old boy had been admitted briefly and subsequently crossed the bar. On his registration document he had listed the RNA as his next-of-kin. Need I say more.....have a good month.

As ever,

Bill Oliphant

1. ★ RNA Discounted Tickets - Historic Dockyard Portsmouth

Shipmates are planning a visit to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard during the summer months should be aware that Central Office have renegotiated discounted entry to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard please see the below for details;



Annual Ultimate Explorer ticket offer:

Save 30% off the annual Ultimate Explorer tickets at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

Tickets are valid for the year allowing you to return again and again. The Ultimate Explorer tickets give you access to:

- The Mary Rose
- HMS Victory
- HMS Warrior
- HMS Alliance at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum
- Harbour Tour
- Plus more

Offer is valid on one family Ultimate Explorer ticket or up to four adult, senior or child Ultimate Explorer Tickets.

To get this discount, simply show your Royal Naval Association Membership card in the Visitor Centre, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Tickets can also be purchased online at <https://www.historicdockyard.co.uk/tickets-and-offers> and entering code DEFNMRN01 at the checkout. When purchasing tickets online, your Royal Naval Association Membership card will need to be shown when collecting the ticket in our Visitor Centre.

Tickets are currently priced at - Adult (age 16-64) £39, Senior (65+) £38, Child (age 4-15) £29, Family 1 (1 Adult & up to 3 Children) £95, Family 2 (2 Adults & up to 3 Children) £120

Day Ticket Offer

Veteran Day Tickets are now available to purchase in our Visitor Centre for £20.

These tickets given you access to all the amazing attractions in the dockyard for the day.

To purchase this ticket, please show your valid Royal Naval Association in the Visitor Centre. These tickets cannot be purchased online. Offer valid on up to four tickets.

2. ★ Semaphore Circular Update

The Semaphore Circular will now be publishing on the first Monday of the month so coordinate with the Semaphore Short which is published each Monday. Please continue to forward any articles and branch news to andy@royalnavalassoc.com by the 23rd of each month for publication.

For your information the Semaphore Circular October edition will not be published due to the Editor being on leave.

3. ★ 2021 Royal Naval Association Conference – Nottingham 4/5 September 2021



A gently reminder for Branches that there is still plenty of time for them to nominate a delegate to attend and vote at Conference. Their travel expenses are covered but not accommodation and shipmates are not required to stay in the Conference Hotel (The Crowne Plaza, Wollaton Street, Nottingham) they can organise their own accommodation and still attend the AGM and Gala Dinner on Saturday.

For those who would like to stay in the Crowne Plaza hotel the Conference booking form is now available on the website <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/downloads/conference>

Prices range from £106.50 pp for a 1 day stay to 4 nights £224 these prices include the cost of the Gala night dinner.

It is also important that as Branches start to hold post crisis meetings that they consider sending a delegate to Conference and enable your Branch to have a say and witness RNA democracy in action. ***Delegate attendance forms can be found at the rear of this Circular, remember you can claim your delegates travel expenses. Don't forget Branches can nominate a Shipmate from another branch who is attending to place their vote.***

For those who are yet to attend Conference either as a delegate or observer the programme is as follows:

- Friday 3 Sep – 1900 Meet and Greet
- Saturday 4 Sep – 1000 – 1600 AGM (Including presentation by RN Presentation Team with a Fleet update) (Welfare/SIG/Car Club Workshops are held around outside the Conference Hall)
- Sunday 5 Sep - 1030 Church Service

This year additionally the Special Interest Groups (Wheeled variety) will be rallying across the UK to Conference to join in the fun and advertise their various groups.

We are really looking forward to coming together once again and celebrating the end of such a difficult period, in true RNA fashion.

4. ★ Naval Associations Biennial Parade in Whitehall - Essential information for Sunday 12 September 2021

The Naval Associations Biennial Parade will take place on Sunday 12 September 2021 and we would be delighted to see as many Veterans from the wider Naval family take part as possible to celebrate this unique Naval occasion. Many Naval Associations are taking part and there is no limits on numbers the more the merrier! Don't forget to eat a decent pre parade breakfast.



A Few Church Notices concerning the Parade.....

- **Essential** – You carry with you photo ID and your Association Membership Card. A Met Police Officer and member of RNA staff will be at ingress points.
- Rig - Blazer/Jacket Association Tie (RN will be in Number 1 Uniform)
- Standard Bearers – Room for changing/stowing kit available from 0900 at Civil Service Club, Great Scotland Yard (ten minute walk from King Charles Street)
- Standard Bearers muster in King Charles Street at 1010 by Parade Commander
- Wreaths – Please feel free to bring a wreath they will be collected during the parade review and placed on the Cenotaph
- Shipmates should muster in King Charles Street by 1015 ready for Parade brief by the Parade Commander, Shipmate Bob Coburn at **1025**
- Parade steps off 1035 with the Band leading the way.
- Parade will travel at ‘Matelot Bimble’ speed for those worrying about pace of march.
- Disabled Shipmates who wish to take part please contact RNA Central Office on 02392 723747 or admin@royalnavalassoc.com
- Shipmates should be aware that toilet facilities are a 15-minute walk from King Charles Street/Cenotaph (So prior planning etc.....)
- RNA Staff will be easily recognizable and will be wearing High Vis Jackets on the day to assist Shipmates
- Staff will provide First Aid cover and a member of staff will carry a Defibrillator.
- Parking - Sunday morning in central London, those choosing to drive into Whitehall are recommended to park on the Embankment and to check what parking regulations and zones for charging are operating on the day.



We are hoping to arrange parking in the Mall and are currently awaiting details from Royal Parks. Details will be updated in the September Semaphore Circular – Watch this space.....

In true Naval tradition permission has been granted for you to go round the parade ground again!!
Only Kidding.....

Looking forward to seeing you on the day. If you are unsure about anything please ring 02392 723747 or email Admin@royalnavalassoc.com

5. ★ RNA Uxbridge

Talking of Naval Association Parades Shipmates are cordially invited to call in at RNA Uxbridge on their way home from the parade for a comforting refreshment on route home.....

RNA Uxbridge always opens our doors for anyone attending the Parade to pop in on the way home , we are located just off the slip road Hillingdon intersection West Bound on the main A40 just past RAF Northolt . please contact the Chairman / Club manager Slinger Wood on 07961124459 or the Club phone 01895 230071 or even e mail us at rna.uxbridge@hotmail.co.uk



We will lay on some scran and some entertainment (The 2 good olde boys sing a long) and most important a few Tots just to get you in the mood (All free of charge) all we ask is book in so we have catering numbers and buy plenty of beer but above all come down to a traditional RNA Club and Enjoy (Skylarking is permitted at all times)

There is plenty of free Parking onsite. Looking forward to seeing you Slinger Wood (Chairman)

6. ★ World Uckers Championships 2021 – Update

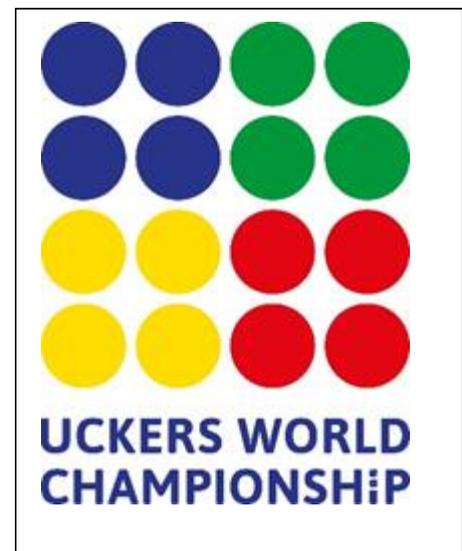
Shipmates should be aware that the Uckers World Championships will be held in the Victory Arena Portsmouth Naval Base on Saturday 23 October 2021.

Thank you to all those who have entered the competition we are looking forward to seeing you on the day. It was original envisaged that a series of pre finals day knock out rounds would be played but it has been decided that this is not necessary.

Further specific details of the competitions Final Day arrangements will be published/promulgated in the next few weeks.

Finally, please see details of the World Uckers Prize Draw being run courtesy of RNRMC at the rear of this Circular.

Looking forward to seeing you all. Remember when practising don't use up all your Sixes!!!



7. ★ Monday Evening Fireside Chats

For Shipmates who are unaware, a series of 'Fireside Chats' featuring some fascinating subjects including; Battle of Jutland, Operation Paraquet (Re-capture of South Georgia 1982), Naval Recruiting in 2020 to name but a few. The presentations are held on Monday evenings commencing at 1800 using 'Zoom'. All are welcome.

Meeting ID – 288 830 5105 Password – Shipmate (case sensitive) Or, click on the link [here](#)

Date	Presenter	Subject
Monday 02 Aug	Capt Bill Evans	Marine Accident Investigation Branch DOT
Monday 09 Aug	Zoe O’Gorman	RM Bands
Monday 16 Aug	Tom Palmer	Arctic Star – Writing fiction in a historical context
Monday 23 Aug	Mike Milne	HMS Belfast – The story of the Ship
Monday 30 Aug		Cancelled – Bank Holiday

8. ★ Welfare Spotlight Column - S/M Geoff Apperley BEM (National Welfare Advisor)

Where are we with covid? If not “Freedom Day” then “Personal Choice Day” has now arrived for all of us. All the UK countries have now eased to different degrees their covid restrictions and will be monitoring closely the pandemic measures of infection rate, hospitalisations and deaths. So far infections are up but relatively stable and hospitalisations and deaths are increasing but slowly. Changes in those will determine what happens in future. Summary details on the changes were published in Semaphore Short and links to the different countries’ sites given. However, all shipmates should remember that Coronavirus remains a serious health risk and we all need to remain cautious whilst adhering to the restrictions applicable where we live.



This is particularly important when thinking of meeting up again as Branches and Clubs to enjoy RNA comradeship. Shipmates, Branch and Area Committees need to think about meeting together again and that is a good thing to consider but it should be after discussion and assessment of risk. However, meeting together and under what conditions will always remain a personal choice. Covid-19 is still with us and any decisions must be taken considering **your local** regulations, advice and guidance. That is not to say do not meet only that all shipmates need to take personal responsibility for their own and others’ safety in whatever way is necessary. Please be careful shipmates, we need to get through this together and start to enjoy the rest of 2021.

What are some key changes to note as of the end of July?

England has moved to Step 4 of the roadmap. Everyone should be cautious while managing the risks as cases of COVID-19 remain high. [Find out what you should do to protect yourself and others.](#) Fully vaccinated people [returning to England from most amber list countries will not need to quarantine.](#) If you’re fully vaccinated or under 18, you will not need to self-isolate following close contact with someone who has COVID-19. You’ll still need to take a PCR test and self-isolate if it’s positive.

Scotland has moved to Level 0. Up to 8 people from 4 households can meet in your home. Up to 15 people from up to 15 households can meet outside. [Read the rules for Scotland on GOV.SCOT.](#)

Wales has moved to alert level 1. Up to 6 people can meet indoors. Organised indoor events can take place for up to 1,000 people seated or 200 standing. There are no limits on the numbers of people who can gather outdoors. Up to 30 children from organisations can go to residential centres over the summer holidays. [Read more about alert level 1 on GOV.WALES.](#)

Northern Ireland is not requiring fully vaccinated people returning to Northern Ireland from amber list countries to self-isolate whilst up to 15 people from any number of households can meet in a private garden. In addition, the new 'COVIDCertNI' app can be used to show proof of vaccination for international travel. [Find out more about what you can and cannot do in Northern Ireland on nidirect.](#)

So, are things getting better? Overall I believe yes with the relaxation of restrictions allowing social contact. With the continuing success of vaccination the risk to all of us is lowered although jab uptake does need to increase in younger age groups. The more people vaccinated, the more protected we are individually and increase our chances of breaking the link between infections to hospitalisation and deaths and keeping those down. Whilst a very few have sadly had side effects (in some cases severe) these are very small in relation to the number jabbed successfully and protected by all the vaccines. The decision to vaccinate is a personal one but the evidence is very strong that it helps saves lives directly and indirectly across the age groups. More about vaccination and booking process at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/> for England with similar links in other administrations.



Looking ahead do not forget to book for Conference 2021 in September where Welfare will be providing an afternoon seminar in the Crowne Plaza hotel venue on the Friday afternoon. It's a good venue and a great chance to meet up with shipmates from across the UK. Other welfare support and development work continues and will feature in future Spotlights.



Welfare Spotlight is written for you shipmates. So, your suggestions for Welfare Spotlight articles or requests for advice are welcome at any time, please do send to me in the first instance. Selwyn and I as volunteer Advisers working closely with Central Office shipmates such as Lynda Pearson, the Welfare Programme Manager, and others to continue and develop the increased focus of RNA on welfare support in 2021 and beyond. We'd all like to hear from you.

On a lighter note, welfare covers all aspects of shipmate's lives including helping you communicate. And for those amongst you perhaps senior and bemused by general text speak here's some alternatives you may enjoy:

ATD: At the doctors
BFF: Best Friend Fell
BTW: Bring The Wheelchair
BYOT: Bring Your Own Teeth
GGPBL: Gotta Go Pacemaker Battery Low
GHA: Got Heartburn Again
IMHO: Is My Hearing Aid On
LMDO: Laughing My Dentures Out
OMMR: On My Massage Recliner
ROFLACGU: Rolling On Floor Laughing And Can't Get Up

TTYL: Talk To You Louder

Stay safe and stay well shipmates

Geoff Apperley National Welfare Advisor

geoff@royalnavalassoc.com

9. ★ History of Cap Tallies - Continued

Following on from last month's Cap Tally extravaganza.....In which, it was claimed that 'Flag Officer Portsmouth' was the longest.

Shipmate Roger 'Black Cat' Ide of Chatham Branch emailed to say that 'HMS KNARESBOROUGH CASTLE' beats FOP by 22 letters to 21. Can you do better? Email andy@royalnavalassoc.com

10. ★ Project 71 Charity - WW2 Veterans



Project 71 is a support group for WW2 Veterans based in Portsmouth and covering most of the South of the country. We get together regularly for days out, weekends away, birthday parties and fun days away. We visit museums, go for cruises on the Thames and pub lunches.

Alternatively, we can do home visits of just phone calls if you want to chat.

During the lock down we made regular food drops offs plus other goodies to stave off the boredom, books, films and jigsaws being the most popular. We have a large group of helpers that provide transport to all of our events and when it is safe to do so we also run a mini bus so we can take as many people as possible out. We provide a Project 71 helper to each veteran to ensure that they are kept safe. You can see more of what we do here www.project71.co.uk

If you want to join us, or you know somebody who may be interested, it is completely free and open to all branches of the services and all veterans who served in WW2.

Just either email to project71team@aol.co.uk or call 02392 256749 or 07412 547408 or write to Project 71, 30a St Johns Avenue, Purbrook, Hampshire, PO7 5QU.



We would love you to join us and we look forward to hearing from you.

Lorie Coffey

Project 71

11. ★ Falklands Campaign 40th Anniversary Commemorations

Next year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands Campaign and thought you would appreciate an early 'Heads Up' of events that have been scheduled so far;

Sunday 29 May 22 – Falklands Veterans Foundation 40th Anniversary Memorial Service – Falklands Gardens Gosport followed by Freedom of the Borough Parade and Reception.

Sunday 12 Jun 22 – SAMA Annual Falklands Memorial Service – Pangbourne

Tuesday 14 Jun 22 – RBL Falklands Commemoration Event – details to be confirmed, however Attendance 10,000 including spouses. National Memorial Arboretum

Sunday 19 Jun 22 – RNA/Naval Associations Parade – Old Portsmouth – details to follow

The photo above shows HMS Hermes coming alongside after her return from the Falklands on what was then North Wall, now Princess Royal Jetty. (Photo courtesy Crown Copyright IWM (FKD 684)



12. ★ 100 Club - Shipmate Vic Taylor (West Bromwich Branch)



Very many congratulations, in advance, on his 100th Birthday 23rd August to Shipmate Vic Taylor.

Vic is a longstanding member of RNA West Bromwich Club who are looking forward to celebrating his birthday at the club on the 21st. Vic (Official No MX79629) joined the Navy on 1 May 1941 and served in HMS Havelock until the 13th April 1946 when he returned home. He was involved in the Atlantic Patrol. The attached a photo shows Vic at the club this year. Vic features in an extract from the book 'West Bromwich at war 1939 -1945' called 'The Sailors Story' which is entirely about him!

Vic's granddaughter brings him to the club every Sunday and only last year if she couldn't make it he would take two buses to get here. Club Hon Sec, Janice Massey, said that she has now convinced him that it is ok to accept a lift!

Janice on behalf of S/M Vic would welcome any information concerning HMS Havelock especially if any of his shipmates are still contactable – nawestbromwich@outlook.com

Again, many congratulations Vic and BZ on joining the 100 Club.

13. ★ Assistance Please – S/M Jeremy Reynolds

Shipmate Jeremey Reynolds as written to ask if anyone could assist with any further info concerning his wife's Grandfather who was a despatch rider attached to the Royal Naval Division in the Great War. He is shown in the photo below but has very little detail, but maybe enough.... It was passed down to my wife when her mother died in 2007. He is listed in the photo as J Thomas.

If you can provide any further information, please email Jeremy at Jeremy.reynolds@btinternet.com



14. ★ RNA 'SPARKO' TV Project

Comradeship is one of the core values of the RNA, and the Association works hard to ensure that older shipmates who cannot get out and about very easily do not feel isolated.

The Internet and social media make it easy connecting people around the world – so long as you can use the technology. Some people just find it tricky to get their heads around the finer points of Skype, Zoom, FaceTime, Youtube and the like – logging in can be a faff, establishing connections, updating software and the like are not always straightforward, and people can feel vulnerable with regards to online security. But there is now a way to make video calls, join online classes or talks and enjoy entertainment tailored for the senior community, all through a simple, dedicated system that plugs in to your television set. Essentially, Sparko is a simplified version of the Internet which can be accessed from the comfort of your sofa/armchair, through your TV. And thanks to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC), that option is available for free to shipmates in the RNA.

The kit and service is provided by Sparko, a British 'virtual retirement community' which operates through interactive TV equipment. The Sparko TV kit is a small box which plugs in to a standard

TV and comes with a small camera and a very simple remote control. The whole package comes with help and technical support if you need it.

Sparko brings people together using simple digital technology – your nearest and dearest can access the system using a free smartphone app. Once setup, Sparko enables you to make video calls to family and friends, watch specially-chosen films from an extensive library (including some of the old classics), learn new skills, pick up a new hobby, or take part in games. The system was trialled with the help of branches of Age UK, who welcomed Sparko with enthusiasm.

The Sparko tool does not interrupt or interfere with your normal TV programmes – the camera is only activated if a person is on a video call or taking part in a live/class activity, and will show a small light when it is in operation. A privacy slider for the camera is included to cover the lens when it is not in use to ensure peace of mind. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from joining Sparko, they need to complete an Expression of Interest form which is available online at <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/sparkotv/>

15. ★ HMS Phoebe F42 1967 - Historical Photo

CO received the photo below from S/m Jeremy Cotton in Spring 1967 alongside a County Class Destroyer on Front Street Hamilton Bermuda. He thought it would bring back a few memories for members of her Ships' Company.



(Editor Note – Sadly I was drafted to HMS Malabar in 1986 for nearly 3 years! It was awful but someone had to do it.....)

16. ★ A poem for our more Senior Shipmates

Shipmates here is another sonnet for your enjoyment..... Author unknown was I would like to credit them anonymously.....

THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER

When I was in the Navy, I wanted to be out,
No more daily orders, no more PO's shout,
No more middle watches, no more skippers rounds,
No more swing of hammocks, no more tannoy sounds.

No more pussers dhobi, no more number ones,
No more saluting officers, no more bang of guns,
No more jackstay transfers, no more RAS at night,
No more heaving rough seas, no more brass so bright.

No more action stations, no more pussers kye,
No more call the hands, no more bread so dry,
No more noisy engines, no more lifebuoy ghost,
No more seven days number nines, no more mail to post.

But when I'd left the Navy and settled down outside,
The bad times soon forgotten, the tales I'd tell with pride,
Now I miss the things I've seen and done, and it doesn't seem so bad,
In fact I'd recommend the life to any enquiring lad.

I miss borrowing clothes for a run ashore, even if they didn't fit,
I miss going for a "smally porsh", or even a little bit,
I miss a dinner time sesh, and rabbit runs, and movie runs and more,
I miss the expeds and the banyans, and the messdeck bore.

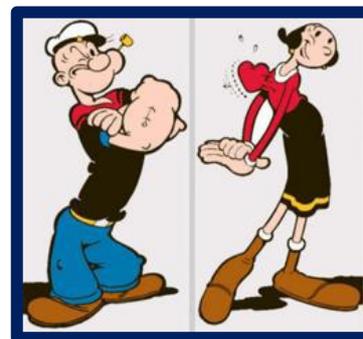
I miss make and mends and long weekends, and the rush to catch the train,
I miss the mates I had, now lost touch, but hope to meet again,
I miss the arguments at tot times, sippers, gulpers, and Queens,
I miss traveling the world, seeing things that civvies could only dream.

(Editors Note – Translation service is available to members of the RNA Youth Wing!)

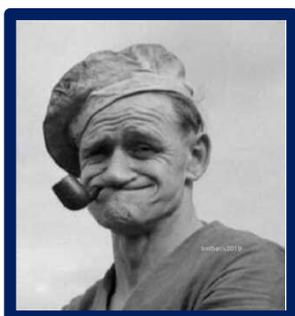
17. ★ Popeye The Sailor Man

Shipmates may be interested to know that Popeye the Sailor Man really existed thanks to St Neots Shipmate Ian Cameron.

His real name was Frank "Rocky" Fiegel. He was born in 1868 in Poland and, as a child, immigrated to the United States with his parents, who settled down in a small town in Illinois. As a young man, Rocky went to sea. After a 20-year career as a sailor in the Merchant Marines, Fiegel retired. He was later hired by Wiebusch's Tavern in the city of Chester, Illinois as a 'Bouncer' to maintain order in the rowdy bar.



Rocky quickly developed a reputation for always being involved in fighting (and usually winning). As a result, he had a deformed eye ("Pop-eye"). He also 'always' smoked his pipe, so he always spoke out of one side of his mouth. In his spare time as a Bouncer, Rocky would entertain the customers by regaling them with exciting stories of adventures he claimed to have had over his career as a sailor crossing the 'Seven Seas.'



The creator of Popeye, Elzie Crisler Segar, grew up in Chester and, as a young man, met Rocky at the tavern and would sit for hours listening to the old sailor's amazing 'sea' stories.' Years later, Segar became a cartoonist and developed a comic strip called 'Thimble Theatre.' He honoured Fiegel by asking if he could model his new comic strip character, 'Popeye the Sailor Man,' after him. Naturally Fiegel was flattered and agreed.

Segar claimed that 'Olive Oyl,' along with other characters, was also loosely based on an actual person. She was Dora Paskel, owner of a small grocery store in Chester. She apparently actually looked much like the Olive Oyl character in his comics. He claimed she even dressed much the same way. Through the years, Segar kept in touch with Rocky and always helped him with money; giving him a small percentage of what he earned from his 'Popeye' illustrations



18. Job Vacancy -The Fan Museum Greenwich

Jacob Moss the Curator of the Fan Museum in Greenwich London is advertising a Job Vacancy for House Manager - [Job Vacancies | The Fan Museum, Greenwich](#)

House Manager

(Full Time Residential, £14,000. Accommodation provided).

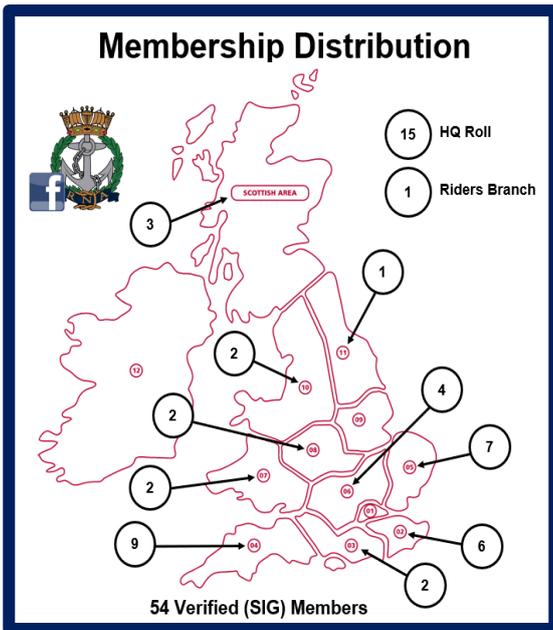
To support the work of the General Manager and undertake a range of security, administrative and financial matters.

To view the full Job Description, click [here](#)

To apply, please email your CV and cover letter demonstrating how you meet the specifications associated with the post you are applying for: info@thefanmuseum.org.uk

All applications should arrive no later than 09.00hrs on Monday 23 August 2021.

19. ★ RNA Modelmakers – Special Interest Groups



Shipmates will be interested to know that Membership of the RNA's Special Interest Group for Model Making and Scale Modelling continues to grow with 54 verified members, distributed as follows:

The Modelmakers are planning to host a display at this year's RNA National Conference in Nottingham and look forward to seeing you all there.

Contact us at RNA.Modelmakers@gmail.com

or find us at

www.facebook.com/groups/434544820928061

***** Members Offers *****

Gin Lovers.....

GIN LOVERS!

Warm summer days are here and you can now venture into your own garden!

We gave you the opportunity to buy your warming "1921 Reserve" Gin in April which many of you did and it proved very popular, but now it is time to top up your drinks cabinet (or garden bar) with the refreshing summer "1921 Reserve" Gin.

You may have spotted that this is just a marketing ploy - it is of course, the same Gin but we are sure you have run out and your visitors would appreciate the special qualities that go to make this a Gin to remember as well as a very useful Birthday present for any upcoming birthdays.

Now on sale at £35 plus £4.50 P&P but if you buy 2 or more, the Postage is free! What an incentive! Please also remember that the RNA receives 10% for each bottle sold, so apart from drinking a very smooth Gin, you are helping the Association! Don't forget to click the button for RNA when you are on the gin website.

[Sea Urchins Navy Strength Gin - Mygin](#)



Branch Insurance

Now that Lockdown has eased, and Clubs and Branches are starting to meet again now might be the right time for Shipmates to review their Club/Branch Insurance.

Military and Mutual Insurance are offering Basic PLI (Public Liability Insurance for £105, which includes;

- £5,000,000 Public and Products Liability
- **£10,000,000** Employers Liability
- **£1,000** Money
- Member to Member Liability
- Excess- £250 (Property Damage and Money)

Or

PLI Plus

- **£5,000,000** Public & Products Liability
- **£10,000,000** Employers Liability
- **£1,000** Money
- **£250,000** Trustees Liability (Committee Member)
- Member to Member Liability

For details contact business@military-mutual.co.uk or 0204 526 8672



Pussers

Calling all 'Rum Rats'

Shipmates may wish to know that 'Pussers' is now available from the very new online 'Navy Shop' with all profits from Rum going back to the charity.

Please follow the link <https://royalnavyshop.co.uk/collections/rum>

www.pussersrum.com



Forces Cars Direct

Veteran-owned Forces Cars Direct is celebrating 20 years of service to the military community and we're delighted to welcome them to the Royal Naval Association and our members in an exclusive partnership.

Offering unique new car discounts with savings up to 35% on a full range of makes and models, you can be sure to find the right car for you! Forces Cars Direct is endorsed with 5-star TrustPilot ratings from its customers, was named Veteran Business of the Year in the English Veterans Awards, and has support from the Chairman of the Defence Select Committee, so you not only save thousands, but can be assured of the highest level of service too.



With Forces Cars Direct you will also benefit from:

- UK nationwide, Covid-safe delivery
- Cash purchase and full finance options available
- Leasing service available
- All part exchange vehicles welcome
- Serving and veterans

Find out more about the service and savings available at <https://www.forcescarsdirect.com/rna> where you can browse and make your enquiry.

RNA Slops – RLP Embroidery

WWW.RNASLOPS.CLOTHING

The RNA Officially Licensed supplier of embroidered garments.

Polo Shirts, Hoodies, Sweatshirts, Fleece, Jackets, Knitwear, Blouses, Pilot Shirts, Softshell, Headwear,

The RNA Logo is included in your garment price. All you have to do is select New or Blazer Style badge and add your Branch Name, of which is optional.

Tel: 07983 151011 E. Mail: ray@rnaslops.clothing



RNA Slops is owned by RLP Embroidery and we pay Royalties to the RNA

RNA Longcast

2021

05 Aug	FAC – Zoom 0930
06 Aug	AMC – Zoom 0930
30 Aug	August Bank Holiday
03 Sep	National Council - Nottingham
03 Sep	NC Dines Out National President (VA McAnally)
04 Sep	AGM/National Conference - Nottingham
12 Sep	Naval Associations Biennial Parade - Whitehall
03 Oct	Lisbon Maru Dedication – NMA Alrewas
23 Oct	World Uckers Championships Finals - Portsmouth
05 Nov	Budget Meeting
11 Nov	Field of Remembrance
12 Nov	FAC
14 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
18/19 Nov	AMC Meeting in Cleethorpes
09 Dec	National Council Dines-In National President (VA Potts)
10 Dec	National Council
23 Dec-4 Jan	Central Office Closed
25 Dec	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Boxing Day

2022

11 Feb	AMC/FAC – Zoom
04 Mar	National Council Meeting - Zoom
15 Apr	Easter Monday
May	National Standard Bearers' Competition (Collingwood)
May	AMC/FAC (Collingwood)
20 May	Central Office - Open Day
Jun TBC	HMS Collingwood Field Gun Day
17 Jun	NC meetings
18 Jun	AG/National Conference
19 Jun	Falklands 40 th Anniversary Parade
08 Jul	Central Office - Open Day
Jul – tbc	Covid Commemoration Service - NMA
29 Jul	AMC / FAC – Zoom
12 Aug	Central Office - Open Day
10 Sep	National Council Meeting
30 Sep	Central Office - Open Day
10 Nov	Garden of Remembrance
11 Nov (pm)	Budget Meeting
13 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
19 Nov	AMC / FAC – Zoom
03 Dec	National Council Meeting
21 Dec – 03 Jan	Central Office Closed for Christmas

D'ye hear there'.....

News from around the Areas, Branches and SIGs.....

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA City of Inverness Branch](#)

[RNA Llandudno Branch](#)

[RNA Falmouth Branch](#)

[RNA Portland Branch](#)

[RNA Torrevieja Branch](#)

[RNA Coventry Branch](#)

[RNA City of Edinburgh](#)

[RNA Plymouth Branch](#)

[RNA St Neots Branch](#)

RNA City of Inverness Branch

City of Inverness Branch conducted their first post pandemic get together at the Priory Hotel in Beaulieu, not sure what RNA Beaulieu Branch thought of the invasion? You can see in the picture how much Shipmate Bob Coburn is enjoying the occasion (back row 2nd from right) or it may be he had to open his wallet..... Looks like they had a great evening BZ



RNA Llandudno Branch



Llandudno Branch would like to congratulate WW2 Veteran Shipmate Bill McGill on the award of the 'Life Membership' Certificate he was presented with recently.

The photo shows him with the certificate and below featuring in the newspapers when he visited Hiroshima after the 'Atom' Bomb had been dropped.

Shipmate Bill was chuffed with the award and all at Central Office would like to pass on our congratulations as well. BZ



RNA Falmouth Branch

Our thanks to Falmouth Branch Chairman, S/M Mick Stevens for forwarding this article.

On a sunny Friday afternoon Branch Chairman, Mick Stevens, along with representatives of other charities attended the Falmouth Town Mayors Presentation Afternoon.

The Branch received a donation from the Town Mayor in recognition of the Branch commitment to and activities organised in support of the Town Council throughout the pandemic.





Responding to the donation Branch Chairman said: “Falmouth RNA have as part of our core values, Unity, Loyalty, and Comradeship, these values have helped us to not only support those within our Branch but the wider community as well.

Commemorations of those who have gone before should not cease in times of difficulty but should be adapted to suit the times, with the Town Councils help and support this we have done. We look forward with the rest of the community to better days.”

(Photo above next to the band stand shows L to R; Shipmate Brian Toney, Shipmate Sue Toney, Falmouth Town Mayor Steve Eva, Falmouth Branch Chairman Mick Stevens)

RNA Portland Branch



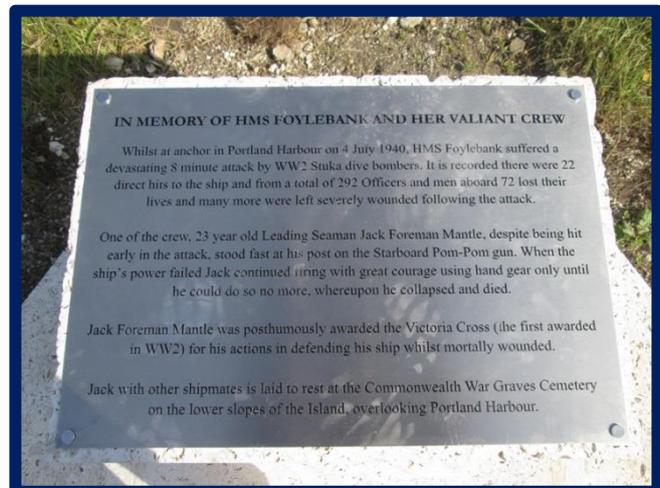
On Sunday July 4th 2021 Portland Branch were invited to the unveiling of The HMS Foylebank Memorial that overlooks Portland Harbour.

The ship, which was a former grain carrier converted into an auxiliary AA ship was bombed and sank in Portland Harbour on 04 July 1940 by 33 German JU87 Dive-bombers.

During the action Leading Seaman Jack Mantle was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery and alongside him 71 other members of the Ships’ Company gave their lives.

Portland Branch Officials invited were S/M Alex Oswald, (Chairman), S/M Ben Cartwright, (Standard Bearer) and S/M Pete Shoesmith (No4 Area Deputy Chairman.) The Memorial was Commissioned and Financed by the Royal Manor of Portland Court Leet, it was produced by Albion Stone Restoration Ltd, and it was unveiled by the Commanding Officer and a cadet from TS Penn, Portland Sea Cadets. Reverend Tim Gomm conducted the service.

Unfortunately, due to Covid Restrictions it was a very limited assembly on a very blustery day, Typical Portland Weather!!



The inscription above reads as follows;

IN MEMORY OF HMS FOYLEBANK AND HER VALLIANT CREW

Whilst at anchor in Portland Harbour on 4 July 1940, HMS Foylebank suffered a devastating 8 minute attack by WW2 Stuka dive bombers. It is recorded there were 22 direct hits to the ship and from a total of 292 Officers and men aboard 72 lost their lives and many more were left severely wounded following the attack.

One of the crew, 23 year old Leading Seaman Jack Foreman Mantle, despite being hit early in the attack, stood fast at his post on the Starboard Pom-Pom gun. When the ship's power failed Jack continued firing with great courage using hand gear only until he could do so no more, whereupon he collapsed and died.

Jack Foreman Mantle was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross (the first awarded in WW2) for his action in defending his ship whilst mortally wounded.

Jack with other shipmates is laid to rest at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery on the lower slopes of the Island, overlooking Portland Harbour.

RNA Torrevieja Branch

After the epic COVID19 self-isolation voyage of the last year, the RNA Torrevieja Branch finally docked at the Alingui Castilio Restaurant in San Miguel, Alicante, Spain in June so that the 40 shipmates could have their first monthly (scrabble time) Menu del Dia in over a year and the long-awaited opportunity to say 'Ahoy' face to face.

As you can imagine, unleashing a gang of pent up ex-matelots, ex-bootnecks and their partners after such a long time was a noisy affair and very reminiscent of 'TOT Time' on board the old 'Grey Funnel Line' (*Jack's description of all Royal Naval Vessels*), where everyone was trying to talk at the same time and give their version of how the world should be run, along with 'swinging the lamp' with some old 'sea stories' that have been told countless times before; and will continue to be repeated (what would we do without our memories????)



It's been a traumatic time for all hostelries all round the world for the last 18 months, especially with trying to maintain staffing levels, food and beverage supplies etc. all within the 'stop-start' regulation and extreme variations in patron numbers; so it will be no surprise that the meal was not seamless and there were some 'hiccups' along the way, but all the 'Jack's' sorted it out in their inimitable way and did not lose stride in their 'run-ashore'.

They were even orderly enough to get some pictures of them and the photographer, Nichola Loudon, even

managed to get herself into a shot; however the branches unofficial mascot of a **multi coloured replica parrot**, who goes by the name of **“pieces of eight, pieces of eight”** (parrot’s always repeat themselves) had ‘jumped ship’ and was ‘absent without leave’ so is due to be ‘put on report by the Master at Arms’, so that he will be having ‘caps off’ in front of the Captain’s Table for due punishment to be handed down!!!!!!!

The shipmates all sailed off to their individual home ports in high spirits (not just alcoholic) and were unanimous that a ‘good time was had by all’ and are looking forward to next month’s adventure at La Piazza II in Punta Prima.

There’s More.....

Armed Forces Day 2021

The RNA Torrevieja Branch were proud to once again be able to have eight of their shipmates and their Standard paraded along with other organisations at the service in the Cathedral in Orihuela, Spain on the 26th July 2021.

Last year the event had to unfortunately be cancelled and although the number of attendees at this year’s parade and service was restricted, it still produced that ‘magical effect’ through the pageantry, music and surroundings.



Among the dignitaries and Spanish VIP’s was the UK Ambassador, an Army Officer, two RAF Officers and The UK Naval Attaché Madrid (RN Capitan) and a Lt Cdr. Adjutant.

The RNA Torrevieja Branch thank Shipmate Danny Kay for Parading their Standard and Shipmate Dusty Miller for taking the photographs and look forward to next year’s parade.

Our thanks go to Torrevieja Chairman, Shipmate Tony Jenkins, for keeping us abreast of activities on the Costa

Finally, on behalf of the Torrevieja Branch we would like to express our thanks to some UK branches for providing Standard bearers for the funeral of a former RM RSM who was a relative of a Torrevieja shipmate.

Funeral of former RM RSM Alexander BEM on 9th July 2021 - 19/08/1950 – 19/06/2021

The RNA Torrevieja Branch would like to acknowledge and extend a special thank you to the RNA Market Harborough and RNA Rushden branches for presenting their Standards at the funeral of the former RM RSM Alexander BEM, who was the brother and brother-in-law of RNA Torrevieja branch shipmates.

The inclusion of the military presence in the form of the Standards together with the Bugler, David Nevatte, from the RM Band Portsmouth (Royal Band) leading the procession on arrival at the crematorium in Northampton, together with the Bugler's and Standard Bearer's salute at the end of the service was spectacular and enabled the overall service to have a blend of personal family tradition together with military pageantry, which was very emotional and lent itself to a great military send off which RSM Alexander BEM would have been immensely honoured to have.



As a devoted family man who came from a family of five (5) siblings, he was incredibly proud and had an enormously deep love for his two sons, his two daughter-in-laws and especially for his five grandchildren, along with his remaining sibling sister.

He will be sadly missed and remembered by all.

RNA Coventry Branch

Coventry Branch Hon Treasurer, Becky Element-Fellows reports that Coventry Branch are back in action, which commenced with a BBQ on 10 July 21 held at her and the Branch Chairmans home. Luckily her husband is the Chairman!

We've sadly lost 3 members since lockdown last year and some of our older members really needed some



uplifting. On Thursday we said our last farewell to Shipmate Ron Betteridge so we asked his sons Roger and Neil to come which they did. Hubby and I cleared our car port, decorated, sourced and cooked food and hosted 27 people a mix of members, their family and 3 serving members of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, one of which is our Secretary's son.



We hope to run a Trafalgar luncheon in October at the local Jacobean Hotel. As a small branch with more mature members, we understand now more than ever, the need to show them that their Navy family is here for them. BZ from Central Office.

RNA City of Edinburgh Branch

The City of Edinburgh Branch of the RNA re-opened in June 2021 after the closures of Covid 19 to a change in Chairman.



Shipmate Geoff Williams has been the Branch Chairman since 2008 and at the young age of 87 said its time to hand over the watch, duty complete, which he did in 2020 having served the branch as Chairman for 12 years.

Geoff joined the Royal Navy in 1950 as an Artificer and amongst others served on the Cruiser HMS Sheffield (C24) with Rear Admiral Douglas Dow and left the service in 1966 as a Chief ERA. He joined City of Edinburgh RNA branch in 2005 and was elected as the Branch Chairman in February 2008 taking over from Shipmate James Martin (the film and television actor).

Geoff is succeeded by Shipmate Stephen Elliot who presented Geoff with a tankard as a token of thanks for his service to the Branch.

RNA Plymouth Branch

Plymouth Branch Member 96 year old Shipmate Jack Rapkins , WW2 Veteran was presented with the award of the Royal Naval Association's Certificate of Appreciation on the evening 21" July 2021.

The presentation took place after the AGM in the Branch's temporary home the China Fleet Country Club at Saltash. The Chief Executive Officer of the club, Gordon'Gee' Hannah MSM made an eloquent and informed speech Gee being of the gunnery world himself, he then went on to present the Certificate to a very surprised and highly delighted Veteran Jack. A further surprise was an invitation by the CFCC for Jack and a companion to enjoy an Afternoon High Teaat the Club.



Jack joined the Royal Navy in 1942 at the age of 17, trained as a gunner to serve on Merchant Vessels known as 'DEMS' . Jack went on to serve worldwide, Atlantic Convoys, Med Convoys, Near East, Middle East and Far East, often aboard 'Liberty Ships' built in the USA and Canada. On one occasion he took passage on a warship, HMS SHEFFIELD from Rangoon to Colombo in Ceylon, on another his ship transported train engines to Russia (Arctic convoys). Jack's worst encounter, on a Med Convoy watching on in horror from his gun platform he witnessed eight troop ships go down while the convoy resolutely steamed on toward the Suez.

It was not until 1947 while in the port of Charleston USA that Jack finality received his de-mob notification, his ship eventually returned to Cardiff were instead of going home he was charged

with decommissioning, removing and returning the guns and ammunition. In all that time Jack was awarded 2 x days leave!

(Photo courtesy of John Whiteman – L to R – Gee, Des Jack and Kevin (Standard Bearer))

RNA St Neots Branch

St Neots Shipmates joined a Veterans Breakfast on Sunday 4th July. From Left, S/Ms Tony Webley, Yvonne Webley, Granddaughter Amy, and Mick Noble. Also present were, from Left, S/Ms Keith Ridley, Geoff Patterson and Mike Milne (Strategic planning perhaps?)



CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Jack Dixon](#)

[Aubrey Wood](#)

[Michael Stanley Alexander BEM](#)

Jack Dixon - Corby Branch

Shipmate David Jess, Hon Sec, Corby Branch is extremely sad to report that Corby Shipmate Jack Dixon, one of the branches most respected members has crossed the bar.

S/M Jack joined the branch in 2012 and was a regular attendee at branch meetings until recently when he suffered from bad health. Jack was a WW2 Veteran serving in HMS Whelp a W Class Destroyer, under the Command of the Duke of Edinburgh.

Jack served in the RN from August 1943 until April 1947 he served in several establishments and Ships including - Collingwood, Victory, Shrapnel, Resource and Whelp (17 Apr 44 till 31 May 46).

He will be much missed.

Aubrey (Slinger) Wood - HQ Roll

Shipmate Aubrey's son, John, forwarded the obituary below to honour his Fathers wish to advise Shipmates that he has crossed the bar.

It is with much sadness that Shipmate Aubrey (Slinger) Wood, HQ Roll, crossed the bar on 10 July 2021 aged 80.

Slinger Wood Aubrey P/J 959268 served as an A/B, UC2, from 1956 - 1967. He was drafted to the following Establishments and Ships –

HMS Ganges, Osprey, Russell, Pembroke, Delight, Vernon, Undaunted, Lowestoft, Blackwood, Dainty and Sea Eagle.

He was a member, as well as the RNA, of the HMS Dainty Association, HMS Ganges Association, and the D Boats Association as well as the RNA. The photo of Aubrey was taken in 1956 at HMS Ganges.

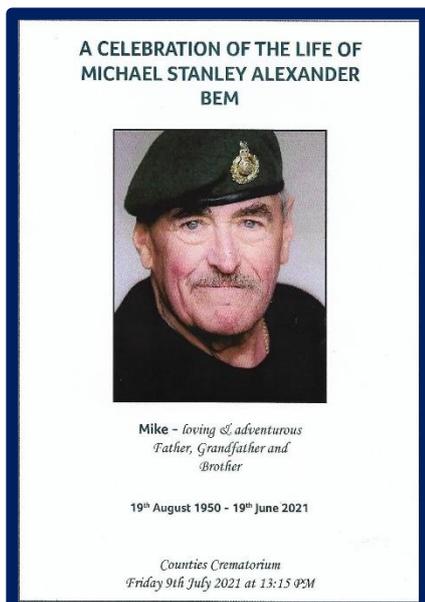


RiP Shipmate.

Michael Stanley Alexander BEM – Torrevieja Branch

Eulogy for former RM RSM Michael Stanley Alexander BEM
In life we loved you dearly,
in death we love you still.
19/08/1950 – 19/06/2021

His funeral was in Northampton on the 9th July 2021 and due to the current attendance restrictions was limited to his two son, his two daughters-in-laws, his grandchildren and his sister, together with other immediate family and a few close friends.



His send-off was very befitting for this immensely proud and patriotic ex-military person and included three Standard Bearers representing, RNA Market Harborough, RNA Rushden, RMA Riders Club and Northamptonshire District Eastern Area Sea Cadets, together with a Bugler from the RM Band Portsmouth (Royal Band). The inclusion of the military presence enabled the overall service to have a blend of personal family tradition together with military pageantry, which he would have been immensely honoured to have.

He was a man whose journey and achievements through life forged his many adoring and amazing attributes. After leaving school at 15 and being a Butchers Apprentice with The Herridge Bros in Fawcett Road, Southsea, he joined the Royal Marine Commando's at the age of 17 on the 26th September 1967.

His 23 year deployment in 45 and 40 Commando Units were varied and diverse and included; serving in Northern Ireland; time as a Weapons and Commando Tactics Instructor; as a Colour Sergeant in 1982 he spent 3 years as a team leader teaching 'Jungle Survival' in Brunei; qualified as a Helicopter High Abseil Instructor in 1986 and lead the Parachute and Abseiling Display Team; then in 1989 he was a Senior Survey Team Leader for the Royal Navy Security Survey Section; and de-mobed on 18th August 1990.

As an RM Sergeant was awarded the **BEM** in 1981 for his Meritorious Service to the Marine Corps and was awarded Warrant Officer in 1985.

In civvy street he followed a career path within the security industry as the Head of the Physical Security Survey Team at BT for 12 years; then as Global Head of Corporate Security and Safety at Henderson's Bank for 11 years; then as Managing Director of his own company, ARK Associates, providing bespoke security and training management to companies in both UK and the Middle East for 4 years; then in semi-retirement providing Logistics and Driving Support to Marquis Motor Homes in Northampton for 7 years.

He continually developed himself and through enormous self-study at the age of 57 graduated (11th July 2007) with a Master's Degree in Security and Risk Management at Leicester University, which he further enhanced with a time as a Professor at the London Metropolitan University Business School. He shared his knowledge and expertise by serving on the Evaluation & Development in Sabotage Group which was led by MI5 and was a Fellow of the Security Institute.

His never-ending desire to help others along in life was outstandingly highlighted while a member of ASIS International, the world's largest membership organization for security management professionals, as Vice Chair in 2008 & 2009, then Chair from 2010 to 2013 and then as the Mentoring Program Chair in 2015.

He was a 'larger than life person' and had a passion for having people laugh with him, 'had a heart of gold' and was always willing to help others. He loved to be 'at one with nature' and would hike across the moors or fish in remote location and drew great satisfaction with sharing space and time with the wildlife. As a devoted family man who came from a family of five (5) siblings, he was incredibly proud and had an enormously deep love for his two sons, his two daughter-in-laws and especially for his five grandchildren, along with his remaining sibling sister.

He will be sadly missed and remembered by all.

UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

- Variety of special deals for both Groups and Individuals. 1% of turnover thorough CONA Holiday Service is returned to the RNA <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/offers/members-cona-holidays-service/>

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



- RNA member - Day Ticket Offer just £20 plus 3 guests at £20 each provides access to the all attractions including the Submarine Museum, RM Museum and Explosion!.
- RNA Member – 30% discount on Annual Ultimate Explorer Ticket (featuring all attraction's)

Legal Services



Free 30 minute legal advice with Coffin Mew.
armedforces@coffinmew.co.uk 0800 827168

Breakdown Service



- RAC Breakdown and recovery service
asec@arno.org.uk or 0207 4025231



Organisers of Reunions should be aware the CONA Travel will match or better any other 'like for like' Reunion/Group Trips bookings so why not give them an opportunity to impress you.
0844 264 2122 conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk



- Discounts on a large range of new cars
<https://www.forcescarsdirect.com/rna>

The 'Shortcast' Editors Note

Please forward any reunions for 2021/22 and I will publish them here

Note from the CONA (Conference of Naval Associations) Secretary -

I would be very grateful if organisers of reunions would oblige me by obtaining a quote from the CONA Travel Service, who will not be beaten on like for like price. CONA Travel Service donate 1% of their CONA business back into the Conference totalling to date £2,700 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh, and by the way, their service is first class as well.

	Please check go to link for RN Shipmates.co.uk for a comprehensive list of further reunions. www.rnshipmates.co.uk
2021	
Aug	RMBS 1/70 and 2/70 squads is planned for August 2021 in Deal. Contact Nick Buckley on nickbuckley55@aol.com
13/15 Aug	The HMS Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association will hold their 42nd Annual Reunion & AGM at the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea from 13th to 15th August 2021. Please contact Secretary Denis Askham for more details. askhamd3@gmail.com
04 Sep	2nd HMS Manchester Association's 20th Annual Reunion at the in the WO, SR & SNCO's Mess, HMS Nelson. For more details, please read the website www.2MA.org.uk .
24 Sep	HMS Tiger Reunion – St Pierre Hotel Newmillerdam Yorkshire
01 Oct	HMS Tartar Reunion – Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth
8/10 Oct	HMS Llandaff Reunion – Please contact Slinger Wood at kevin.wood@blueyonder.co.uk or 07961124459 or Web site www.hmsllandaff.co.uk The reunion packages to include Gala Dinner Saturday and Tots with wine reception and all entertainment and Half board accommodation with breakfast and evening meal 3 nights £ 160 per person 2 nights £ 120 Per person 1 Night (Sat) £80 inc Gala Dinner Great value for a great weekend and if covid restrictions are lifted our usual now world famous Llandaff Sods Opera on the Sunday Afternoon watch produced and directed by our very own Entertainments Officer - Ex Leading Seaman John 'Tomo' Thompson.

8/10 Oct	HMS Troubridge Final Commission Association Reunion to be held at Royal Beach Southsea 8/10 Oct. Contact Bryan Pace at Romft1@gmail.com or website HMS Troubridge.com
08 Oct	HMS Carysfort Reunion – Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
08/11 Oct	<p>South West ex RN Social Group – Inaugural Autumn Reunion. Livermead House Hotel Torquay. Ex Serving, Serving, Partners and Friends are most welcome. Dinner Bed and Breakfast .</p> <p>3 nights £204, 2 Nights £136 Saturday evening ; Black Tie or best ‘Bib and Tucker’ Excellent Cuisine</p> <p>For further Details contact Sue at chikuai2920@gmail.com</p>
	
29 Oct	HMS Eagle/ Yarmouth/ Undaunted - Hallmark Hotel Derby
5/7 Nov	HMS Cleopatra Old Shipmates Association Reunion – For details contact Honorary Secretary Warwick Franklin at Warwick_franklin@outlook.com or call 10752 366611
2022	
11/13 Mar	R.N. Communications Association - AGM/Dinner Dance Royal Beach Hotel Southsea - For further details contact C Beeson07807347509 or noseeb@sky.com
07 May	HMS Nottingham (D91) – Liverpool

Swinging the Lamp – August 2021

The RNA is grateful to the Author, Lt Cdr Lawrie Phillips TD, RD, RNR for allowing us to publish a selection from the RN Day by Day. If you would like to read more it can be purchased from - The History Press and is priced £60 ISBN 978 0 7509 8266 5



Date	Year	Entry
1 st	1983	RN Supply School moved from Chatham, mainly to <i>Raleigh</i> at Torpoint but Cookery School to Aldershot.
2 nd	1999	Final performance of the Royal Tournament at Earl's Court, in which the Royal Navy had participated since 1887. The centrepiece since 1907 was the annual naval field gun competition, a relic of the Naval Brigades in the Boer War, between the Home Ports, later joined by the Fleet Air Arm. Devonport was the last winner.
3 rd	2005	<i>Invincible</i> , Capt Neil Morisetti RN, (the fourteenth commanding officer since Capt M.H. Livesay RN commissioned her on 11 July 1980), paid off at Portsmouth after twenty five years' service. She was the adopted ship of the city of Durham and had visited forty countries and steamed 850,000 miles. One of three RN ships with Falklands battle honours from 1914 and 1982 (<i>Bristol</i> and <i>Glasgow</i>).
4 th	1967	Helicopters from the carrier <i>Hermes</i> landed Royal Hong Kong Police on top of skyscrapers in anti-communist raids. Carrier <i>Bulwark</i> stood by with 40 Cdo embarked during riots 30 May to 12 June.
5 th	1583	First settlers arrived in Newfoundland. Golden Hind, Delight, Squirrel and Swallow.
6 th	1915	First flight of a seaplane from a ship using take off trolleys; a Sopwith Schneider single-seat floatplane piloted by Ft-Lt (later Air Marshal Sir) William Welsh took off from the converted Cunarder <i>Campania</i> . Seaplanes were hydrodynamically inefficient because fixed floats degraded flying performance; deployed over the North Sea they could not match the Zeppelin in speed, altitude or rate of climb, much to Jellicoe's regret. The little aircraft also could not cope with any sea state and the floats frequently broke off under stress of taking-off and landing. One part solution was to launch seaplanes directly from a ship. Welsh's flight was the first to employ wheeled trolleys or dollies attached to the floats which permitted operations in a rougher sea state than hitherto. Landing retained its character-forming qualities. <i>Campania</i> was the first ship to be termed a 'fleet carrier' – a title given her by the CO, Wing Captain (later AVM Sir) Oliver Schwann RN.
7 th	1815	Napoleon sailed from Plymouth in Northumberland to exile in St Helena.
8 th	1968	Leander-class frigate <i>Scylla</i> launched at Plymouth, the last ship to be built in a Royal Yard.
9 th	1946	The new battleship <i>Vanguard</i> , Capt W.G. Agnew RN, entered Portsmouth for the first time and secured alongside South Railway Jetty. She had been accepted from John Brown's on 9 August while at anchor at Spithead.
10 th	1866	Second Naval Discipline Act passed: brought the system of naval justice more closely into line with the English criminal law.

11 th	1415	Henry V sailed from Southampton: 'fair stood the wind for France'.
12 th	1940	German air raid damaged RN Barracks, Portsmouth, Whale Island and HMS <i>Hornet</i> , the coastal forces base.
13 th	1934	Metropolitan Police, hitherto responsible for establishment security, withdrawn at midnight from Devonport Dockyard.
14 th	1981	Closure of <i>Dauntless</i> at Burghfield. WRNS training moved to <i>Raleigh</i> at Torpoint.
15 th	1944	Landing of US and French troops in southern France begins. Operation Dragoon. Battle Honour: South France 1944. Convoys were sailed from Naples, Taranto, Brindisi, Malta, Palermo and Oran. A total of 86,575 men, 12,520 vehicles and 46,140 tons of stores were landed over the beachhead in the sixty-four hours following the first landing. The Navy was called upon to provide gunfire support, and much ammunition was used, the cruiser <i>Argonaut</i> firing 394 5.25-in shells, and <i>Aurora</i> 316 6-in shells.
16 th	1956	Frigate <i>Loch Killisport</i> , Cdr G.C. Hathaway RN, left Portsmouth for the Gulf and the East Indies Station with a Royal Marines detachment of twenty men embarked as part of the ship's company. The Royals had hitherto served only in warships of cruiser size and above.
17 th	1962	'There is evidence that unsatisfactory results are being obtained when painting HM Ships because the paint is not being adequately stirred beforehand . . . the hand stirrers shown in AFO Diagram 14/62 should be made by ships, depot ships staff or bases as appropriate.' – AFO 1573/62.
18 th	1919	VC: Cdr Claude Congreve Dobson RN, Lt Gordon Charles Steele RN. CMB raid on the Russian Baltic fleet base at Kronstadt on Kotlin Island, Gulf of Finland. Change of ROE allowed Rear-Admiral Sir Walter Cowan, hitherto restricted to blockading the Russian fleet to prevent Bolshevik aggression against the newly independent Baltic littoral states, to take offensive action. Lt Augustus Agar had demonstrated the capability of operating fast, shallow-draught CMBs in heavily-mined enemy waters when he torpedoed the Russian heavy cruiser <i>Oleg</i> on 17 June. The Kronstadt attack (Operation RK – Roger Keyes), with seven CMBs was led by Cdr C.C. Dobson RN and supported by diversionary bombing by RAF aircraft operating from HMS <i>Vindictive</i> . Lt Steele took command of CMB 88 when his CO, Lt Dayrell-Reed was mortally wounded. They sank the battleships <i>Petropavlovsk</i> and <i>Andrei Pervozvanni</i> , and the submarine depot ship <i>Pamyat Azova</i> for the loss four naval officers and four men, four RAF officers and one airman, three CMBs and aircraft. A brilliant action which thrilled the RN but embarrassed the British government which was then in sensitive negotiations with the Bolshevik authorities. Shades of Navarino. Dobson and Steele gazetted on 11 November 1919, the first anniversary of Armistice Day.
19 th	1971	Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service Reserve established. First Sister enrolled, at Severn Division, 15 December 1971.
20 th	1970	A three-day court martial ended at <i>Cochrane</i> with five ABs from minehunter <i>Iveston</i> being found guilty of mutiny when the ship was lying at Ullapool on 5 and 6 July. The sentences 'to be Dismissed with Disgrace' were reduced on review by the Admiralty Board to 'to be

		Dismissed from Her Majesty's Service'. On the day of the mutiny a man described as a 'tramp' had been entertained in the Wardroom and, although irrelevant to the case, this provided the press with a focus for wide publicity and ridicule of naval administration.
21 st	1990	HM ships authorised to enforce UN embargo on ships trading with Iraq. Operation Granby.
22 nd	1918	<i>Hood</i> launched at John Brown's, Clydebank, by Lady Hood, widow of Rear-Admiral Hon. Horace Hood, who had been killed in <i>Invincible</i> at Jutland, 31 May 1916, the day <i>Hood</i> was originally laid down. At 860ft 7in overall, the longest warship ever built for the RN, and the heaviest warship at that time to hoist the White Ensign.
23 rd	1956	Light cruiser <i>Newfoundland</i> bombarded CT targets in the Kota Tinggi district of Johore, Malaya, with 101 6-in shells.
24 th	1935	The Royal Marines for the first time in their history provided the Royal Guard at Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, the Bank of England and 'for the Hyde Park magazines'. The specially formed battalion of sixteen officers, 349 rank and file and 110 band and drums under Lt-Col T.L. Hunton, were quartered with the Cold stream Guards at Chelsea Barracks. The visit to London ended on 19 September with the battalion exercising the privilege of the Royal Marines of marching through the City of London with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.
25 th	1972	RN Museum, Portsmouth, established.
26 th	1904	Russia, at war with Japan, sent cruisers <i>Petersburg</i> and <i>Smolensk</i> to the Red Sea to intercept war contraband sailing under neutral flags to Japan. Britain, neutral but pro-Japan, banned combatant ships from British and Empire ports. The Cape Station cruisers, <i>Crescent</i> , <i>Pearl</i> , <i>Brilliant</i> , <i>St George</i> and <i>Forte</i> began a search for the Russian ships On 26 August and they were found by <i>Forte</i> on 6 September at Zanzibar.
27 th	2010	Submarine <i>Astute</i> , first of class, commissioned at Faslane.
28 th	1595	Drake and Hawkins left Plymouth on what turned out to be their last voyage, since neither returned. Drake died of yellow fever and Hawkins of dysentery.
29 th	1957	Light cruiser <i>Nigeria</i> , launched 1939, transferred to the Indian Navy, after a major refit at Cammell Laird, Birkenhead, and commissioned as INS <i>Mysore</i> . She relieved light cruiser <i>Delhi</i> (ex-HMS <i>Achilles</i>) as flagship of the Indian Navy. Paid off 1985.
30 th	1985	'The Admiralty Board have decided that from the date of this DCI, the individual title "Fleet Chief Petty Officer" is to be abolished and "Warrant Officer" used instead for all purposes . . . The change will acknowledge the fact that Warrant Officers receive a Warrant of Appointment like Warrant Officers in the Army and RAF and thus emphasise their equivalent status and position. It neither entails nor heralds the granting of additional privileges.' – DCI(RN) 339/85.
31 st	1992	First women join Royal Marines, as musicians.

Delegate to Annual Conference 2021 Nottingham

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

Each Branch which has complied with Rule 16(c), (*No Branch shall be permitted to send a delegate to the Conference unless it has observed the regulations of the Association in regard to the return of balance sheets, the payment of subscriptions and the formation of Branches. This provision has no application to the right of, and expectation for, ships and establishments to send a delegate to the Conference.*) but subject to Rule 10(c), (*Associate members are eligible to act as a Branch Delegate at Area meetings and Conferences, provided that they have completed three years continuous membership of the Association immediately prior to election as Delegate*) and has been in commission for at least three months by the date of a Conference shall be entitled to nominate one eligible Association Member as its Delegate to attend a Conference.

Each Branch nominating a Delegate shall send details to the Council **to arrive not less than one week before the date of Conference**. A Branch may change its nominated Delegate provided the Council is notified not less than twenty four hours before the Conference.

Branch		Area	
Name of Delegate			
Car registration		Passenger Name	
Delegate's Address			
	Telephone No	Post Code	
e-mail			
Number of Observers			
Name of Branch Hon Secretary			
Contact telephone No: (if not branch Hon Sec)			
Contact e-mail address			
Name and Address for correspondence (if not branch Hon Sec)			

NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2019 and Annual Subscriptions for Branch Members for 2021 have been received in RNA Central Office (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received in CO

, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer. Please note. Conference packs are NOT sent out before Conference but collected on the day by each delegate. A full set of background paperwork will be sent to each Branch before Conference. Having sent in your application by mail or e mail you may wish to phone Nigel on 023 9272 3747 to confirm receipt of your application.

Nominations for Governance/Standing Orders Committee 2021

For the attention of All Branch Secretaries

Applications are sought for the Governance Standing Orders Committee. Two vacancies in 2021.

Each Branch may nominate **one member** as a candidate for election to the Standing Orders Committee, **subject to the approval of the Branch to which the candidate belongs**. Applicants should be Full or Life members. A nil return is not required.

NAME OF NOMINEE

PROPOSED BY BRANCH

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE

.....

.....

E mail Post code

Brief history of nominee in the Association. Continue on separate sheet if necessary.

Chairman (signed).....(dated)

Secretary (signed).....(dated)

If the Candidate is **not** a member of the proposing Branch, this section must be completed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Candidate's **own** Branch.

Candidate's Branch

We support this Nomination.

Signature of Chairman (Candidate's Branch)

Signature of Secretary (Candidate's Branch)

Candidate - I accept this nomination and undertake to attend as many Standing Orders Committee Meetings as is possible.

Signature of Candidate

This form should be despatched to be received at the Central Office no later than **24 August 2021**. Nominations received after this date cannot be included in any Ballot required if more than two apply.

UCKERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

1st Prize

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Pussers
Rum
Barrel**

2nd Prize

**Rare Bottle
15 year old
Pussers Rum**



3rd Prize

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Uckers
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Entry Cost

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£1**

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Fantastic Prizes!**



Tickets can be obtained via the QR code or an official seller.

The Draw will take place on the 29th of October.

