

The Semaphore Circular

No 704

The Beating Heart of the RNA

NOVEMBER 2020



The photo shows RNA Ops Manager, Andy Christie handing over the cheque for the Ventilator Appeal, which raised £15,000, to the Armed Forces Covenant and Lead Veteran Nurse at Queen Alexandra Hospital Portsmouth, Keith Malcolm, who served as a Naval Nurse in Afghanistan. Also present were Commander Alister Witt, CO Joint Hospital Group (South), National Chairman, Keith Ridley and General Secretary Captain Bill Oliphant. The money will be used to the benefit of RN medical staff in both QA and Derriford Hospital, Plymouth.

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

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

1. [Branches – Importance of Keeping Contact](#)
2. [Remembrance Parade Update](#)
3. [National Standard Bearers Competition Update](#)
4. [Veterans Railcard](#)
5. [Monday Fireside Chats Programme](#)
6. [RNA Scarves](#)
7. [Soroya Evacuation February](#)
8. [Last Month Unusual Photo](#)
9. [This Month Unusual Photo](#)
10. [Guess the Ship](#)
11. [Respectful Covid Humour](#)
12. [Tom Sharpe OBE](#)
13. [RN and Veterans Photo Competition](#)
14. [Joke – The Tomato Garden](#)
15. [Shipmate Karl Webb BZ](#)
16. [FAA and Battle of Britain](#)
17. [Chief Jack Dusties Walk on Water](#)
18. [Contact Lee Molyneux](#)
19. [Operation Assistance Please One](#)
20. [Operation Assistance Please Two](#)
21. [Midshipman Terry Lewin Diary](#)
22. [HMS Magnificent Painting](#)

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



indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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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) Bill Oliphant, Nigel Huxtable, Kathryn Brindley, Michelle Bainbridge, National President Vice Admiral John McAnally, Mike Gray, Charlie Darlington, Andy Christie

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From the General Secretary

Dear Shipmates,

The clocks have changed and the long winter evenings are back with us. As a consequence, I've just spent £29.95 on new lights for my push bike and they are literally tiny. Seems expensive – yes, you can take the boy out of Scotland, but my Jock instinct remains!

More seriously, what it does mean, along with the rising threat of this second COVID wave, is that the sense of isolation for those of our shipmates who find themselves on their own is increased. And, with the threat of a cancelled Christmas, it is only amplified. Please therefore spare a thought and maybe a phone call to an oppo; the advice in Item 1 below is therefore very pertinent.



S/m Duncan Knight opens Her Majesty's telegram

I had the honour to phone Captain Duncan Knight to wish him well on his 100th Birthday last week. Until recently he had been an active member of the Chichester Branch and was fabulous form. He joined Dartmouth as a boy in 1934 and then went to sea as a 17-year-old Mid in 1937. He was literally at sea when the “Commence hostilities” signal was received and served throughout. He was telling me that he was on HMS Hesperus, one of the two destroyers that sank U208 in Dec 41 and subsequently rammed and sank U-93 in Jan 42 and then rescued 40 of the boat's crew. He was awarded the DSC for his part in the sinking. He was also able to tell me that through some chance meeting after the war he met up with the German CO of the boat that had been sunk who got the surviving crew back together for a service with Duncan in Frankfurt. What a heart-warming act of reconciliation! Three cheers to you Captain!

We also sent a video clip to S/m John Headley who was also celebrating his 100th Birthday at home in Co Wicklow. He was on the destroyer HMS BEDOUIN, which was sunk on Malta convoy escort duty. Picked up by the Italians, he was a POW for the remainder of the war. For those reading this on line you can click on the tribute [here](#).

Thanks to Tom Sharp for his highly informative article explaining the windage issues with getting the QE Class in and out of Portsmouth and was the reason for a recent movement delay. Andy in the office also has windage issues but that's another story!

For those who may have missed it, click [here](#) to see the Immortal Memory toast given by VAdm John McAnally on the Poop Deck of the VICTORY on the 215th anniversary of Nelson's victory.

I'll finish where I started – great news about the veterans' railcard (See Item 4) – I'm just off to buy mine now. We Jocks love a bargain!!

As ever, Bill Oliphant

PS. Top tip: If you want to try something naughty if you're a stowaway on a ship, don't do it in the South Coast Exercise Areas as it's the playground of the SBS. BZ Royal - you make us proud!

Chairman's chat

It does not seem that long ago I was getting a nice suntan doing the outside jobs about the cottage dressed in shorts and a tee-shirt and having BBQ's of an evening. A bonus for us Ex-Stokers who rarely got to see daylight, but that was the price we had to pay belonging to the Navy's Elite Branch. Looking out across the fields this morning the rig of the day will be definite wellies and waterproof coat. A quote from last month's chat - *'Sadly, as I write (type) an umbrella is now the order of the day with unscheduled heavy rain showers'*. Little has changed.



This month our thoughts turn to Remembrance and those who lost their lives through conflict and injuries whilst serving King, Queen and Country – **“Lest we Forget”**. Due to Covid there will be no parades, nor annual large gatherings at the Cenotaph in Whitehall or at our local War Memorials. Whilst Villages & Town's will be observing the Remembrance, most will be restricted to a few attendees such as the Mayor, and a representative of the local Ex-Service Organisations. The Cenotaph Service was initially to be restricted to 8 representatives per Association, but has since been further reduced to just 2, one of whom will be our National President. The Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey normally attended by some 3000 Veterans & serving Personal was reduced to just 1 representative per Association. Being privileged to represent the RNA, a few days ago I was informed that this has been restricted to just the Royal Party, National President of The Royal British Legion, and the Clergy. Such is the invisible enemy we are all confronted with and must continue to be alert and keep our guard up.

Despite the dreaded Covid 19, the good deeds by Shipmates continues throughout the Association for which I thank you. Simply by calling another Shipmate by telephone can and is a great morale booster during lockdown. So, why not today pick up the phone and call a Shipmate and exchange a few dits and make a Shipmate's day, more so to those who live alone. Sadly, I hear of Branches that are resolved to sitting back and saying *“that's it, we are not doing anything until early next year”* Why? I ask. Only this week I popped into the local to find I was one of four other Shipmates who had just happened to call in for a Pie & a Pint whilst adhering to social distancing. An entertaining and morale boosting hour and we were all on our way. In today's world a high percentage of Shipmates have access to the internet and many Branches are now holding virtual meetings mostly using Zoom, whilst others use Microsoft Teams etc. If our very elderly Project Semaphore iPad recipients are keeping in touch with family in Australia using virtual means, there is no excuse for Branches not to be holding virtual meetings. On a more personal basis you can always use WhatsApp video link for 1 2 1 chats.

A reminder from last month is membership for WWII Veterans. Central Office staff have been busy actioning applications for Life Membership as referred to below, which we as an Association, are proud to acknowledge their Service.

The National Council has approved the following RNA Membership Benefits to WWII Veterans in recognition of their Service to the Country with effect from 15th August 2020.

- **NON RNA WWII Royal Navy Veterans are to be offered FREE Membership of the RNA.**

- RNA WWII Veterans who are **FULL Members** with under 10 years continuous Membership will no longer be required to pay the Association Annual Subscription from 1st January 2021.
- RNA WWII Veterans who are **FULL Members** with over 10 years continuous Membership will be invited to accept LIFE Membership without cost to their Branch (Also applicable to HQ Roll Members).

Branch Levies & Club Membership fees are not affected by the above, but I sincerely hope that Branches and Clubs will consider such veterans favourably.

A proforma for the implementation of the above has been sent to all Branch Secretaries by Central Office.

The successful Saturday Virtual TOT Nights set up by the RNA Wrexham Branch twins S/ms Eric Holmwood & Kevin Hackett are to be commended for good quality dits and banter. Only view if you can give stick but more so take a bit of stick. Tune in on a Saturday evening from 1830 with the toasts being given at 1900. Remember to have your TOT to hand, or better, still a few more!

The Monday nights 1800 Zoom held Fireside Chats continue to be a success with individual Branch members giving presentations along with guest speakers. Well worth viewing with an opportunity to ask questions. Look out in the Semaphore Circular for the diary of forthcoming talks which are highly recommended, or for more information check out the Royal Naval Association Community Site on Facebook or Google it for events & dates along with sign in ID's and Passwords.

Time to go, so to those serving, including reservists who continue to support the frontline against Covid-19, keep up the good work. To all Shipmates please continue to share your dits, Branch or Ship's news (including the Silent Service Boats) by sending articles to Andy Christie's man cave at andy@royalnavalassoc.com no matter how short they maybe. To our Overseas Branches – we know you are still out there but want to hear from. To Shipmates and your families in the UK and throughout the world keep safe and adhere to all the advice being given to you regarding Covid 19. **Stay Safe.**

Overheard some SBS chit chat “ *why don't we pop down to Pompey for 9 minutes whilst the kettle is on?* ”..... JOB DONE. BZ Lads.

Yours aye

Keith Ridley

nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com

1. ★ Branches – Importance of contact

With many areas subject to Tier 3 and Tier 2 C19 regulations it is once again essential that as an organisation we take responsibility and 'look-out' and assist isolated shipmates. Central Office will act for HQ Role members, but it is imperative that Branches keep in contact and meeting up when the opportunity presents itself ... Secretaries are encouraged to write or email each individual member, it will do wonders for their morale. The General Secretary is happy to assist with the cost of stationery and a stamp as he is aware that not all Shipmates are on the 'Tinternet' or worldwide 'thing-a-me'.....

If you need any assistance, then please give the HELPLINE a call on 07542 680082.

Regrettably, we are still currently unable to have Central Office full manned due to C19 restrictions so consequently, not everyone is working in the office at any one time. So during Office Hours contact the central Office team on the email addresses and mobile numbers below. It would really assist and be appreciated, if in the first instance you make contact by email

General Secretary	Bill@royalnavalassoc.com	07547 904410
Finance	Michelle@royalnavalassoc.com	07542 679819
Membership Support	Nigel@royalnavalassoc.com	07542 680082
Events/Semaphore Circular	Andy@royalnavalassoc.com	07889 761934
Communications (Charlie Darlington)	comms@royalnavalassoc.com	07860 705712
Branch/Club Accounts	kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com	07542 682117

You can still leave a message on the office admin phone however, it will be a lot quicker sending an email direct to the individuals above.

Finally, While I have your attention.....

Please do not forget to have a 'shuffy' at the Semaphore Circular on the Website in the Members Area – Password (Shipmate)

Please share these details with your Branch/Clubs Shipmates.

2. ★ Remembrance Parade Update

Shipmates should be aware that this year's Cenotaph Remembrance Parade has seen the Government drastically downsize the event due to current Covid regulations and the numbers involved subsequently reduced.

The National President will lay a wreath on behalf of the RNA and two Shipmates from Area 1 National Standard Bearer S/M Dave Corrigan (negative Standard) and S/M Catherine Lewington (HQ Roll) have been invited to attend the Cenotaph service. You may like to know for information that normally over 10,000 Veterans attend the parade but this year it has been reduced to 30.

3. ★ National Standard Bearers Competition – Update

Shipmates and Standard Bearers amongst you, are probably wondering when will a new date for the postponed/cancelled 2020 National Standard Bearers Competition be announced.



Answer..... Is that a decision will be made during the forthcoming AMC (Friday 13 November) with details of new arrangements forwarded to Branch Hon Secretaries and in the December Semaphore Circular.

4. ★ Introduction of Veterans Railcard

I am sure Shipmates will be interested in the introduction of the Veterans Railcard, please see the details below;

Double Olympic gold medalist and armed forces veteran, Honorary Colonel Dame Kelly Holmes, has teamed up with Sophie Faldo, former Army officer and winner of the Great British Bake Off, to support the launch of the new Veterans Railcard which is one of a number of measures designed to help veterans adjust to life outside the military.



Service personnel often live and work all over the UK, moving regularly from posting to posting, so when they leave the armed forces, they may well find themselves hundreds of miles from family and friends. The new Veterans Railcard, which is for anyone who has served at least one day in the armed forces or Merchant Marines who have seen duty on legally defined military operations, will save veterans 1/3 off most rail fares to help reconnect them to loved ones and connect them to new training and work opportunities. This new Railcard will help an extra 830k people benefit from discounted rail travel. It is just one of a number of measures being implemented by the government as part of its commitment to make the UK the best place to be a veteran anywhere in the world. The Railcard's design even pays tribute to those who have made sacrifices to protect and serve our country, by utilising the colours featured on the Veterans flag which represent the three-armed forces: Army, Navy and Air Force.

The new Veterans Railcard will be available for a special introductory price of just £21 for a 1-year Railcard or £61 for a 3-year Railcard, until 31st March 2021. It will offer the Railcard holder and their companion 1/3 off most rail fares and 60% off for up to four children aged 5-15 years.

Customers will be able to choose from a physical card that they can carry in their wallet or as a digital version they can keep on their phone. The Veterans Railcard will be available for use on journeys from **5th November**. Anyone who travels by train will be able to do so with confidence due to the extra steps the rail industry has taken to make journeys safer. From cleaning trains and stations more frequently and running more services to help with social distancing to improving information with people and technology helping every step of the way.



Robert Nisbet, Director Nations and Regions at Rail Delivery Group said: “Britain’s train companies are proud to support those that have served in the UK Armed forces and their families by offering a third off rail fares with the new Veterans Railcard which is now on sale. We’re delighted to have worked with the DfT, on behalf of the rail industry, to help make rail travel even cheaper for veterans and in doing so, connect them to job opportunities and training, as well as to their family and friends”.

For more information visit www.railcard.co.uk

5. ★ 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’.

Meeting ID - 288 830 5105 Password – Shipmate (case sensitive)

Date	Presenter	Subject
Monday 02 Nov	WO1 Speedy Steedman	WO to the RN - 1SL's Navy Update
Monday 09 Nov	Brigadier James Stopford	CEO - The Not Forgotten Association
Monday 16 Nov	Steve Green	HMS VICTORY Conservation Programme
Monday 23 Nov	S/M Ian Cameron	Salamis - a crucial ancient sea battle
Monday 30 Nov	To Be Confirmed	* Possible Keith Malcom QA AFC Lead Nurse
Monday 07 Dec	Jon Pearson	BAE Systems Support to the RN

6. ★ Final Call..... RNA 100% Lambswool Scarves (Made in Scotland)

The RNA Lambswool Tartan Scarves are now available for sale at a cost of £15.00 plus post and package of £3.20 for orders of 1 to 10 scarves. The scarves are tremendous value and, like the General Secretary, lovingly made in Scotland (Freedom!)

Please contact S/M Bob Coburn for further details, 01463 782162, or email robertcoburn001@btinternet.com



7. ★ Soroya Evacuation February 1945 - HMS Ships Zambesi, Zest, Opportune and HMCS Sioux.

World War Two Naval Veteran S/M Roy Elwood has emailed Central Office with some very interesting news concerning the Soroya, an island off north Norway, Evacuation in February 1945. For more information please contact Roy at roy.elwood@btinternet.com

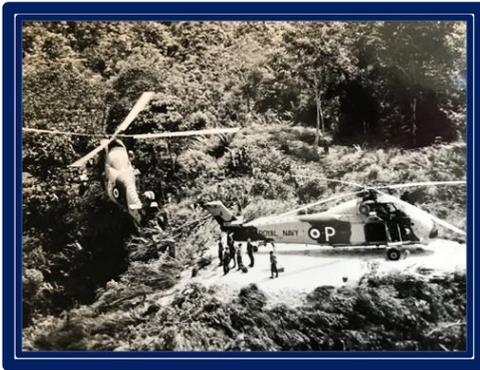
In February 1945 four destroyers took part in an evacuation of 500+ Norwegians from Soroya and took them to Murmansk where they were shared round the merchant ships discharging their cargo. They were then brought to Scotland on convoy RA64. I was serving aboard HMS Zambesi and have recently been awarded the Norwegian Governments Commemoration Medal 1939-1945 for my service to their country. I had no idea that I might be entitled to the award and in fact had only heard of it by chance.

I am contacting you because four ships were involved, HMS Zambesi, HMS Zest, HMS Opportune and HMCS Sioux. This would involve perhaps around a 1,000 men and although it is a long time ago it seems to me that there may well be other survivors who would be entitled to it but are not aware of it. I understand you have a newsletter and might be willing to include a note about it. I have posted something on the Arctic Convoys website and was invited to join a Canadian body. I have not joined but they have agreed to circulate on their site in case any who served on the Sioux at that time follow it.

In my case a researcher, Tim Kundu chanced upon me and referred myself and another ex-member of Zambesi's crew to the Norwegian Embassy. They organised the award and their Defence Attaché presented it personally.

8. ★ Last Month's Unusual Photo - More Information

Further to the unusual photograph taken in the jungles of Borneo during the 1964 Indonesia-Malaya confrontation and features two Wessex Helicopters.



I asked for your assistance (Stand Too! FAA) in trying to work out which aircraft mark they are and which squadron?

One of my own branch, S/M Tony Fenn, very kindly provided the answer..... Or so I thought!

The photo shows a Wessex Mk 5 of 848 Squadron. First squadron to receive Mk 5s. We (845 Sqdn) relieved them in the Indian ocean on the way to 'Singers' 1966. Thank

you very much Tony.

Well.....

S/M Charles Buckle (Dorset Branch) kindly emailed me with this information.

I would like to correct the Identity of the 2 Wessex helos in the September issue. They are Wessex 1s of 845 squadron embarked in HMS BULWARK. The Wessex 1 was powered by a single Gazelle engine with one large exhaust pipe on either side. I was a mid' in the ship from January 1965 and spent a month with The squadron learning how to fly. (I remained a fish head). We were relieved in July at Singapore by HMS ALBION with 848 squadron and their

Wessex 5s (twin Gnome engines and twin exhausts on either side) embarked before steaming home via Fremantle. (By the GS: I believe our National Chairman was in ALBION then although I'm sure greasy stokers wouldn't have been allowed anywhere near the flight deck to goof!)

Thank you very much Charles.

Please send your photos (Which I will send back) / old 'dits' etc to andy@royalnavalassoc.com

9. ★ This Month's Unusual Photo

I wonder if Shipmates can spot where your Ops Officer, a younger looking bearded Shipmate Andy Christie is ? answers at rear of this edition.



Central Office would be delighted to receive any of your unusual photos, which will be returned, however, a quick snap taken on your phone and sent to –

admin@royalnavalassoc.com

in is so much easier. I'll bet there are some amazing photos out there.

There could be a bottle of 'Pussers' available for the best photo!

10. ★ Guess the Ship ?

Guess the name of this old lady? She is very sadly seen on her final deployment on the way to be broken up. This venerable aircraft carrier performed exceptionally when called upon by the nation to action.



Stop Press -----

It is intended to cast 250 plaques for RN veterans who served in this ship, which will be made from steel stripped from the flight deck, as a keepsake of their time serving in her. The specific details will follow shortly.

Answer at rear of this section.....

11. ★ Some Respectful C19 Humour

Just been to Tesco's, near the front, for a 4 pack of toilet rolls and once again the shelves are bare yet again ☹️ ...Sadly I have had to substitute with using lettuce leaves –

I fear this is just the tip of the iceberg though. Boom Boom.....

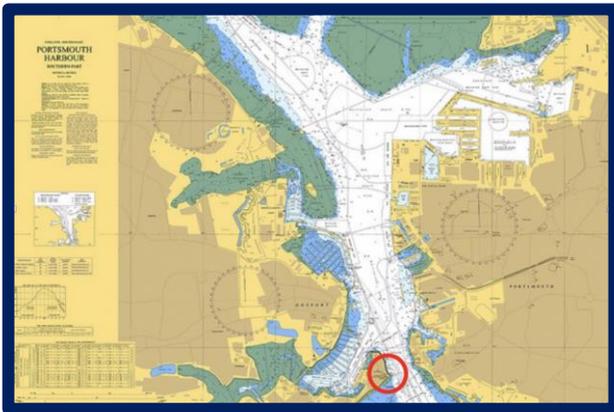
12. ★ Tom Sharpe OBE - QE entry to Portsmouth

Thanks go to Commander Tom Sharpe OBE Royal Navy (Rtd) who has very kindly given consent for the Semaphore Circular to publish this very interesting article on the complexities of bringing a QE Class Aircraft Carrier into harbour.

HMS Queen Elizabeth delayed sailing recently today due to strong easterly winds in what is a good example of risk-vs-operational imperative decision making. The following short read is a counter to the resulting 'what if we had to go to war and it was windy' commentary.

Let me start this by saying I have only ever berthed an aircraft carrier once, by which I mean I dumped HMS Ark Royal somewhere in the middle of Portsmouth Harbour and the pilot/tugs did the rest. However, I did drive other warships of different shapes and sizes on many occasions, so let me give this a go.

HMS Queen Elizabeth (like many warships) has two propellers (at the stern) and no thrusters at the bow (or stern). This gives you plenty of control (and power) going forwards and backwards, and you can turn on the spot relatively easily, but you have no lateral control (unlike ferries, cruise liners and some merchant vessels). Because of this, wind on the beam is not always your friend. If a ship is stopped in the water, it will move sideways at approximately 1 knot for every 10 knots of wind. Today's easterlies would therefore have generated in excess of 2 knots lateral movement to the west for QE thus potentially setting the ship down rapidly onto what used to be HMS Dolphin (circled).

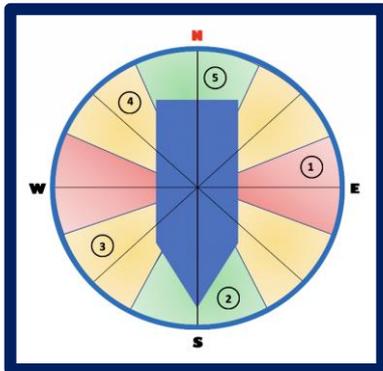


Unfortunately, there isn't much that can be done about this. As a ship speeds up the lateral effect of the wind does decrease but it doesn't disappear entirely. In open water you can counter the relative motion by 'aiming off' (into wind) by a few degrees but the entrance to Portsmouth harbour is too narrow for this with a ship the size of QE: any angle off the planned deep-water track would see her bow/stern unacceptably close to shallow water. The gap is very narrow for QE. Available water is narrower still.

Tugs, like thrusters, start losing their effect at speed as well. They can control the ships head and stern and if necessary slow you down but as soon as you are underway, their ability to control your lateral movement reduces with every added knot. This can generate a dilemma as a warship

captain because the speed you want to lessen the effect of the wind makes the tugs, in turn, less effective.

There is some good news though. The Queen's Harbour Master team in Portsmouth are as capable of controlling warship movements as any team in the world. The tugs procured specifically for moving QE around are extremely powerful and well handled. Also, the wind limits will have been made into a science by now (see diagram). Clearly a wind on the beam is worst case (1). From dead



ahead (in this case from the South) within reason, is fine (2). Wind on the bow, such as a sou'westerly, will have some effect but not as much (3). Same as a wind on the quarter (4). Wind from dead astern, less still (5). All this will have been calculated and clear limits articulated, i.e. 25 kts from the east: out of limits, 20 knots from the southwest: just in limits etc.

Good ship handling is part art and part science. One must know what the conditions *should* be doing to your ship, see what they are *actually* doing then have the confidence to drive a very large and expensive warship accordingly. One should always retain something in reserve. Every Captain has at some point or used up their reserve and retired to their cabin for a stiff drink after

what appeared to everyone else to be a punchy and successful alongside. If you don't build in this margin you will eventually come unstuck; embarrassment, injury, large bills, programme delays and Courts Martial follow quickly, often in that order.

So back to QE. A strong Easterly is worst case and today, the science would have determined that the risk of the ship being set onto a lee shore was too high. The art, and where the Captain

earns his pay, is to balance this risk against the operational imperative to sail. Today, it was for an exercise so it made absolute sense to wait – live to fight another day. Delaying sailing is never comfortable because expectations are high, programmes are taut, expensive bits of kit are waiting to fly on and, if it's a long trip, family expectations have to be managed, but, every single peacetime incident has 'needlessly pressing on' somewhere in the investigation report. Besides, the wind always dies down in



the end. Sail when it does and then just ring on a couple of extra knots to catch up. Push it in peacetime and one can end up alongside the Still and West at which point everyone gets very cross. It happens...Above right, HMS Vanguard making an 'unplanned visit' to the Still and West in 1960 But to those saying 'so we can't go to war if it's windy', yes we can: the captain just has to adjust his margins accordingly which, of course, is his job. He does it 100s of times a day, every day, with billions of pounds worth of kit and over 1000 people relying on him to get it right again and again and again.

All captains do.

13. ★ RN and Veterans Photographic Competition 2020

Well done and BZ to Shipmate Gary Daisley for being 'Highly Commended' for his entry named 'Shipmates Honoured in the RN and Veterans Photographic competition for 2020.



14. ★ Joke – the Tomato Garden. A love Story!

An old gentleman lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison so, the old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like the old days.

Love, Papa

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Papa,

Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried.

Love, Vinnie

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologised to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Papa,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love you,

Vinnie

15. ★ S/M Karl Webb - Gets his B13 for Mayor of Huntingdon

Huntingdon Branch Hon Sec and Branch Life Vice President has been selected as the Mayor of Huntingdon. A huge BZ and very many congratulations to S/M Karl for being selected for this honour.

Karl joined the 'Andrew' in 1983 joining as a Radio Operator and saw service in many ships during his 25 year career. He is also the Branch Deputy Standard Bearer and still has time to look after the RNA community site. Is there no end to his skills.....



16. ★ Fleet Air Arm involvement in the Battle of Britain – Summer /Autumn 1940

Thanks to S/m Ian Cameron (PRO at St Neots Branch) for this very extremely interesting article.

The involvement of the Fleet Air Arm is relatively little known and while numerically small, had a significant impact on the Battle. Two FAA squadrons were officially classed as having taken an active part in the Battle of Britain, and 56 pilots of the nearly-3,000 total. And this is to say nothing of the units and men that contributed in other ways to the defence of Britain during the summer and autumn of 1940, in less visible but equally valuable roles.

Following the defeat of France, the Admiralty offered the Air Ministry the loan of naval pilots then under training. There were at that time two courses of naval pilots under instruction at the Fighter School in HMS Raven. All the eligible officers volunteered (executive officers were excluded), and eventually some 23 naval pilots would join Fighter Command squadrons during the Battle. They retained their naval uniforms (and were paid by the Admiralty) but in all operational respects were members of the squadrons they had been posted to.

This is not to say they did not retain their identity as naval aviators – Sub-Lt (A) RE Gardner RN painted Nelson's 'England Expects' flag hoist on his 242 Squadron Hurricane, and Sub-Lt AG Blake with 19 Squadron predictably gained the nickname 'Admiral'. In total 56 FAA pilots were posted to join the Battle of Britain.

(Courtesy to the Naval History Website)

17. ★ - Chief Jack Dusties 'Do Walk on Water' Joke

Jesus, a Chief Jack Dusty and the Pope were walking through a forest when they came to a river.

"Follow me" said Jesus and walked across the water. The Chief Jack Dusty followed and walked across the water. However, when the Pope followed them, he went straight in up to his chest." How can this be" he said in despair?

Jesus turned to the Chief Jack Dusty and laughed "Shall we tell him about the stones"

To which the Chief Jack Dusty replied "What stones?".....

18. ★ Trying to Contact Mr Lee Molyneux

Ipswich Branch Hon Sec Shipmate Ray Leonard has received a request from Barry Rothman who is trying to contact an ex Naval recruiter Lee Molyneux who may have been involved in the sinking of the German Battleship Bismarck. S/M Ray says it may be a long shot but it is worth trying.

If you can help please email S/M Ray at rayleonard@sky.com

19. ★ Operation 'Assistance Please' – One

Dave Colman (Hon Sec, West Wittering Branch) has email to ask if anyone can assist please. He received an appeal for help from Mr Tom Miller, who's Mother is Church Warden at Itchenor Church in West Wittering, to reunite some family heirlooms left on the church door. They concern to brothers; Gunner Frank Robinson RHA and Pte Cyril Robinson Manchester Regt. One died in WW1 and other in Basra in 1922. If you recognise them or have any information please contact either rnadave1212@btinternet.com or tom2982925@icloud.com

Hi shipmates, hope you Are all keeping well. As some of you may know, my mother is the church warden for the itchenor church. The following were anonymously left at the church door last week.

It would be interesting to know if anyone had any thoughts on how to reunite them with any surviving family members, who may not even be aware of their ancestors achievements in the first world war.

Any ideas greatly appreciated.



20. ★ Operation 'Assistance Please' - Two

Central office received the email below from Australia asking for assistance.....

Good afternoon admin,

I was a member of the Australian Navy who undertook apprentice training at HMAS Nirimba, which was the Royal Australian Navy Training Establishment (RANTE) located at Quakers Hill, New South Wales.

My intake – July 1978 is organising a reunion and I have been asked to try to track down one of our intake that later joined the Royal Navy.

Mark J Swain was English and joined the July 1978 intake as an apprentice Marine Technical Propulsion sailor. Mark completed his apprentice training and spent some time in the Australian Fleet and reached the rank of Leading Seaman MTP before he returned to the UK. I'm not sure if he discharged from the RAN and then joined the RN or if he was allowed to transfer from one service to the other. Other members of our intake have tried in the past to establish contact with Mark however to date these efforts have been unsuccessful.

I thought that by approaching your association you might be able to publish a request or seek information and ascertain if Mark might be willing to be contacted in relation to our planned reunion. Hopefully by then the COVID issue may have had a resolution of some sort and international travel may be back on the cards.

My contact details are; Ian Jones (Spike) Private email; spike62@y7mail.com

or via the contact details below.

Thank you in advance for your consideration

Kind regards

Ian Jones

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Email: ian.jones@amsa.gov.au web: www.amsa.gov.au

21. ★ Extract from Midshipman Terry Lewin, HMS Valiant 1945.

Our grateful thanks go too Tim Lewin, son of the late Admiral of the Fleet Terrence Lewin KG, GCB, LVO, DSC, who has very kindly agreed to share his father's 2WW Journal. The Journal is available on Amazon at the following link

https://www.amazon.co.uk/He-Who-Would-Valiant-Midshipman-ebook/dp/B018K6K6UE/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=he+who+would+valiant+be+lewin&qid=1592598238&s=books&sr=1-1

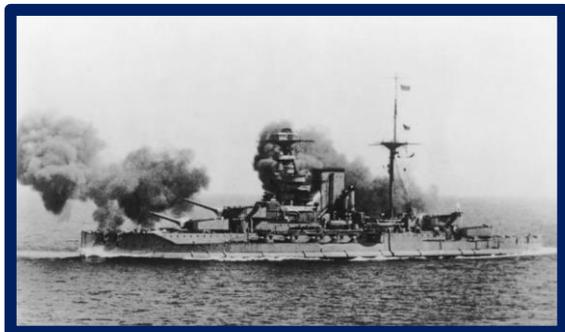
Sunday 20 October 1940

Ramillies went into the floating dock this afternoon. She is only to have her bottom scrape, but by this they hope to add two knots to her speed. We had two air raid warnings during the evening, separated by two hours. The aircraft carried out no attacks in the vicinity but passed on their way to and from Cairo. This is the first time Cairo has been bombed. Five aircraft took part. There is no blackout there, as it is by no means a military objective.

Mussolini, having promised not to disturb the Moslems during Ramadan, seems to be antagonising them unnecessarily. Tromso has been attacked by aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm and damage done to ships and jetties there. Presumably, these aircraft were operating from a carrier, as Tromso is too far North to be attacked from any of our bases by bombers of the R.A.F.

Conditions will soon be perfect for hit and run raids by carriers on bases in Scandinavia. An attack carried out at dusk will give the naval force about eighteen hours of darkness to get out of range of enemy bombers.

Monday 21 October 1940



We were at Repel Aircraft stations for an hour and a half from two-thirty onwards. The Italians seem to be making a determined attack on the aerodromes on the Eastern and Western boundaries of Alexandria. Why they should do this and yet leave unmolested the aircraft carriers that bomb their bases in the Dodecanese seems a mystery. A lengthy stick of bombs, such as they drop on us at sea, could hardly fail to hit something in the outer harbour. We had to fire a few rounds of blind

barrage at some aircraft that came too close to the fleet.

We heard today that our Captain had been promoted to the acting rank of Rear Admiral, and that he is to take over the command of the First Battle Squadron, in place of Rear Admiral Pridham-Wipple, who also has been promoted to be Vice-Admiral commanding Light Forces.

Tuesday 22 October 1940

Again we were disturbed early by raiders, but again the aerodromes were their only objective. One parachute flare was dropped over Dekheila. We did not have to fire until over an hour had passed. When we finally fell out, it was just getting light, and immediately we had another Red warning. This was probably only returning fighters and we were only closed up for a few minutes. Ramillies undocked in the afternoon and returned to her old berth just astern of us.

Wednesday 23 October 1940

After three disturbed nights running we were left in peace for last night. One of our convoys in the Red Sea was attacked by an Italian destroyer, with disastrous results to itself. It was the Francesco Nullo. It was engaged by the Kimberley, which lost contact in the dusk. Contact was regained next morning and after forty-minutes the Nullo was so badly damaged that she ran aground.

She was then blown up by a torpedo. A shore battery, consisting of three guns, then took up the fight. Two of these were silenced but Kimberly had a steam pipe severed which reduced her speed and wounded three men. The convoy was unharmed. The loss to the Italians is an important one, as it is impossible for her to replace lost shipping outside the Mediterranean.

We started our rugger season today with a practice match with Ramillies. If the result can be taken as an omen, the season should be a good one, we scored over thirty points, our opponents, none.



H. M. S. VALIANT. MEDITERRANEAN FLEET, 1940-41. ALEX. SPORTING CLUB.

Thursday 24 October 1940

Our respite of the night before was not to be repeated, we were called out at 0300. Aerodromes were the object of the attack once more. We did fire in barrage for a short spell. Nine aircraft have been destroyed at Aboukir aerodrome, but no one was hurt.

Rear Admiral Rawlings flag was hoisted in Malaya at 0800 this morning. We cleared lower deck for his farewell speech. After that, all our boats, including the pulling boats, were called away, to line the route from Valiant to Malaya. The Admiral used the picket boat as a barge. The ship's company lined the guard rails and cheered as he left, and each boat cheered as he passed down the line. In contrast to his informal farewell was Malaya's formal welcome. Our Commander has been appointed acting-Captain in command until Captain Morgan, who has been appointed to the ship, arrives. Nine Midshipmen, and one pay-mid, joined the ship today. They have come from England round the Cape in the Monarch of Bermuda and Athlone Castle.

Friday 25 October 1940

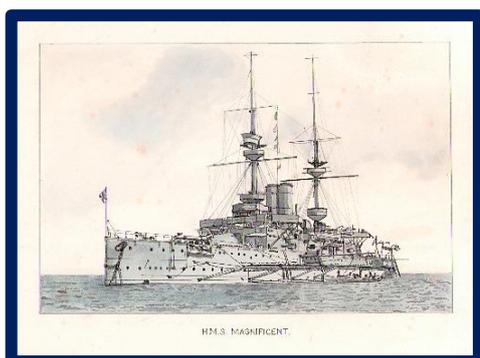
Orion and Sydney sailed early today, accompanied later by Calcutta and Coventry. York shifted berth twice, firstly to Eagle's berth, then alongside the detached mole astern of Lorraine. Kent has come into the stream, so it looks as if she may be leaving soon. Eagle and Malaya sailed after the cruisers. We do not know what the operation is to be, possibly Eagle's aircraft are going to do some bombing.

Saturday 26 October 1940

Kent sailed today, unescorted. The repairs affected temporarily appear to have been well done. She can make good at least twenty-five knots and practically all her armament is in fighting condition. She has three shafts working. She has left most of her ammunition here, and has disguised her increased draught with paint. She is to go to Simonstown for full refit, I believe.

22. ★ HMS Magnificent Painting for Sale

Greetings Shipmates. My late mother, who was also a WREN, left me the attached original pen and ink drawing of H.M.S. Magnificent and I am looking to sell it to a new home.



It is by an unknown but accomplished artist. Measures approx. 4" x 6" mounted - (some slight foxing) HMS Magnificent was one of the nine Majestic-class pre-dreadnought battleships of the Royal Navy. She entered service in late 1895 with the Channel Fleet, remaining with the fleet through its subsequent reorganisation into the Atlantic Fleet. In 1905, an explosion caused the deaths of 18 men but she remained in service until 1906, after which she underwent a refit. She served with the Home Fleet for most of her pre-war service.

Among the oldest of Britain's battleships at the time, Magnificent was a guard ship on the Humber when World War I broke out. She was then, together with her sister ship Hannibal, assigned to Scapa Flow as a guard ship. In 1915, she was stripped of her main armament, and later in that year was converted to a troopship for use in the Dardanelles Campaign. Returning to England in 1916, she was inactive until late 1917, at which time she was converted to an ammunition ship.

She continued to serve in this role until 1921, at which time she was decommissioned before being scrapped the following year.

This drawing is for sale for just £150 including p & p. Please kindly let me know whether this might be of any interest to your members.

Kind regards

Barry Swain

02084490263

Answers to Unusual Photo and Guess the ship.....

Unusual photo - HMS Falmouth proceeding through the Corinth Canal November 1979

Guess the Ship - HMS Hermes latterly INS Viraat.

RNA Longcast

2020	
08 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
13 Nov	AMC / FAC - Zoom
21 Nov	Area 2 Delegate Meeting – Ramsgate
05 Dec	National Council Meeting – Portsmouth/Zoom
25 Dec	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Boxing Day
2021	
06 Feb	Area 5 AGM and Quarterly – 1400 - Venue to be announced
Mar TBC	FAC/AMC/ National Council
Apr TBC	RAF v Navy Rugby – The Stoop, Twickenham
02 – 05 Apr	Easter Bank Holiday
16 Apr	Open Day
23 Apr TBC	Welfare Seminar - Venue to be announced
03 May	May Bank Holiday
14/15/16 May	Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations – Londonderry
14 May	Open Day
15 May	Armed Forces Day - Scarborough
May TBC	National Standard Bearers Competition – HMS Collingwood
May TBC	Inter Services T20 Cricket - Lords
31 May	World Uckers Championship – Venue to be announced
31 May	Late May Bank Holiday
May/June TBC	Official Opening of Central Office - Portsmouth
Jun TBC	HMS Collingwood Open/Field Gun Day
11 Jun	National Council / AMC / FAC / SOC Meetings
12 June	National Conference - Nottingham
25 Jun	Open Day
23 Jul	Open Day
Aug	AMC / FAC
30 Aug	August Bank Holiday
Sep	National Council
Sep	Naval Veterans Biennial Parade - Whitehall
Nov	AMC / FAC
Dec	National Council
25 Dec	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Boxing Day
27 Dec	Christmas Holiday
28 Dec	Boxing Day Holiday

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Helston](#)
[RNA Rushden](#)
[RNA Dublin](#)
[RNA Tyne and RNA Ferndown](#)
[RNA Forth Valley](#)
[RNA Bude](#)
[RNA Stowmarket](#)
[RNA Crosby](#)
[RNA Portland](#)
[RNA Bridport](#)
[RNA City of Edinburgh](#)
[Ton Class Association](#)

RNA Helston Branch

Thanks to our 'What's on in Deepest Kernow (Helston Branch)' reporter Shipmate Joe 'yardarm' Locke for keeping us informed.



The Helston Branch supported the Warspite Association on Sunday September 13th. It was a small service, which went off well in Cornish sunshine in Marizon and it drew a small social distancing crowd. No cup of coffee on completion, again government rules in place.

On Saturday 19th held on the decking of S/Ms Joe & Josie Locke's back garden to celebrate to speak like a pirate

day..... Avast M'hearties etc..... again in a social distance way so no one as forced to walk the gangplank. Obeying the six person rule in attendance with pieces of eight where, Shipmates George "Grog swilling" Scott, Tony "Sea Rat" King & their partners Linda "Queenie" Scott & Sue "Rapscaillon" King along with Joe "Yardarm" Locke & Josie "Periwinkle" Locke. Much a pirate life for me singing and good victuals consumed.



For information in October the Helston branch will be celebrating 40 years.

RNA Dublin Branch



Dublin Branch are delighted to announce that Branch Chairman, Shipmate Paul Stephenson has been re-elected as Vice Chair of the Republic of Ireland District Royal British Legion. Paul was first co-opted to the position in 2018 and was re-elected at a recent meeting.

Shipmate Paul is of course, also National Vice Chairman of the Royal Naval Association. Additionally, Shipmate Paul is the ROI RBL District Recruitment and retention Officer and Chairman and founding member (2013) Midland Counties and Kildare Branch RBL.

Scurrilous rumours that Paul's wife Mary had rigged the election, to keep him out of the house, are we understand, totally unfounded! BZ Paul from everyone in Dublin Branch.

Shipmates from Dublin Branch were sad to say farewell to H.E. The British Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Robin Barnett, who has been a great supporter of the Branch, during his three years in Dublin. Branch Chairman, Shipmate Paul Stephenson was one of four people invited to a socially distanced lunch last week at Glencairn, the official residence of the Ambassador.

To mark the occasion of Ambassador Barnett's retirement, the Branch Vice President Shipmate Liam Smith and Vice Chairman, Shipmate Maurice Keane presented him with an engraved RNA tankard and a bottle of Pussers Rum. The Ambassador very much enjoyed a tot or two and many of our events, so the bottle most definitely won't go to waste!



RNA Rushden Branch

Our thanks to S/M Maurice Weight has forwarded the article below;

During these challenging times, it is more important than ever that we keep in contact with our shipmates. To that end, this month Rushden & District Branch launched it's 'Park Walk' Programme.

Complying with Government instructions and meeting in groups, of no greater than six, whilst maintaining social distancing, our shipmates met up at Rushden's jewel in the crown, Hall Park, (and I think it's fair to say) thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We had a nice steady stroll in a beautiful park, ending with good coffee with great company – Perfect.

Like so many parts of the country Northamptonshire is blessed with a plethora of green spaces, so, next week we plan to walk the Wildlife Trust's Rushden Lakes, (rotating the venue as often as

possible). We are always striving to find innovative ways to support our friends, so, for the younger/ fitter members we are planning more challenging walks.

If you have done some walking/trekking lately, why not post photos on our facebook page?
Rushden RNA Walking Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/128193843882376/?source=unknown>

RNA Tyne Branch and RNA Ferndown

Thanks to S/M RoslynHastie-Murray and S/m Ian Scraggs for forwarding this article.



On VJ Day 2020 S/M Roslyn Hastie-Murray, Tyne Branch Hon Secretary, accompanied a newly transferred shipmate, Chevalier Ron Cunningham, to take part in two local informal VJ Day tributes.

The first of these took place at the Memorial to Lost Seamen which overlooks the River Tyne above North Shields Fish Quay where S/M Ron and S/M Roslyn held a two-minute silence between speaking The Exhortation and the Kohima Epitaph, accompanied by S/M Ron's family.

Next, they both joined members of the Whitley Bay, North Shields & District Royal British Legion who met informally at the Hawkey's Lane War Memorial in North Shields and silent tribute was paid by those present who also laid Poppy crosses and wreaths at the Memorial.

RNA Tyne held its first face-to-face Branch meeting at the end of August where Shipmates were very pleased to welcome a new shipmate, Chevalier Ron Cunningham, who has transferred to the north-east; he was previously the President of Ferndown & District RNA.

Tyne Branch had been tasked with a duty by RNA Ferndown— to present S/M Ron with a medal for Life Vice-Presidency of the Ferndown & District Branch. However, in addition to keeping this a surprise until the event itself, some special visitors arrived to witness the event take place including S/M Chevalier Bob Barnett - President of Ferndown & District Branch.

S/M Ron's daughter and granddaughter accompanied him that evening and everyone present was delighted by his reaction to being presented with this medal by Tyne Chairman, S/M Keith Scholefield.



Everyone attending enjoyed seeing the two Chevalier's pleasure in being together again as well as meeting the shipmates from Ferndown for the first time.

Unfortunately, the Tyne area is now back in local lockdown so Branch meetings have reverted back to Zoom! Despite this the Branch has been keeping in touch with all the Tyne shipmates in a variety of ways and they are looking forward to once again meet up in person once the lockdown is lifted.

RNA Forth Valley

Our thanks to S/m Andy Mc Donald for forwarding this lovely article following a hearing test for damaged lugs!

Following up on an enquiry to Central Office from a Navy Veterans Care Home Manager on behalf of a resident, RNVR sailor aged 99 for a visit, Seaman Torpedoman Austin Hubert Howes PXESDX 1642.

S/Ms Andy Mc Donald and John (Duke) Wain, decided to see what could be done for Austin, he enthralled them with a non-stop litany of his full-service life, two hours' worth!

"Talk about swing a lamp" No swopping dits, we had to listen as we couldn't stop him! At 19 he joined the RNVR at Cleaverhouse in Leith in 39' and trained for period at Vernon before being drafted to HMS Patroclus. An Armed Merchantman Cruiser, like many of her class was requisitioned by the Admiralty and fitted out for Convoy Duty.

On his first Northern Patrol in Nov 40, it was too set the standard, In Apr41, the ship was sent onto the South Atlantic Station, then next in July the Western patrol. It was then U99 sunk the Casanare, west of Bloody Foreland. AMC's Patroclus and Laurentic went to search the area for survivors, U99 struck again and sunk the Laurentic. Patroclus did a depth charge sweep and then picked up sailors in the water. U99 struck again, as she had men scrambling up the nets and Patroclus was hit three times and sank.



Austin vividly described how he actually saw the torpedos coming and screamed out a warning, he managed to assist lifeboats into the water and had to jump himself as they left without him. He clung to a large piece of wreckage until an hour later a boat picked him out of the water. 24hrs passed and the lifeboat continuously needed bailing, what a cry went up when HMS Hesperus, Active and Beagle found them. Austin was taken to Greenock and after a check-up, given 2 weeks survivors leave, on completion he joined HMS Emerald and sailed for the Far East.

Based at Trincomalee he saw plenty action in the three years on station. Emerald sailing home for refit stopped at Columba and the crew boarded a troop carrier, not so lucky Austin he was grabbed by a Jaunty to assist with forward drafting sailors up to Trincomalee. His troop ship home was 4 months late and he remembered hearing how the Battle of Arnham was happening on his passage to UK. Another two weeks leave and he then joined HMS Battler a converted USA built carrier, who spent most of the time off Methil in Fife to act as a training deck for RAF Donibristle. Austin was demobbed in 46 from Claverhouse, where he started and put on 5years Z reserve. He married that same year and had many stories to tell of that too!! And still is!!

Only sorry Forth Valley, never heard of him sooner, on our second visit near Christmas, Austin got a Litre of Navy Rum and £20 to his slush fund for toiletries. He then exclaimed it was the " Best Day of his Life" to get another visit from us, we will be back with a tape recorder to let the whole branch appreciate what a Class Sailor he was.

RNA Bude Branch

Shipmate Bob Gelder (Gelder the Elder) , Bude Branch Hon Secretary, reports.....

The Branch met after a 6 month "Stand Easy" on 3rd September at The Falcon Hotel, Bude with no losses to Branch strength. In fact, we increased by two to 51 overall due to recruitment via either Central Office referral or local unearthing! Regrettably, our tame "snapper", S/M Chris Hore BEM , was absent due to a medical appointment - so no pictures - but a good evening enjoyed by all, when the star item in the Auction - a Pussers Rum Decanter - went to join a few others in the same household.

For any shipmates interested, the beaches, pavements and roads are now a lot less cluttered but the locals are still using facemasks.

RNA Stowmarket Branch

Shipmate 'Chivs' Pete Chivers reports in from deepest Suffolk!

Though shipmates may not yet be meeting face-to-face at branch meetings, this hasn't meant that we've been inactive. Far from it.....

We've been keeping ourselves busy with a number of things. Participating in the RNA's first ever National Conference via Zoom, which saw delegates logging in from across the country to take part and taking to it like a duck to water. Even though delegates weren't meeting under the same roof, each still turned out in their best rig and you could tell they'd tidied up their rooms beforehand too! We also proudly represented the RNA at Suffolk's VJ Day Service of Remembrance in Bury St Edmunds, held our AGM so we could clear the decks in respect of Central administration, and seen the fiftieth edition of our branch newsletter 'Gen Dit' published, which included an article sent in by the RNA's General Secretary, Captain Bill Oliphant RN.

We've also said hello to a new shipmate, proving that despite lockdown it doesn't stop us from finding new recruits to join our Watch and Station Bill. Welcome aboard George.

Sadly, we said farewell to a member of the Royal Navy family. Royal Marine veteran James Perry, who took part in the D-Day landings on Juno beach and sadly passed away in late August. Having been asked if we could provide a White Ensign for Jim's funeral, we were soon on the phone to our shipmates of the Royal Marines Association and in addition to our own

standard, two RM standards and a RM Warrant Officer and Bugler from Lymstone were at the funeral to pay our respects.

The committee also met up in September (in a back garden, though still socially distanced) to put together a plan for the next few months. With the RBL Club unlikely to open until early November, the committee discussed having its first post-lockdown meeting on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon in the newly refurbished club, which will give shipmates an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the 'new' surroundings during daylight hours rather than ask our more elderly shipmates to meet up in the evening. Just as soon as we have a date, we'll update you all.

So, all in all, though our engine room telegraph may be set at "Slow Ahead", it's most definitely not a case of "Stop".

RNA Crosby Branch

Shipmate and Lt Kev 'Mac' McAllister currently serving in HMS Tamar, who is PRO of Crosby Branch has forwarded this lovely article celebrating S/M Tom Beswarick's 100th Birthday.

"Surprise Surprise" Crosby RNA members celebrated Shipmate Tom Beswarick reaching his 100th birthday with a socially distanced "tot" with Tom and his wife 31 August 2020. Until recently Tom has been an active member of the Crosby branch and has now looked to take his foot of the gas and finally enjoy his retirement!

Tom Beswarick joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and served for 5 ½ years predominantly in Minesweepers conducting operations searching for both magnetic and acoustic mines.

During WWII Tom saw service in the UK, operations in and around Iceland and Malta. He was serving in Malta during the Siege; arriving 26th April 1941 and leaving on 31st March 1942 during which time there was a total of 1278 raids.

Following his retirement from the Service Tom undertook a number of significant roles within the local community. During his life Tom was a Councillor for 26 years which included a year in the role as the Mayor of the Borough of Crosby. Alongside his Council business he was a School Governor at Chesterfield High School for 41 years; 20 years of which he held the post of Chairman. Further appointments in the community saw him as Justice of the Peace for 27 years and a member of Waterloo Probus Club, during which he was elected as Chairman for a year.

Tom has been a longstanding Member of the Crosby branch of the Royal Naval Association (RNA) which included 17 years as the President of the branch. In keeping his association with Malta Tom was a Member of the North West branch of the George Cross Island Association, which also saw a tenure as Chairman for over seven years.

In the 2012 Queen's Birthday Honours he was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) 'For serving the community of Crosby'.

For information, S/M Mac (Crosby PRO) is not serving in HMS Tamar Hong Kong but a brand spanking new Batch 2 River Class Offshore patrol ship. She is the 4th of her class.



RNA Portland Branch

40 or so hardy soles including Shipmates from Portland Branch attended the Merchant Navy Day organised by portland Town Mayor Sandy West on Thursday 03 September 2020. The service which was held in St Georges Churchyard in dreadful conditions.

The service was led by Rev.d Tim Gomm, ably assisted by Paula Brown, the Mayors Chaplain. After the appropriate hymns and readings the congregation joined in with the Exhortation to the Fallen.

The Last Post was sounded and the Standards of: RNA Portland Branch; HMS Ajax Association; RNA Weymouth Branch and the RAF Association. After reveille was sounded the congregation joined together in singing the Naval Hymn followed by the National Anthem.

Thanks go to to Shipmates; Alex, Peter, Doc, Dave the Booty, Ginge, Dusty and Alf for braving the elements. BZ Gentlemen.



RNA Bridport Branch

Shipmates may enjoy a letter sent from Bridport Branch to Central Office concerning the Branches appreciation of the efforts of the Central Office team during the C19 crisis. The original letter and General Secretary's response are below.

Dear Captain Oliphant

Appreciation

The Committee of the Bridport branch of the RNA has asked me to register our considerable appreciation of the efforts of yourself and All your Headquarters staff for the efforts made during this long period of difficulties as a result of Covid19.

You have managed to keep us abreast of developments in many areas going from Finance to cancellation of events. Given the demographic of our Branch membership your news has been timely and educational for so many of us. Please pass on our grateful thanks to all your Staff and please keep up the good work.

Yours Aye

Bob Bickers

Hon Sec Bridport Branch

General Secretary's reply;

Dear Bob,

I must say I am really touched that you, the Committee and indeed the Branch members at Bridport RNA have taken the time to drop us such a kind note. As you can imagine, we do receive advice from time to time but more often than not it's usually advice on how we can improve our service! We try.

This has undoubtedly been a cruel year for all the RNA stands for; primarily, getting together to enjoy the camaraderie of our shared history. However, I have been proud of the way that Branches have adapted to our circumstances and swung into the requirement to establish a welfare support organisation to be able to support our shipmates who are maybe less able than ourselves. This crisis is hitting our people more than most and all that we can do to alleviate social isolation and loneliness is hugely important.

Thank you again for all you do in Bridport and I hope to get the opportunity to come down to visit once all of this hideous situation is sorted.

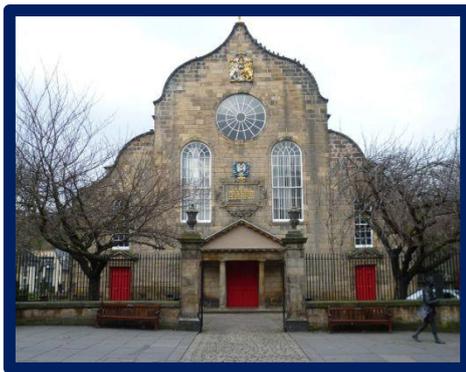
I have copied this message to all in Central Office so that they can see your kind words.

Very best wishes to you and all of our shipmates in Bridport,

Bill O

RNA City of Edinburgh Branch

Thanks to Shipmate Bill Young for this 'wee dit' concerning the Trafalgar Memorial Service.



The Trafalgar Memorial Service was held on Sunday 18 October 2020 in the Canongate Kirk (The Kirk of Holyrood house and Edinburgh Castle) and was officiated by the Reverend Neil Gardner MA BD.

During the current crisis and in line with the Scottish Government's COVID rules, Church services and congregation numbers are currently restricted. Despite limited numbers allowed to attend, the Edinburgh Branch of the Royal Naval Association was well represented within a much reduced congregation. We were allocated seating IAW social distancing rules, finding ourselves in the area normally used by a choir I personally was glad we were

masked and that there was no hymn singing.

The Minister, Neil (himself a former Army Chaplain) gave a 30min Service which, despite the time limitation and the subjects of the service St Luke and Trafalgar day, he was able to tie them together in a sermon whose theme was duty, and what does the Lord want from you. By quoting from:

- Deuteronomy 10:12; - 2 Timothy 4: 1-8; - Luke 10: 1-9; and - Psalm 107:23 -30 was used to remind the congregation about the sea and sailors and the power of our Lord.

During the sermon the Minister drew everyone's attention to the Nelson Monument atop Calton Hill and gave a brief description of the monument and quoted from the plaque above the entrance to the monument which carries the following dedication:

"To the memory of Vice-Admiral Horatio Lord Viscount Nelson, and of the great victory of Trafalgar, too dearly purchased with his blood, the grateful citizens of Edinburgh have erected this monument: not to express their unavailing sorrow for his death; nor yet to celebrate this matchless glories of his life; but, by his noble example, to teach their sons to emulate what they admire, and, like him, when duty requires it, to die for their country. AD MDCCCXV[6]"

The Service closed with the Benediction.

Further Notes: The upturned telescope was designed by the architect Robert Burn, and was built between 1807 and 1815.

In 1853, a large time ball was introduced, which is lowered as the 1 o'clock gun is fired from Edinburgh castle each day. The monument is 105ft high and has 143 steps leading to a viewing gallery.

The famous signal flown from HMS VICTORY that morning is flown from the Nelson Monument every Trafalgar day our Branch Chairman, S/M Stephen Elliot (as an ex "Bunting Tosser") should visit Edinburgh and check that it is being flown correctly!

The signal reads: "ENGLAND EXPECTS THAT EVERY MAN WILL DO HIS DUTY"



On the morning of the battle Nelson made an entry into his journal and with it the following prayer,

"May the great God, whom I worship, grant to my country and for the benefit of Europe in general, a great and glorious victory, and may no misconduct in anyone tarnish it; and may humanity after victory be the predominant feature in the British fleet. For myself individually, I commit my life to him that made me; and may His blessing alight on my endeavours for serving my country faithfully. To him I resign myself, and the just cause which is entrusted to me to defend. Amen."

Shipmates Bill & Christine Young, Kath Taylor and Martyn Hawthorn attended the Service representing the Branch. There were also a number of Shipmates joining the Service online.

Ton Class Association

Following a serious hacking attack, the TON Class Association has re-engineered its website and launched the new site at www.tcaminesweepers.co.uk

The Association brings together veterans of the last minesweepers and first generation of minehunters that served in the Royal Navy, Britain's main defence against the sea mine during 1950's-1990's. The best features from the old website have been carried forward and combined with additional features and historical information, plus considerably enhanced security.



For this significant project TCA retained the professional services of Spi-Des-Ign Web and Graphic Solutions Ltd, designers and maintainers of bespoke websites, based in Tostock, Suffolk. Visit their own website at www.spi-des-ign.co.uk

In addition to details of our world-wide Association, you can find histories of each of the 118 ships of the TON Class, the last ships with wooden hulls in the Royal Navy, together with related mine countermeasures vessels and the Support Ships and Shore Bases from which we operated.

For more information please contact TCA Secretary Peter Down at:

E-mail : . peter.avoca@gmail.com

Phone: 01449 721 235

[George Read](#)

[Edward King](#)

[Betty Pattison](#)

[Stephen Sidney Boulton](#)

George Read - Bracknell Branch

It is with great sadness that Bracknell Branch report the loss of Shipmate George Read, who crossed the bar on Tuesday 15th September, aged 86 years.

George was born on the 18th of August 1934 in Kensington, London, the only child to George and Beatrice. His Dad, also George Edward, went down with HMS Duchess in the Irish Sea whilst on escort duty in December 1939. At the outbreak of the Second World War George was evacuated to Cornwall and was brought up by his adoptive Cornish family at St Day.

George joined the Navy on 8th May 1950 where he was an EA/Apprentice. Sadly, he was later medically discharged from service due to asthma and he took up work in the Civil Service employed by Customs and Excise in London.

After the Civil Service George harnessed his electrical engineering skills and became an electronic engineer for BBC Radio which brought him into contact with famous names such as Pete Murray and also Tony Blackburn upon the launch of Radio 1 back in the 1960s. Into his 30s and 40s, he worked with all the famous BBC Radio DJs of that time. After the BBC George was self-employed for a number of years and then worked for Rockwell – again as an electrical engineer – and was given a number of sensitive assignments including work on Navy missile systems although, of course, much of his work remained secret.

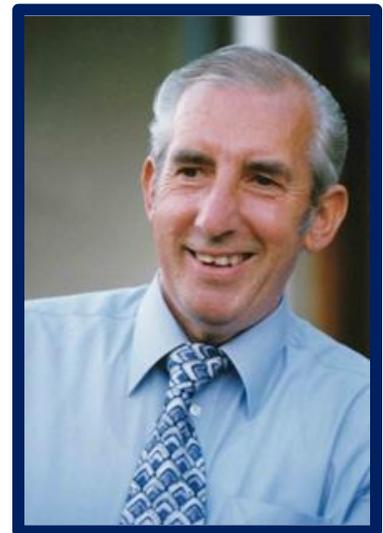
George met the love of his life, and soulmate, Janet when they both attended a birthday party at a pub in Chelsea – Janet was down from Edinburgh visiting friends. They got talking and then began a long-distance courtship with George or Janet travelling by train for their regular meet ups. Despite the distance, true love prevailed and they married on 8th August 1959, with daughter Debbie and son Andy arriving in 1962 and 1966 respectively.

George loved cricket and Middlesex were his team - a letter of condolences had been received from the Director of the Club, Mike Gatting – and this was read out during his funeral.

He joined the Bracknell Branch of the Royal Naval Association in January 2013 where he served as Treasurer for a while and was a loyal supporter.

George's funeral (including the Branch White Ensign and Branch Standard) was held on Tuesday 15th September at 1030 at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, Wokingham.

Fair Winds and Calm Waters, Shipmate. You will be greatly missed.



Edward 'Ted' King – Plymouth Branch

Shipmate Ted passed to 'Calmer Waters' on 27th August 2020 age 96 years. Gifted with charisma and a unique magnetism, a gentleman who captivated everyone who had the privilege of being in his presence.

A member of the RNA for 47 years, Ted not only made an instantaneous impact on his fellow Branch Shipmates but also the members of the Warrant Officer and Senior Rates Mess in HMS Drake.

Known as the 'Father of the Mess' by a nucleus of Mess Members he enjoyed the ultimate honour, awarded Honorary Member by the then Mess President (May 2002 – June 2004) Warrant Officer 1 'Daisy' Adams RIP.

Joining RNA Battersea in 1973 and later elected Chairman, awarded Life Membership of the Royal Naval Association for his dedication and contribution to the success of the Branch. A brief foreign excursion in 1992, along with National Council Member S/m Gerry Judge to Commission RNA Torrevieja, Alicante, Spain.



On migrating to the South West with late wife 'Dottie', immediately joined RNA Plymouth where he enjoyed the warm camaraderie of both Mess and Branch.

S/m Ted served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1947 as a Gun Layer on Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships.

Joining HMS Glendower, North Wales and his first taste of sea-time after Passing Out was aboard Shaw Savill Cargo and Refrigerated Ship SS Raranga, bound for New Zealand, a voyage that took twelve weeks.

The return voyage was not without incident, en-route to the UK via Cape Horn the Ship made an unscheduled stop at Waitangi, Chatham Islands for medical assistance due to an accident on board.

Arriving back at Avonmouth joined the Jamaica Producer for one return trip to Kingston, Jamaica. After a short period of leave joined the Royal Mail Liner MV Highland Brigade, originally a Cargo passenger Liner converted to a heavily armoured Troopship.

Ted was the Gun Layer on the Six-Inch Gun situated on the Poop Deck.

To further enhance the defensive quality of the vessel, two twelve pounders, one Port one Starboard in between an American three-inch Gun. Six Oerlikon AA Guns on the Promenade Deck along with Pillar Box anti-dive bomber Rocket Launchers with a further two on the Port and Starboard Bridge wings. Two more twelve Pounders on the Forecastle which fully loaded carried sixteen Rockets.

During the period 1943 to 1945 Ted endured no less than 27 different Convoys, after 10 or 11 return Atlantic Convoys to New York embarking American Forces to England, a spell in the Red Sea and business in the Ports of Suez, Alexandria, Port Tewfic and Haifa.

Then on to West Africa, Lagos, Freetown and Takoradi to embark Allied Forces for India, Bombay, Madras, Cochin and Rangoon, Burma.

Highland Brigade then took Ted via Panama in to the Pacific, onward to Borneo, Indonesia and Bangkok with one trip to neutral Saigon.

Finally arriving in Singapore on September 2nd 1945 joined other shipmates to provide a Naval 'Guard of Honour' at the signing of the Instrument of Surrender by the Japanese on September 12th, in the presence of Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander (South East Asia).

Liberated ANZAC Prisoners of War from Changi and Sime Prison Camps were embarked and reunited with their families in Wellington, Auckland and Sydney during October 1945.

Around 4 o'clock in the morning on 18th January 1946, Singapore bound from Bangkok with 2000 Indian troops on board, Highland Brigade struck an acoustic mine thirty miles from destination and took on a heavy list to starboard. Five tugs were dispatched to answer the distress signals and she was towed into Singapore for repairs.

On leaving the Service Ted maintained full employment and spent a number of years serving in a section of the Metropolitan Police involved with the Security of Senior members of Parliament.

Our Shipmate had the ability to hold everyone's interest with some wonderful anecdotes.

One of the best was when he mentioned one of his experiences whilst on duty at Chequers. A senior security officer asked Ted why he was present in the room with the Prime Minister, Before he could reply to the breach, Margaret Thatcher replied, "I invited Ted in for a Coffee"

"Thank you, Shipmate, you enriched the lives of so many. Rest in Peace".
'Fair Winds and following Seas'.

(Thanks to S/m Arthur Gutteridge Plymouth Branch)

Betty Pattison - City of Glasgow

City of Glasgow Branch are sad to announce that Betty Pattison has crossed the bar aged 93. Betty was born on 3/10/26 and very sadly passed away on 18 September 2020.

Betty served as a Wren during WW2 and served on Winston Churchill's staff and for Clement Attle's when he became Prime Minister after Churchill. Betty was a life member of the Association of WRNS and a member of the City of Glasgow RNA.

Les Nugent – RNA Alresford

Tribute to Les Nugent – one of the finest.

On August 26th Alresford RNA lost Les Nugent who passed peacefully away in hospital. Not only was Les was the branch's oldest member having achieved the ripe old age of 94 years, but he was also a founder member of the branch which was formed on the 14th April 1993. During his service as branch member Les undertook the roles of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer at various times and was still a valued committee member at the time of his death. His knowledge and experience were a great asset.

Les volunteered for naval service during WW2 and joined as a 17 year old boy signalman on the 22nd July 1943. His basic training was undertaken at HMS Royal Arthur following which he was drafted to serve in Coastal Forces which involved training with the American forces at Slapton Sands in preparation for D-Day landings In June 1944 tens of thousands of British, Canadian and American troops landed on five beaches. Les was crew member, the signalman, aboard a fast patrol boat supporting those landings and ferrying medical supplies across the channel. His part

in that successful action was recognised by the French Government when they awarded him The Legion d'Honneur a medal that Les wore with great pride.

Les was then drafted overseas to Ceylon where he joined the frigate HMS Bann carrying out convoy duties in Indian and Burmese waters before spending VJ Day in South Africa where he was drafted to a hospital ship which was proceeding to Singapore as part of the relief package. In August 1946 Les returned home where he joined MMS 1080 sweeping the English Channel. Finally, Les was demobbed in January 1947, married in 1966 and also embarked on a successful civilian career.

A couple of years ago Les was invited to join the Captain of HMS Collingwood and his party on an inspection of new recruits and their quarters. On completion of the inspection a parade was held where Les proudly presented various awards.

Les received an invitation to attend the D-Day Commemoration in Portsmouth in June 2018. This event was nationally televised with Les being very proud of the fact that he was screened singing his heart out to Vera Lynn's "We'll Meet Again". They don't make them like Les anymore. He was a gentleman and a scholar throughout his life always upholding the best traditions of the Royal Navy.

Stephen Sidney Boulton – RNA Uttoxeter and District Branch

It was with a great deal of sadness that the Uttoxeter and District Branch heard the news that S/M Stephen Sidney Boulton had "crossed the bar" at the great age of 97. Although "Steve" wasn't a Member of the branch it was felt that we should honour this old shipmate and comrade. With the COVID 19 restrictions in place, only one Member could attend so S/M Mike Bell(Sec) attended.

Stephen Sidney Boulton was born in Rugeley Staffordshire on 6th September 1923 and after working at Rugeley Tanyard he, at 19 volunteered to join the Royal Navy joining HMS "Raleigh" as an Ordinary Seaman then to HMS "Victory".

On transfer to HMS Europa he trained as a Stoker second class and then further training on an ICE course, then onto HMS Beaver in Hull which was home to numerous small vessels. Going back to Europa he was promoted to War.Eng.ICE (Mechanician) and went on to serve on many Harbour Defence Vessels, MLs, MFV. His last ship a Motor Minesweeper BYMS2188 which was built in the USA and the crews had fetch them either from the USA, Canada or Iceland.



Stephen "crossed the bar" on 4th September 2020 and was cremated at Stafford Crematorium on Monday 28th September 2020. He remains very much loved by his family and friends and will be sorely missed. R I P.

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 entry just £10 plus four guest at £10 each provides access to the all attractions including the Submarine Museum, RM Museum and Explosion!.

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 www.motorfinity.uk/rna

The 'Shortcast' Editors Note

Due to the current Coronavirus situation Shipmates should contact the individual Association to ensure that the reunion is still going ahead.

Please forward any reunions for 2021 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.

(Stop Press – for those that are unaware sadly IOW Tours has announced they have gone out of business and closed.)

	Please check go to link for RN Shipmates.co.uk for a comprehensive list of further reunions. www.rnshipmates.co.uk	
2021		
7/10 May	The HMS Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association will hold their 42nd Annual Reunion & AGM at the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea from 7th to 10th May 2021. Please contact Secretary Denis Askham for more details. askhamd3@gmail.com	Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association

Swinging the Lamp – November 2020

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
1st	1944	Successful assault on Walcheren. Operation Infatuate 1 and 2. Ships: <i>Erebus</i> , <i>Roberts</i> , <i>Warspite</i> , <i>Kingsmill</i> . No. 4 Army and 41, 47 and 48 RM Cdos. About 180 landing craft of a wide range of types took part.
2 nd	1800	Alexander Dalrymple, first Hydrographer of the Navy, published the first Admiralty Chart, a 'sketch of the Road on the NE Side of the Island Houat in Quiberon Bay by Thomas Moore, Master of HM Ship <i>Diamond</i> '.
3rd	1914	German battlecruisers bombarded the British coast near Gorleston, Norfolk, for the first time. HM Ships: <i>Halcyon</i> , <i>Leopard</i> , <i>Lively</i> . D 5 sunk by mine 2 miles S. of South Cross Sand Buoy, Yarmouth, seeking, with D 3 and E 10, to intercept the German squadron.
4 th	1906	Disturbances among men at the new RN Barracks, Portsmouth. The trigger was the drill order 'on the knee' given by Lt Bernard St G. Collard, the duty officer, to stokers fallen-in on the parade ground in the rain on a Sunday afternoon. Stokers, not understanding this gunnery command, considered it a humiliation and insurrection followed. Several ratings were courts martialled and very severely punished. The cause was lack of judgement by a junior officer and it reflected wider deficiencies at RNB. The Admiralty took a dim view. The Commodore, Executive Officer and Gunnery Officer were relieved. 'On the Knee' resounded throughout the nation to the embarrassment of the Royal Navy (as did 'Bunga! Bunga!' in 1910). Collard was court martialled and reprimanded but he returned as an admiral to cause another naval humiliation.
5 th	1942	Prime Minister Churchill directed the First Lord of the Admiralty to give names rather than numbers to submarines; 'I have no doubt whatever that names should be given, and I will myself make some suggestions which may stimulate others'.
6 th	1956	British forces landed in the Canal Zone, Egypt, following the nationalisation of the Suez Canal. Helicopter assault in Whirlwind and Sycamore aircraft by 45 RM Cdo launched from <i>Ocean</i> and <i>Theseus</i> on Suez. First major helicopter-borne assault from ships. 'Whatever may be said of Suez – an amphibious success but a diplomatic disaster – it saved the day for the Royal Marines in particular and amphibious warfare in general' – Col Ewen Southby-Tailyour.
7th	1975	Another black day for the Royal Navy. The 'infamous' DCI T641/75 announced that black nylon stockings for Wrens (Vocabs 45500-05) were to be replaced by black tights. 'BR81 and BR96 will be amended'. The Navy had not fully recovered from the withdrawal of the Rum ration in 1970 when this further blow landed. A vigorous but futile 'Fight Tights' campaign was led by the FAA. The black stockings calamity 'had a devastating effect on morale'.

8th	1813	Boats of <i>Revenge</i> cut out a French privateer at Palamos.
9th	1970	Carrier <i>Ark Royal</i> , Capt John Treacher RN, collided with Russian Kotlin-class destroyer S. Of Crete during Exercise Lime Jug. No damage to <i>Ark Royal</i> .
10th	1941	Submarine <i>Swordfish</i> , first of name and of class, launched at Chatham. (<i>Sentinel</i> , fourth of her name and sixty-second and last of the class, was launched on 27 July 1945.)
11 th	1918	Armistice signed by Germany ending the First World War. RN strength 37,636 officers and 400,975 men, excluding RNAS transferred to form RAF on 1 April 1918.
12th	1992	Plans to transfer RN Operational Sea Training from Portland to Devonport and the closure of Portland Naval Base by April 1996 announced by the Armed Forces Minister.
13 th	1941	<i>Ark Royal</i> torpedoed by U-81 off Gibraltar (36.03N, 04.45W) while returning from Operation Perpetual. Sank next day, and might have been saved by better damage control, from which many lessons were learned.
14 th	1967	Order for first Type 42 guided missile destroyer placed with Vickers: <i>Sheffield</i> .
15 th	2010	Destroyer <i>Manchester</i> , Cdr Rex Cox RN, on counter-narcotics patrol in the Caribbean, arrived in Havana for a five-day visit, the first British warship in Cuba since the frigate <i>Bigbury Bay</i> in 1957.
16 th	1857	VC: Lt Nowell Salmon, AB John Harrison, Lt Thomas James Young and AB William Hall (<i>Shannon</i>) for gallantry at Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny. Hall was the first non-white and the first Canadian to gain VC. Young married the sister of Mid Boyes, VC.
17th	1999	Sea King helicopters from <i>Ocean</i> provided humanitarian relief after major earthquake in Duzce area, Turkey. Within hours the frigate <i>Northumberland</i> was engaged in disaster-relief operations on the island of Anguilla in the wake of Hurricane Lenny.
18th	1942	<i>Arethusa</i> , light cruiser, was escorting a convoy to Malta in Operation Stoneage. Air attacks started at 0600 18 November, and at 1800 <i>Arethusa</i> was torpedoed. She was towed sternfirst back to Alexandria, having to battle with raging fires and a rising gale. She reached Alexandria on the evening of 22nd, with 155 men dead. She was the last serious casualty of the famous 15th Cruiser Squadron. In 1944, <i>Arethusa</i> led the bombarding forces at Normandy and later carried King George VI over the Channel to visit forces in Normandy.
19th	1895	First Commander of Signal Schools appointed
20th	1957	Admiral Lord Mountevans, 'Evans of the <i>Broke</i> ', died at Golaa, Norway. He was second-in-command of Scott's ill-fated Antarctic expedition and he gained added fame for his dashing action off Dover in the destroyer <i>Broke</i> in 1917. Between the wars Teddy Evans commanded the Royal Australian Squadron, was C-in-C South Africa and C-in-C The Nore.
21st	1914	Three RNAS Avro 504 biplanes flew from Belfort on the Franco-Swiss border to bomb the German airship factory at Friedrichshafen on the shores of Lake Constance, destroying an associated gas plant. The loss of Antwerp having put German airship facilities at Dusseldorf and Cologne beyond flying range, the RNAS aircraft were crated and sent

		by rail to Belfort. The attack flew N. of Basle and followed the Rhine on a 250-mile round trip over the Black Forest in what Admiral Sir John Fisher, First Sea Lord, praised as 'a fine feat of endurance, courage and skill'. The senior officer, Sqn Cdr E.F. Briggs, was forced down and captured. FI/Cdr J.T. Babington and FI/Lt S.V. Sippe returned to Belfort.
22 nd	1997	HMY <i>Britannia</i> entered Portsmouth for the last time, escorted by <i>Southampton</i> with CINCFLEET embarked and berthed at South Railway Jetty. Commodore Royal Yachts, Cdre A.J.C. Morrow, rang down 'Finished with main engines' at 1135. End of 44-year career, having steamed 1,087,623 miles.
23 rd	1896	Lofts for the training of carrier pigeons established at Sheerness, Portsmouth and Devonport
24 th	1944	Corvette <i>Shawinigan</i> (RCN) sunk with all hands in the Cabot Strait (47.34N, 59.11W) by homing torpedo from U-1228.
25 th	1960	Royal Marines, except recruits and bandsmen, authorised to wear the green beret of the Commandos.
26 th	1899	Naval Brigade formed at Durban from <i>Forte</i> , <i>Terrible</i> , <i>Tartar</i> and <i>Philomel</i> .
27 th	1978	The last catapult launch in the Royal Navy: F4K Phantom of 892 NAS piloted by FI/Lt Murdo McLeod (Pilot) and Lt Denis McCullum (Observer), launched from the waist catapult of <i>Ark Royal</i> at 1515A inbound to RAF St Athan. The last Buccaneer launch that day was an 809 NAS aircraft, Sqn Ldr Rick Phillips (Pilot) and Cdr Ken MacKenzie (Observer).
28 th	1914	VC: Cdr Henry Peel Ritchie (<i>Goliath</i>) at Dar-es-Salaam during search and destroy operation. Ships: <i>Fox</i> , <i>Goliath</i> , <i>Dupleix</i> and <i>Helmuth</i> : three German ships disabled, and harbour installations wrecked. Ritchie's was first naval VC won in the First World War.
29 th	1963	Tribal-class frigate <i>Mohawk</i> commissioned at Barrow. Her RM contingent of twenty-two men joined the hard way. Led by Lt Robin Ross RM, they marched out of Eastney at 0930 Tuesday 12 November and marched into Barrow seventeen days later, the afternoon before commissioning.
30 th	1940	GC: Lt Harold Reginald Newgass, RNVR, for mine disposal at Garston Gasworks, Liverpool



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

WWII Membership Offer to Shipmates.

The National Council has approved the following RNA Membership Benefits to WWII Veterans in recognition of their Service to the Country with effect from 15th August 2020.

- NON RNA WWII Royal Navy Veterans are to be offered FREE Membership of the RNA. (Please send an application form to Central Office indicating their status and annotate their entry on the new database for next year’s submission)
- RNA WWII Veterans who are FULL Members with under 10 years continuous Membership will no longer be required to pay the Association Annual Subscription from 1st January 2021. (Please annotate their entry on the new database for next year’s submission as exempt for subscriptions.)
- RNA WWII Veterans who are FULL Members with over 10 years continuous Membership will be invited to accept LIFE Membership without cost to their Branch. Please send completed applications to Central Office for processing.

Application form

Life Membership is requested for (full name) Being an RNA
 WWII Veteran who is a FULL Member with over 10 years continuous Membership of the
 Branch.

Application form

Life Membership is requested for (full name)Being an RNA
 WWII Veteran who is a FULL Member with over 10 years continuous Membership of the
 Branch.

This/these applications are submitted by

On behalf of the Branch of the RNA

Please return the Certificates to me at the following address.

.....

Post Code.....

Send applications to RNA Central Office Bld 1/087 Scott Road, H M Naval Base Portsmouth PO1 3LU.

2021 Diaries

The 2021 diary will be available as the diary part only, price - £5.

Diary with the NEW dark blue crested cover and address book, price - £8

This year the address book is also available too. – free, just ask for one!

Orders should be sent to the address below and accompanied either by a cheque or card details.

To: Royal Naval Association,
Bld 1/087 Scott Road
HM Naval Base
Portsmouth
PO1 3LU

Order form

From:Branch/ Member

Please provide **2021 RNA insert Diaries @£5.00**each £

Please provide **2021 Diaries with Cover @£8.00**each £

Please provide **Address Book inserts @ £1.00** each £

TOTAL £.....

Deliver the order to S/M.....

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code:.....

Find enclosed a cheque to the value of - £made out to The Royal Naval Association

Or charge to my Credit Card/Debit Card; the details of which are:

Card in the name of

Credit Card/Debit Card Number.....

Valid From: Expires

Three Digit Security Code (where applicable)

Contact telephone number

Card holder's address of different from delivery address

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code:.....



ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY POST/EMAIL USING THIS FORM – NO TELEPHONE BOOKINGS (Unless 8 weeks prior to travel)

Please note the first person listed in the 'Accommodation Requirements' should be the **Lead Name** on the Booking Form to whom all correspondence will be sent.

Prices:

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------|
| 1) 12 th -13 th June (Sat-Sun) | 1 Night B&B with Gala Dinner on the Saturday | £106.50 per person |
| _____ | (Maximum of 10 people first come, first serve) | |
| 2) 11 th -12 th June (Fri-Sun) | 2 Nights B&B with Gala Dinner on the Saturday | £154.00 per person |
| _____ | | |
| 3) 10 th -13 th June (Thu-Sun) | 3 Nights B&B with Gala Dinner on the Saturday | £196.50 per person |
| _____ | | |
| 4) 11 th -14 th June (Fri-Mon) | 3 Nights B&B with Gala Dinner on the Saturday | £196.50 per person |
| _____ | | |
| 4) 10 th -14 th June (Thu-Mon) | 4 Nights B&B with Gala Dinner on the Saturday | £224.00 per person |
| _____ | | |
| 5) 12 th June (Sat) | Gala Dinner only, no accommodation | £32 per person |
| _____ | | |
| 6) | Single Supplement per night | £60 per person |
| _____ | | |
| 7) | All prices exclude Evening Meals except for Saturday | |

Saturday & Sunday Lunch

Delegates Lunch Saturday

Price : £15.00 per person

Name _____

Observers / Others Lunch Saturday

Price : £15.00 per person

Names _____

Sunday Lunch (Carvery) – subject to sufficient numbers

Price: £15.00 per person

Names

Special Requests: dietary requirements – Names:



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**

**RNA 2021 BOOKING FORM
10^h- 14th JUNE (Thurs-Mon)**

CROWN PLAZA NOTTINGHAM, WOLLATON STREET, NOTTINGHAM NG1 5RH

Accommodation Requirements: (The first person named should be the “**Lead Name**” to whom all correspondence will be sent)

Note: *A limited number of rooms are available for Single occupancy with supplement of £60.00 per night will apply.

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Depart</u>	<u>Accommodation Type</u>		
				<u>Day</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Double</u>	<u>Twin</u>	<u>Single occupancy</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Special Requests: (Not guaranteed) including special needs/mobility issues, accommodation and parking.

Lead Name Address:

_____ Post Code

Tel. Number: _____ Mobile

Number: _____

Email: _____

Cheques payable to "Crown Plaza Nottingham" Non-refundable, £70 per person Deposit. If you wish to pay by credit / debit card please be sure to provide a telephone number so that you can be called for payment to be taken once your Booking Form has been processed.

Deposit: _____ @ £70per person = £_____

Lead Name Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Note: Final Balance Payment: Is due on or before 10th April 2021

Data Protection: We never share your details with any third party and process all your Nottingham,NG1 5RH details in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the general Data Protection Regulations 2018

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:
Crown Plaza Nottingham, Wollaton Street,
F.A.O. Viki Deaton Rodgers
Email: ce@cpnottingham.valoreurope.com
Tel: 0115 936 9988