



The Semaphore Circular

No 701

The Beating Heart of the RNA

JULY 2020



National President, Vice Admiral John McAnally and General Secretary, Bill Oliphant represented RNA at the 38th Falklands Commemoration on Sunday 14 June at the 'hot walls' in Old Portsmouth. HMS Bristol Association's Standard Bearer Shipmate, Richard Shenton stands proudly guarding the Falklands Memorial.

Shipmates Please Stay Safe

If you need assistance call the RNA Helpline on 07542 680082

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

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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

Contacts

Financial Manager	023 9272 3823	michelle@royalnavalassoc.com
Finance Assistant	023 9272 3823	kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com
Communications Manager	07860 705712	comms@royalnavalassoc.com
Digital Communications		mike@royalnavalassoc.com
Operations Manager	023 9272 0782	andy@royalnavalassoc.com
Membership Support Manager	023 92723747	nigel@royalnavalassoc.com
General Secretary / CEO	023 9272 2983	bill@royalnavalassoc.com
Admin	023 92 72 3747	admin@royalnavalassoc.com
Project Semaphore		Julie@royalnavalassoc.com
National Branch Retention and Recruiting Advisor	07713 876846	rna.brra@outlook.com
National Welfare Advisor	07934 775087	ritalock@sky.com
National Rules and Bye-Laws Advisor	0860 214766	njpurkis@hotmail.com
National Ceremonial Advisor	07810 300383	robertcoburn001@btinternet.com

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 HIGHLIGHTED IN RED ABOVE ARE CURRENTLY FURLOUGHED.



Central Office Staff holding their daily meeting using 'Zoom'.

ind Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

RNA Website / Members Area / Downloads /
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Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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

From the General Secretary

Dear Shipmates,

Can you believe 1st July will mark the 100th day of lockdown? Judging by the photo Andy's captured of me on Zoom it looks like I've spent my lockdown marooned on a desert island! Although things are beginning to ease, we still ought to give this virus some respect. With bars and restaurants set to re-open in England from 4 July, I've already been asked the question, "**Should our Branch/Club re-convene?**" As a consequence, I have sent out an advice note to Branch Chairmen which acknowledges that it is not for Central Office to dictate when Branches or Clubs should re-convene, however, I have very **strongly advised that, as an absolute minimum, the letter of the law in your part of the world is scrupulously adhered to** especially as the regulations seem to be changing almost daily and in different ways depending on location. I would however suggest that Branch Committees must conduct a full risk assessment, taking the utmost care to protect shipmates, noting that much of our demographic lies in the "at risk" category.



R Crusoe II

While it is written in the Objects of our Association that we should "bring members together" clearly these are special circumstances and we wouldn't wish to be seen to be encouraging that if it is going to stand shipmates into danger. A chance to enjoy time together again in the right Covid Secure setting with your shipmates and friends will be very welcome but... we must remain sensible!



S/m Karl Webb "blinged up!" leading commemorations in Peterborough for Veterans Day

Indeed, I was particularly impressed with the disciplined way shipmates marked the 80th anniversary of Dunkirk and D-Day at the fore end of the month and Veterans Day in AF week later in the month. BZ to all who made the effort.

I have some snippets of Naval News which may be of interest. 15 June saw the first ever class of 50 ratings join BRNC Dartmouth to conduct their New Entry training. Learning the lessons of the manning "black hole" caused by turning off recruiting in the early 90s, the RN has continued to recruit and train officers and ratings throughout the Covid-19

pandemic albeit with certain modifications. To achieve this in a safer way, excess capacity at Dartmouth has been used and the rating recruits will pass out on 13 August in a combined Parade alongside graduating officer cadets. Another class of ratings will join in Sep.

Thanks are due to AW Shipping Management who are strong supporters of the RNA and have again sponsored us in 2020. We also must thank them for their role of moving the 2 x P2000s, Dasher and Pursuer, to Gibraltar as replacements for the HMSs Scimitar and Sabre which are nearing the end of their useful lives. More detail at the link [here](#).

Congrats to the Ship's Company of HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH who have successfully completed their OST and, as we speak, are now on a consolidation exercise. I hear too that the Royal Marines are becoming more lethal – they always seemed pretty scary to me! More detail on-line [here](#).



HM Ships Dasher and Pursuer loaded for Gibraltar
(Photo: AW Shipping Management)

One of the great successes during the lockdown has been the camaraderie shown on-line on the Wednesday and Saturday evening virtual tots. Please join in. You can find the log on details on the RNA Community Facebook site.

Another positive outcome has been the success of the **Fireside Chats** introduced on a **Monday evening at 1800**. As S/m June Boddrell commented, "seems like we're all just one big branch nowlovely!!!!" So far we've been treated to briefings on The Battle of Jutland from our National President John McAnally, HMS Antrim and her involvement in the retaking of South Georgia during the Falklands Conflict from Paul Godfrey, Captain Pete Viney, Captain Naval Recruiting, telling us about his challenges during this Covid year and the fabulous Bill Taylor (95) who had us all spellbound with his recollections of his time on the Murmansk convoys. All are welcome using Zoom. **Meeting ID: 288 830 5105 Password: Shipmate**

Next up we have:

6 Jul	Ralph Dodds	Saddam Hussein – My part in his Downfall (Op GRANBY)
13 Jul	Dr Jann Witt	German Surface Strategy in WW2
20 Jul	Mike Smith	CCMEA, HMS SHEFFIELD 1982
27 Jul	Capt Jude Terry	A modern perspective on the RN



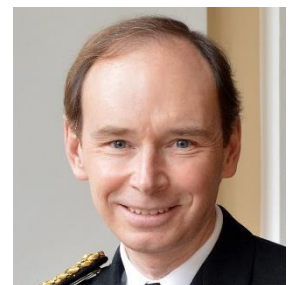
Although saddened to have had to cancel the Black Tot 50 commemoration in HMS BELFAST this year, plans are afoot to lead a virtual tot on 31 July; 1200 unless piped otherwise. Same meeting ID and Password as above.

On the subject of tots, heartiest congrats to Shipmate Arthur Frazier on his 100th birthday; there's a great piece later about his life and also to Shipmate Commander David Hughes who, on 27 June, celebrated his 106th birthday. Hats off to both you gentlemen.

On the admin front we've been making good progress garnering the branch data to develop the new database with nearly two-thirds of branches having submitted their data already. We're hoping to go live with the new database in September so I'd be grateful if Membership Secretaries could make the most of our enforced enslavement to crack this task at your earliest convenience. Nigel stands by to support should you need further assistance.

Finally, although we are only halfway through it, 2020 has effectively been a washout both in terms of branch and national activities. Nevertheless, the efforts some branches have made to do things on-line have been truly remarkable and I am so proud of the way that our shipmates resilience, and collective sense of humour, has shone through. And, although the Branches have been closed, RNA Central Office team has been working exceptionally hard to ensure the welfare of our Shipmate's community during this difficult time. Without your annual membership, the RNA could not maintain the standard of support it provides to Shipmates, especially during such a turbulent time. As for next year, we are already planning a bumper package of events including the delayed World Uckers Championship! We may yet be able to crack in a few Open Days at Portsmouth before the year is out. Fingers crossed!

Very finally, we hear that former Second Sea Lord and huge supporter of the RNA, Vice Admiral David Steel KBE DL, has this month assumed the office of Governor of Gibraltar. As an avid reader of the *Semaphore Circular*, Sir we wish you the very best and Gibraltar should know that it has one of our finest shipmates as their Governor.



*His Excellence Vice
Admiral David Steel
KBE DL Governor of
Gibraltar*

Very best wishes all,

Bill

Chairman's chat

Just a brief chat this month. Shipmates, what fantastic weather we have been enjoying, especially here in Cambridgeshire and I hope it has been the same where you are. One must be on the ball when it comes to garden as the plants have been taking a battering with the heat, albeit they get a well-deserved drink late evening. However, the Ship's Met Officer has advised on locating something called an Umbrella for the coming weekend.



As reported last month Charlie Darlington has joined the team and is settling in well. Charlie is already putting forward ideas on how to spruce up our media profile.

Two pieces of Good News this month to cheer us up after months of Lock Down. First, the government have eased the restrictions with regards Covid 19. With government restrictions easing regarding Covid 19 we must not get too complacent when out and about and it is most important to comply with social distancing so please keep your guard up.

Whilst visiting our local GP Surgery an elderly gentleman engaged my wife in conversation and tried to convince her that Covid 19 was just a nonsense and there was no such virus and was a ploy by the government. Obviously, this mis-guided chap as not been watching the TV news, that the Nightingale Hospitals and scenes of the various hospitals trying to deal with those unfortunate people who had contracted the virus was a TV drama. Shipmates, without doubt, I know I can rely on you to keep up your Defence Watches until we are Stood Down. Oh, I nearly forgot, the other Good News is that the Royal Navy now has a fully operational Aircraft Carrier which has passed FOST inspection with full colours. Hopefully, it will not be too long before HMS PRINCE of WALES joins her sister ship.

The Virtual TOT Night held under the supervision of S/m's Eric Holmwood and Kevin Hackett of RNA Wrexham Branch continue to be a great evening with lots of Banter. The downside is that it can devastate your Rum stock as it has done for me! The Monday night Zoom Fireside chats have been most interesting with talks on the Battle of Jutland, the taking of South Georgia by HMS ANTRIM, memories of a D Day Veteran and the Battle of Tarranto which was a great victory for the Fleet Air Arm.

Look out in the Semaphore Circular for the diary of forthcoming talks which are highly recommended. Branch quiz nights held using Zoom are becoming popular and are open to all. For more information check out the Royal Naval Association Community Site on Facebook for events & dates along with sign in ID's and Passwords. Although the basic Zoom only allows you 40 minutes for free, it has been agreed to allow Branches to take out the Zoom Pro non contract subscription of £11.99 per month which Branch Treasurers can claim back from Michelle Bainbridge @ Central Office. The subscription can be cancelled without notice.

With the Government Green light on Clubs and Pubs opening, Branches can now begin to consider how best to hold meetings but with caution whilst strictly observing government guidelines. Consideration is now being given by Central Office on issuing **guidelines** to Branches on how to consider safely holding a meeting, however, it will be for individual Branches

to actually decide on the best way forward given the premises you meet at. Meanwhile, keep up communicating with your Branch members to ease isolation.

UCKERS – As mentioned last month and hanging my head in shame, I downloaded LUDO from Play Store to use on my mobile phone as I could not locate an Uckers App. It is pleasing to know my Chats are read as a Shipmate immediately emailed me with information on an App for UCKERS for which I am grateful. Bill Oliphant is now considering a new date on which to hold the World Uckers Competition, but not before he has learnt how to play, and that Ludo is not Uckers! So, get training Shipmates to hone your skills.

To those serving and all reservists of the Royal Navy who continue to support the frontline against Covid 19 keep up the good work. With relaxed government guidelines I hope you are now being able to see your families more often.

To all readers please continue to spin and share your dits, Branch & Ship's news by sending them to Andy Christie at andy@royalnavalassoc.com no matter how short they maybe. To our Overseas Branches – where are you? , we would like to hear your news. To Shipmates and your families in the UK and throughout the world, keep safe and adhere to all the advice being given to you. Remember, let us all set our sights on coming out of this crisis together. Stay Safe.

Yours aye

Keith Ridley

nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com

1. ★ NHS and Ventilator Appeal

Fantastic news Shipmates; thanks to your amazing generosity the appeal has reached the target figure of £15,000. We are now in discussion with Rear Admiral Jim Higham, (formerly the GS's boss at the Naval Base) who is currently seconded to the NHS in London to assist with logistics planning, to discuss how the funds can be transferred and used to maximum effect.

Indeed, they are looking at opportunities to channel our donation through the Joint Hospital Group (South) – Cdr Alister Witt RN in command - to both the QA Hospital in Portsmouth and at Derriford in Plymouth where there are RN medical staff operating and also have large RN veteran communities who would benefit as patients from the donations.



Admiral Jim tells us of eye watering sums being used to buy kit and equipment, so we want to ensure that our donation has best effect. As an Association we should be very proud of the generous gesture which has been made. BZ to all who contributed!

2. ★ Covid 19 HumourRespectfully

Stop Press.....

from 6 July you can travel abroad.....

that is because the Airlines have come up with a great solution to Social Distancing.....



3. Collingwood Battalion Memorial Service

Area 3 President, Shipmate Bob Scott, has forwarded the article below which he received from his son who is an Officer in the Royal Corps of Signals based in Blandford.

On Friday 5th June 2020, personnel from Blandford Garrison conducted the annual Collingwood Battalion Memorial Service. Although the usual format normally observed was cancelled this year due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, it was appropriate for the Garrison to recognise the day whilst maintaining social distancing. The Memorial, which is of polished marble was unveiled in 1919 to the Memory of the Officers and Men of the Collingwood Battalion Royal Naval Division who gave their lives at Gallipoli in 1915.



4. ★ 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 06 Jul	Shipmate Ralf Dodds (Ferndown Branch)	OP Granby - Saddam Hussein -My part in his downfall
Monday 13 Jul	Doctor Jann Witt (General Secretary of the German equivalent of the RNA and lecturer at the German Staff College).	German naval surface strategy in WWII
Monday 20 Jul	Shipmate Mike Smith	The sinking of HMS Sheffield (T42 Falklands) – A personal experience
Monday 27 Jul	Captain Jude Terry Royal Navy	A modern perspective on the RN

5. ★ RNA Clothing/Slops Refreshed Website

Shipmates during isolation would be the perfect time to have a 'shuffy' at the new sparklingly updated website of our official clothing supplier, RLP Embroidery, which is run by Shipmate Ray Pullen (Aldershot Branch).

So please follow the link at the short trail: www.rnaslops.clothing It is well worth a look (and no he didn't pay me to get you too look!)

Stop Press – Now on sale RNA Facemasks.....

NX100 Next Level Eco Performance Face Mask

Material: 40% recycled polyester/30% recycled cotton/30% cotton.

- Particle filtration rate >93.6%
- Reusable, 2-ply mask.
- Moisture wicking and breathable.
- Ear loops for secure fit.
- Fits over N95 mask.
- Printable surface.
- Machine washable at 30°C.



I will be offering them at £6.00 each + P&P. Contact Ray at ray@rnaslops.clothing with your requirements.

6. ★ HMS Volage Poem - Shipmate Mike Crowe (Isle of Wight Branch)

Our thanks to S/M Mike Crowe for sending the poem below. Mike worked on 'Volage' whilst serving his apprenticeship at J S Whites shipbuilders in Cowes between 1952/1957.

'The Warship'

*Pieces of metal, wood, rubber and steel,
Rivets and screws to make something real.
Now all together, a three D collage,
Ready for action, the warship Volage.*

*Building the ship through Raid, Fire and Bomb,
Devotion to Country drove workers on.
With magazines full and crew ready trained
Another fine ship the Navy has gained.
And so, into battle wherever 'tis needed
The threat of the foe has surely been heeded.*

*The War, later over, the battle was won,
HMS Volage came through as one.
But later a minefield laid claim to her bow.
A tow to a dockyard, at a speed to allow
This great fighting ship, to repair just as new
To give further service until fifty-two.*

*Towed to the scrap yard, no longer required.
Not even a backwater, to stay, just retired.
To be cosseted, painted and polished sincere
Like another Destroyer, the 'Bold' Cavalier.*

*Pieces of metal, wood, rubber and steel.
Rivets and screws to make something real.
Now scattered for ever, the three D collage,
The Royal Navy Warship, that was the Volage.*

7. ★ Quickie Joke More Respectful Covid Humour!



Navy Veterans have enthusiastically volunteered to take part in trials of an anti-covid oral spray that is taken on a regular basis throughout the day.

At this time, we haven't yet found anyone who is able to give a coherent comment on how the trials are going. Nor do we expect to!

(Courtesy Stowmarket Branch 'Gen dit')

8. ★ South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA)

Shipmate Joe Locke, Hon Sec Helston Branch, would like to advertise to all Falklands Campaign 1982 Veterans to consider joining SAMA.



Dear Shipmates,

I have recently become a trustee for the SAMA 82 and looking to increase the membership numbers of our association of Falkland's Veterans but also those who served at home bases during the conflict. At the same time SAMA would like to highlight, that as the 40th Anniversary approaches in 2022, that Life membership is tremendous value at £10 for full and associate members and we are always delighted to accept any form of donation. Application details can see found at this link <https://www.sama82.org.uk/applying-for-membership/> or you contact me directly at iandjlocke@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you.

9. ★ Shipmate Arthur Frazier 100th Birthday 29 June 2020

S/M Arthur Frazier will be 100 years of age on Monday 29th of June 2020 and St Austell Branch are trying to make his day as important and enjoyable as possible under the current restrictions. The Mayor of St Austell, Cllr Tim Styles who is a Full member of our branch, will be in attendance and we are arranging for the local press and Radio to do their piece. S/M Arthur served onboard HMS Victorious for the duration of the second world war as a Shipwright finishing as a Chief. His memory and the stories he recalls from his time onboard are excellent. His family owned a boatyard in Mevagissey so his background prior to and after the war was in boat building. He is also a Freemason.

Arthur joined the RNA in June 1992, and although unsteady on his feet, still insists on marching with us in the Remembrance Parade through St Austell albeit with support and regularly attends our monthly meetings.

I am sure Shipmates will join us here at Central Office in wishing S/M Arthur very many congratulations on celebrating his 100th Birthday and to celebrate this 'Ton' Shipmate Ray Isted, Chairman of RNA St Austell, has forwarded the 'This is your life' article about Arthur below.



Shipmate Arthur Frazier D/MX 72668 –

Arthur Frazier was born on the 29th June 1920. He is the last living descendant of the Frazier's, a boat building family from Mevagissey. Arthur was a very happy and contented child and spent most of his spare time around the harbour watching large sailing vessels delivering cargoes of salt for the fish merchants. He well remembers cars being a luxury, televisions being unheard of and Wireless (Radios) and Telephones still in their infancy.

The family were great supporters of the local Wesleyan Chapel in Mevagissey, which was built in 1612, and demolished in 1967. Arthur took part in many concerts and was always concerned when seeing the oil lamps hanging from the ceiling for fear of safety. Every Wednesday afternoon excited children from the village went

to the pictures in the Town Hall which were Black and White pictures with no sound and an admission fee of 2d. Water was collected from the village pump and he still vividly remembers when electricity and water arrived in their home. This was simply real progress.

Arthur's Grandfather purchased the Mevagissey boat Yard in 1880. His father joined the boatyard in 1900. One vessel built in 1904 at the boatyard is reportedly still operational and working in Looe. Arthur joined the family business at the age of 14 in 1934 where he served and completed his apprenticeship in 1939 just as the clouds of war were gathering over Europe.

In 1940 Arthur received his papers and a rail warrant to report to HMS Drake and serve in the Royal Navy; he was now aged 20. It was a real wrench for him to say his goodbyes to his family. By late February 1941, Plymouth was suffering heavy bombing raids by the Germans and he spent most of his nights on duty around HMS Drake. At the end of March that year Arthur boarded a train to join a new Aircraft Carrier HMS Victorious, this great ship was to be Arthur's for the next 5 years. During 1941-1942 the Victorious escorted 16 convoys in temperatures of -20 to -40 degrees in the mountainous seas of the Arctic Ocean. Throughout this period of time the loss of lives and destruction of ships was heavy. Arthur looks back over the years of 1941-1942 and says that it was obvious convoys played a vital role in the war effort. Yet to him they became a nightmare with constant attacks from U-Boats and Aircraft. Arthur said "I just thank the Good Lord my life was spared."

Arthur managed to return home to Cornwall on just 2 occasions during the five years he spent onboard HMS Victorious. In late 1942 HMS Victorious embarked on a journey from the Clyde through the Panama Canal to the Hawaiian Islands. These temperatures reached around 110 degrees Fahrenheit which was a far cry from the temperatures endured in the Arctic Ocean. Eventually they docked in Pearl Harbour where they spent several weeks under repair. 1943 was spent serving with the US Third Fleet in the South Pacific, along with a return service to the UK, Scapa Flow, The Mediterranean, before finally joining with the British East Indies Fleet. In early 1945 being part of the British Pacific Fleet they were assigned to carry out attacks on Japanese Airfields.

The Victorious received an unsuccessful Kamikaze attack in April 1945, although some were successful in causing damage to her. Arthur recalled, "these attacks were frightening and made me feel very uncomfortable." Early August found the fleet ready to attack the mainland of Japan, but before doing so the Americans dropped the first atomic bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, followed three days later by "Fat Boy" on Nagasaki. This brought about the Japanese surrender.



For Arthur this meant the war was over and so he returned home to the United Kingdom. Arthur said, "that despite the storms, the bombs and the Kamikaze attacks, I still fondly remember my days in the Royal Navy." He also missed the friendship of his comrades. He feels extremely proud to have served onboard the aircraft carrier HMS Victorious which was his home for many years. HMS Victorious was later decommissioned before finally being sent to the breakers yard on the 13th July 1969. It was not a fitting tribute to such a fine ship. During Arthur's time on board HMS Victorious he sailed tens of thousands of nautical miles covering oceans and seas from the North Sea to the

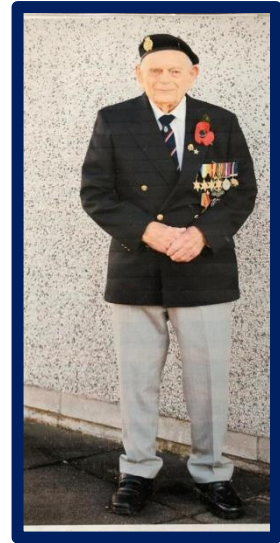
Arctic, The Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, Atlantic and Pacific to mention but a few.

After spending most of 1943 serving with the US Third Fleet, Arthur and HMS Victorious returned to Liverpool for a refit which lasted several months. During this period Arthur received 14 days

leave, so he returned home to Mevagissey where he married Audrey. They were married on a Thursday and they returned to Liverpool on the Saturday, where they lived together in a flat for a short while. Arthur then returned to HMS Victorious to join the home fleet at Scapa Flow and then back to the Arctic Circle.

After the war, Arthur and Audrey returned to Mevagissey, where he continued running the family boat yard. This lasted for 35 years with between 35 to 40 vessels being built, one of which "Queen of the Fal" now called "Coronation Belle" still operated out of Belfast. In 1951 Audrey gave up her job in Law and took over the administration at the boat yard. Arthur stated, "She ran it, and together we made a perfect and successful team."

During 1962 Arthur and Audrey moved to St Austell from Mevagissey. In 1981 Arthur retired, the boatyard closed after being in continual operation for 100 years. He kindly offered to sell the building at a reduced cost to the Mevagissey Museum and thanks to a local benefactor the trustees were able to acquire the building for future generations. The Museum is now very successful and well-run which Arthur is very proud of. He has been instrumental in making sure that the building is retained as a Museum.



Despite living in St Austell for the last 50 years Arthur still maintains a love for his home village of Mevagissey. Sadly, Audrey passed away in 2013.

10. ★ This Month's Unusual Photo

If you're putting photos in the Semaphore Circular, how about an unusual, silly or most embarrassing one competition? Here is a worthy contribution.

Shipmate Andy Christie, Lee on the Solent and Stubbington Branch, forwarded this amazing picture of Divisions in Port Stanley, Falklands Islands in 1953, featuring HMS Burghead Bay's Ships' Company. *(I have started a trend now of pictures featuring Naval Officers riding horse's during Divisions!)*



Please send your photos / old 'dits' etc to andy@royalnavalassoc.com

11. ★ Calling 'Rum Rats' - Black Tot Day 50 Years Anniversary

Shipmates, who would have thought when 'up spirits' was piped at 1130 (standfast the holy ghost) on the 31st July 1970 the Admiralty in their wisdom would bring to an end one of the oldest and finest traditions in the Royal Navy, and that day would be forever engraved in our hearts as 'BLACK TOT DAY'.

So 'Team RNA', I call on you all, this 50th Anniversary year, 2020 to recreate that day, by raising a 'tot' at 1200 31st July (hands to the mess for rum) and think of those words 'Sippers' 'Gulpers' and 'Sandy bottoms' and of course toast "To the Queen God bless her" all those in favour say 'AYE'



(Courtesy of Peterborough Branch Newsletter Edition 25)

12. ★ VC Series - Acting Leading Seaman Jack Foreman Mantle VC

L/S Jack Mantle was born in Wandsworth London on 12 April 1917 and died fighting in action on the 4th July 1940. He was 23 years old, and an acting Leading Seaman whilst serving in HMS

Foylebank an armed merchant cruiser. The ship was acting as part of the protection force for a convoy which was assembling in Portland Harbour in Dorset.

Jack Mantle already had a reputation, being at that time one of the few naval gunners on convoy protection duty to have shot down a German raider. He had done this with an old-fashioned Lewis light machine gun while serving on a French ship and for this feat had been Mentioned in Despatches.

So on 4 July 1940 during an air raid by 20 German Stuka dive bombers on Portland Harbour, L/S Jack was manning the starboard 20mm pom-pom gun, where he had his left leg shattered by the blast from a bomb early in the action. Although wounded again many times, he remained at his gun, training and firing by hand when *Foylebank's* electric power failed, until he collapsed and died. This was only the second occasion that the Victoria Cross has been awarded for action in the United Kingdom.



L/S Mantle was an 'Old Tauntonian' who attended Taunton's School in Southampton his VC and other medals are on loan to the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth.

13. ★ 2020 Remembrance Cenotaph Parade – Field of Remembrance – St Paul's Cathedral Seafarers Service Tickets

Shipmates, a final reminder please for all those wanting tickets for the Seafarers Service in St Paul's Cathedral, The Field of Remembrance and Cenotaph Remembrance Parade to contact Nigel with their details as soon as possible; Nigel@royalnavalassoc.com

The RBL have requested that we submit names for those wishing to attend the 2020 Cenotaph Parade (Sunday 08 Nov) this year in early August. As in the past two years Nigel will need to know your;

Full Name, Address and post code, Date and place of birth.

If you want to attend but will need to be helped round with a wheelchair pusher or other supporter I need their names and details too.

For those who come from afar to take part and need to think about accommodation arrangements, you can keep up to date with the RBL and the COVID 19 implications for the dispersal on the RBL website here [Remembrance Sunday| Cenotaph Dispersal](#)

Stop Press.....

RNA Poppy Badges for sale.

Nigel still has a stock of RNA branded poppy badges - still only £1 each or 50 pence each if you buy ten or more.



14. ★ Can You 'Black Cat' This Dit

Shipmate Richard Wardrope, Chairman at Rosyth and West Fife, has forwarded this lovely 'Dit' for your enjoyment.....

HMS Chiddingfold or the SS Tupperware is off Cape Finistère on the way to the Gulf to relieve HMS Dulverton and scheduled to stop for fuel and grub in Gibraltar. One engine down and the other under the weather. ETA Gib 0200 in 36hours. So.....

me as Ops room supervisor and the Buffer L/Sea Jan Tackle decided "Not good enough", no run ashore. So we broke out the FX awning and rigged it as a sail behind the main mast using my experience of running Port Edgar Sailing centre for two years.



This gave the ship an extra 1.5 Knots confirmed by the Navigator and we arrived in Gibraltar at 1500. Needless to say when me and the Buffer when ashore that night we were treated as 'Hero's' and never paid for a drink all night.

The proof is in the photo above..... Can you 'Black Cat' this Standfast HMS Reclaim dits....

15. ★ RNA Veterans Photo Competition Entry Update

Shipmates should be aware that currently the RN Photograph Competition has been postponed till September with the possibility of its cancellation this year. This means that the closing date for the RNA Entries can now be moved right to Friday **31 July 2020**. Please continue to use the application form as previously sent out.

16. ★ 'Moving Forces' - Helping Veterans get mentally and physically fit

Shipmate Peter Grundy, Hon Sec at RNA Hazel Grove, which is in Stockport would like to recommend 'Moving Forces' to Shipmates in the Greater Manchester area. If you need specific details please email him at hazelgovernasec@gmail.com

'Moving Forces' helps military veterans, families and serving personnel to stay physically active by providing fun, free and sociable activities online and all-over Greater Manchester. Our online offer includes yoga classes, tai chi, a weekly quiz night, and group training. Moving Forces is looking forward to reopening our pre-lockdown sessions of outdoor archery, climbing, football, and much more! All you have to do to take part is sign up at www.greatersport.co.uk/signup and join our Moving Forces Members Facebook group! Please email info@movingforces.co.uk for more info.

17. ★ D Day Minesweeping Operation 5/6 June 1944

Shipmate Ian Cameron has forwarded an article by Mr David Verghese concerning the Minesweeping operation that took place during D Day, which he thought Shipmates may find interesting.

OPERATION NEPTUNE: The D Day Minesweeping Operation 5-6 June 1944 (From article by David Verghese)

The devastating naval bombardment on German coastal positions on D Day are reasonably well known but the critical, mainly RN mine sweeping operation, on the 5th and 6th June, is rarely highlighted.

Below are excerpts from an article, lifted from the internet, which S/Ms may find interesting:-

The seaborne assault and landing phases of the Allied invasion of Normandy in 1944 was perhaps the largest, most intricate and meticulously planned naval endeavour in WWII. Paramount to its success was the absolute necessity for a vast amount of requisite detailed work in its conception, planning and execution to maximise success and minimise intent to the enemy. Nothing could be overlooked in the planning of this ambitious operation if the landing forces were to gain a successful bridgehead and lodgement, with the necessary elements of surprise and speed, upon the five designated beach areas and beyond. It seems incredible today to realise that approximately seven thousand individual vessels were to be involved in the subsequent period to the end of July 1944, including warships, troop landing craft, transport, supply and support ships.

To the minesweepers and their attendant consorts was to fall the responsibility of leading the assault forces to the Normandy beaches. Contingent upon their effectiveness and timely efficiency in clearing the German mine barrier protecting the area, there lay the potential to cross

that finely dividing line between success, or otherwise, for the opening day of this amphibious opposed invasion to establish the second front. The interested researcher can find much of relevance regarding Operation Neptune in official Admiralty archives, naval and war museums and indeed one's local public library. Conspicuous by their absence are accounts of minesweeping operations and movement logs of individual minesweepers or their flotillas. Yet the minesweeping workloads during the months of June and July 1944 were absolutely vital to the success of the beach landings in terms of men and materiel. That relatively few warships, transport or landing craft were seriously damaged or lost due to conventional mines is fitting testament to the organisation and work of the plucky crews of these valiant, but unheralded little ships, who assured that approach routes, bombarding ship and landing craft anchorages were as free as possible of mines.

In total, about 350 vessels of many types took part in the mine clearing operation of June 5-6. Within each Channel-tasks MSF the typically eight Fleet Minesweepers used (a further was held as reserve for each channel) carried not only gear in abundance to deal with the various types of mines they might encounter but also equipment to deal with the anti-sweeping devices built into the mines. The Fleet Minesweepers were augmented by usually four Danlayers and a small number of Harbour Defence Motor Launches. The latter vessels shallow swept ahead of the Fleet Minesweepers in a protective role. There were other classes of minesweepers as outlined in the table below, and the final type of vessels were the Oropesa "twin Longitudinal line" (or LL) Trawlers of the RN Groups 131, 139, 159 and 181. Two were allocated for each channel flotilla, their equipment being specialised for the sweeping of magnetic mines.

18 ★ Royal Naval Benevolence Trust (RNBT) is open for business



It's been a confusing time during lock-down, and many people are uncertain who to call if they are in need of support. The good news is that the naval charities have remained open for business throughout lock-down. RNBT, the largest naval benevolence charity, has been nearly as busy as ever. There is a route to getting urgent and crisis support via a 'fast track' system which aims to respond very quickly to the most needy of our naval community. In a nutshell this is the system:

- Call RNBT on 07951736919 or 07399016949 between 0800 and 1600

or email rnbt@rnbt.org.uk and mark your email 'crisis case' or 'urgent case'. You will be answered by one of the grants

- team who will take down your details and address your issues. Please be ready to:
- Prove that you or your spouse or partner served in the Royal Navy or Royal Marines (Service Number plus some details of service);
- Provide your bank account details for urgent payments (name of account; sort code; account number – details are on your bank debit card).



A plea to all RNA members – please do get anyone in need of support to get in touch. This of course includes the widows of shipmates. RNBT's grants team are very experienced and understanding and are ready to assist.

19. ★ Extract from Midshipman Terry Lewin , HMS Valiant 1940

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 and we commence with June 1940. 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 23 June 1940

Starting late last night, and during all today, our divers have been making unsuccessful attempts to free the screw of the oiler Prestol of a 3½ inch wire hawser. She is anchored in an awkward position, almost completely blocking the centre entrance to the anti-torpedo baffle. It is still possible to circumnavigate the baffle by the Northern or Southern ends. The weather is making the clearing of the screw difficult.

We have sent a steaming party to the Faroe Islands to bring down a Swedish destroyer. There are two of these destroyers, and Rodney is bringing the other down. They were originally Italian, sold to the Swedes, but intercepted by us on their way up.

Monday 24 June 1940



HMS Norfolk anchored to the North of us during the forenoon. She has come from dockyard hands where she has been repairing the damage done by a bomb which hit her during a raid on Scapa. During her repairs she has had several additions and alterations. Like the Sussex, her lower deck scuttles have been blanked off and she is fitted with U.P.

Last night the details of the French armistice were announced. The Germans stress that it is in no way meant to outline final peace terms. It is obviously constructed to further the progress of an invasion against Britain. Germany occupies all Northern France and all the Western coast. The remainder of France is to be completely demilitarised.

Tuesday 25 June 1940

Soon after twelve o'clock we were ordered to raise steam for one hour's notice. It was apparent very shortly afterwards that this was no normal alarm, as the Fleet R.C. Chaplain, the Fleet photographic staff and the Newsreel cameramen were all discharged to Dunluce Castle. This seemed to indicate that we should be leaving the Home Fleet for some foreign station. Another surprise came when it was piped that hands would be required for ammunition after tea, as we all thought we were topped up to our requirements. However, we embarked a hundred fifteen-inch A.P.C. and full charges, divided equally between forward and aft.

The main armament programme was not so extensive as the secondary, which consisted of filling the fore and aft replenishment magazines, requiring three

thousand rounds in all. This was finished aft at 0330, but owing to difficulties in striking down, it was necessary to carry on longer forward.

Wednesday 26 June 1940

During the forenoon, we finished ammunitioning and did our monthly storing ship. All the 4.5 shell we embarked were H.E. and when we finished we had eight thousand rounds and no empty racks. We only took the more essential stores out of the Robert Dundas, mess traps and slops, and left the rest. By doing this we were ready to leave, and secured for sea by Dinner time. We had been at two and a half hours notice for steam while ammunitioning and storing for reasons of fuel economy. The only thing we lacked now was our steaming party. At half past two we slipped from our buoy and steamed North round the torpedo baffles to anchor in Scapa Bay. At six o'clock, our steaming party rejoined, having landed at Kirkwall and came across the isthmus by lorry. We weighed immediately and left the flow, passing Hoxa gate at 1900. It was announced as soon as we weighed that we were proceeding to Gibraltar. Our steaming party had an uneventful voyage with their prize. They successfully evaded a gelignite booby trap, wired up to the dynamo circuits, before the trip started. The ships were small and good only for fair weather. Main armament is 3.9 inch guns and secondary, or AA, was 37mm. They also have torpedo tubes. Our route to Gibraltar is to take us well clear of possible observation by shore or aircraft. Our course takes us three hundred miles to the West of any land. To accomplish this we steered due West from the Pentland Firth.

Thursday 27 June 1940

As the weather and visibility were perfect we had only to go into two watches for the middle, while it was dark. Even then we were able to fall out at half past three. During the day we adopted a modified fourth degree, having only pom-poms and lookouts closed up. We had an air escort of a Sunderland flying boat most of the day. Our course was altered to bring us further South three times during the day, at 0200, mid-day and at 2030. We steered 203° all night, our speed was eighteen knots.

Friday 28 June 1940

The wind increased during the night; at 0100 we had to reduce speed for the destroyers, who were limping. We sighted a Finnish merchantman, a small ship, during the morning watch. The day was fine, with good visibility, but quite a strong wind.

Saturday 29 June 1940

The wind reached gale force during the day, and at night we had some trouble with water in the starboard after 4.5 inch casemates and in the starboard dip. Hands were employed pumping and bailing out all night. Some boxes of pom-pom ammunition broke adrift in the starboard magazine and had to be restowed. At seven o'clock we altered course to nearly South and conditions improved. We were able to increase to eighteen knots again. During the day the weather was good enough for most ventilation to be opened up. The air down below was getting very bad.

Sunday 30 June 1940

At 0130 we altered course to the East of South, 152°. The weather improved, and the day was fine and warm. At the end of the forenoon Forrester was sent to investigate a merchantman, which turned out to be Greek. Visibility decreased in

the afternoon, but badly, so we remained in the fourth degree of readiness.

General

During the week the Germans have continued their night raids over Britain, but only on a minor scale. It appears that they are still holding back their main force. Our R.A.F. carry out widespread raids over industrial districts in Germany as well as the German occupied aerodromes in France.

The Channel Islands, from which we evacuated all guns and soldiers earlier on, were bombed and machine-gunned by German aircraft, and about thirty civilians were killed.

The Russians are creating what may become a diversion in the Balkans. They have taken over the province of Bessarabia from Rumania with no opposition, and the Rumanian government has resigned. Encouraged by Russian success, Hungary and Bulgaria made further demands for Rumanian territory, but they have met with stronger opposition and, in some places, there has been fighting. There have been several naval successes during the week. HM Submarine Tetrarch, who was alongside us at Greenock, torpedoed and sunk an enemy troop transport off Norway, she survived without harm a depth-charge attack by escorting destroyers.

Three Italian destroyers were engaged by light forces in the Eastern of the Mediterranean. The action was fought out at long range with the Italians retiring at high speed. One of the Italian destroyers was sunk, while we suffered no casualties.

The C-in-C East Indies has announced that his forces have accounted for two Italian submarines, bringing the total sunk since Italy entered the war to nine.

HMS Firedrake, sister to Forester, one of Valiant's destroyer escorts to the Mediterranean.



20. And Finally, Joke's for the Road

I accidentally rubbed ketchup in my eyes yesterday.....Wait for it.....

In 'Heinzsight' I shouldn't have rubbed it in my eye!.....Boom Boom!

And this one is even worse.....
But I am sure you will smile



RNA Longcast

2020	
06 Jul	Fireside Zoom Chat - S/M Ralf Dodds (Saddam Hussein – My part in his Downfall (Op GRANBY))
06 Jul	Area 2 Committee Mtg - Bromley
13 Jul	Fireside Zoom Chat - Doctor Jann Witt (German Surface Strategy in WW2)
20 Jul	Fireside Zoom Chat - S/M Mike Smith (CCMEA, HMS Sheffield, Falklands – A personal experience)
24 Jul	Central Office – Open Day - CANCELLED
27 Jul	Fireside Zoom Chat - Captain Jude Terry Royal Navy (A modern perspective on the RN)
27 Jul	Fireside Zoom Chat - Captain Jude Terry Royal Navy (Subject TBD)
31 Jul	Black Tot Day – 50 th Anniversary CANCELLED
01 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly – Norwich
07 Aug	Central Office – Open Day
14 Aug	FAC (1000) - Online
14 Aug	AMC (1400) - Online
15 Aug	Area 2 Delegate Meeting - Chatham
21 Aug	Conf/AGM – Online
31 Aug	August Bank Holiday
05 Sep (was 12 Sep)	National Council Meeting – Zoom On-Line Meeting
19 Sep	4 Area Quarterly – Portland
02 Oct	Central Office – Open Day
10 Oct	Area 2 Committee Mtg - Bromley
31 Oct	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
12 Nov	FAC
13 Nov	AMC
21 Nov	Area 2 Delegate Meeting – Ramsgate
04 Dec	National Council Meeting - Portsmouth
25 Dec	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Boxing Day
2021	

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Uxbridge](#)

[RNA Launceston](#)

[RNA City of Glasgow](#)

[RNA Rosyth & West Fife](#)

[RNA Market Harborough](#)

[RNA Huntingdon](#)

RNA Uxbridge Branch

Shipmates will be interested in the interesting article received at Central office from deepest darkest Middlesex from Shipmate Slinger Woods, Chairman and Club Manager providing an update of 'happenings' at RNA Uxbridge

Dear S/M Andy,

Down here at Uxbridge we have manage to use all our spare time to give the club a quick refit, so we are now ready for re-open whenever the Government gives us the go ahead. A good part of the club has seen a lick of paint and the rest a good old fashion Clean Ship (The Ganges way)



So just to let all members know once this virus is out of the way if they would like to visit they will be made most welcome , you can always make contact on the Branch phone 01895 230071 and ask for Slinger (Chairman & Club Manager). The best day time to reach us is always on a Thursday forenoon . Please give us a little notice and that way we can always arrange a bit of 'Scran and Entertainment'.

As you may of heard, we have been repairing our club roof over a period of a few years and we are in desperate need of a New Roof and this has now been contracted out to be done by D.P.W Roofing of Newport South Wales and hopefully once all the local hotels can reopen the D.W.P Boys can get up to Uxbridge and work can commence (It's a 5 day job)

We are still short of funds to have this paid for and so far our Landlords have chip in £10,000 and our own members have all dug deep into their pockets and a massive thank you to the National HMS Ganges Association who regularly hold their committee meetings down here at Uxbridge have donated £2,000.

However we are still short of a couple of grand so if any Branches or members would like to give us a helping hand please send your donation direct and payable to RNA Uxbridge we would gratefully appreciate it as we do not intend to be a sinking ship.

Don't forget if your in the London Area please don't pass us by we are located on the A40 coming out of town at the Hillingdon Turn off just past RAF Northolt. We would love to see you.

Yours Aye

Kevin (Slinger) Wood,
Chairman & Club Manager



RNA Launceston Branch

Lockdown Launceston on VE Day.

Hon Sec Christine Rowe informed us that on Friday 8th May, on behalf of the branch, Shipmate Alex Gollop, the Launceston Royal Naval Association Standard Bearer lowered the branch Standard in his back garden, to observe the 2 minute silence, accompanied by a local Sea Cadet.

He especially remembered all those Naval personnel who perished during the 2nd World War and never lived to see Victory in Europe.

(Note from the General Secretary; BZ, Shipmate Alex that is a classic element of what the RNA stands.)



RNA Market Harborough Branch



Market Harborough Branch Royal Naval Association, Pat Middleton, Chairman and Standard Bearer Mike Petch and Padre Very Rev John Morley parading the Branch Standard for Armed Forces Day.

RNA City of Glasgow Branch

City of Glasgow Chairman, Shipmate Kenneth McKinnon reports that Glasgow Branch member S/M The Reverend David Eynon has been commissioned by Her Majesty the Queen to the rank of Chaplain. S/M David is now Chaplain for volunteers in the Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, RAF

Cadets and the Combined Cadet Force. This was an historic commission from Her Majesty the Queen.

The commission recognises the immense contribution made by volunteer staff as leaders of the national uniformed youth organisations sponsored by the Ministry of Defence. S/m David is the Chaplain for TS Queen Elizabeth in Clydebank and serves the Clyde North region and the City of Glasgow RNA. This is the first Royal Commission of its kind created for 155 years.

(General Secretary Comment – Heartiest Congratulations to Rev David – A ‘Bish’ of the highest order!)

RNA Rosyth & West Fife Branch

A small gathering of RNA Rosyth & West Fife Branch members to observe the two minutes silence for VE-75 Day, took place on May 8th at the Hillend village square, Bugler Michael Hunter sounded off the Last Post and Reveille, with the Branch Piper Brooklyn Morris leading in with 'Battles Over' followed by a special piece of music for VE-75.

A number of Branch members were present including; Branch Chairman, Dickie Wardrope, Hon Treasurer, James Stewart, Hon Secretary, John Sherwood, Schools Liaison Officer, Norman Thorougood, Bugler ,Michael Hunter, Piper, Brooklyn Morris, Technical Adviser, Davey Sowden, S/M John Robinson and Standard Bearer, Mike Firth. Also in attendance were quite a number of the Hillend community in attendance to observe the proceedings.



During the afternoon Cllr Dave Coleman acting as the 'Town Crier' and read the 'Cry for Peace'. It was a very successful day with social distancing being strictly observed throughout.

RNA Huntingdon Branch

With the Coronavirus restrictions still in place, Armed Forces Day this year was cancelled. That did not stop people celebrating or marking the day in various ways. On Friday 26th June, S/M Karl Webb in his role as Deputy Mayor of Huntingdon, joined the Mayor and Mayoress, Steve and Audrey McAdam, the Deputy Mayoress, Hilary Meers-Webb, and councillors at Huntingdon's War Memorial where a wreath was laid in honour of our Armed Forces – all socially distanced of course.





On Armed Forces Day, S/M Karl Webb decorated his house to mark Armed Forces Day and held a minute's silence.

That evening, shipmates throughout the Royal Naval Association gathered online for the weekly tot and to toast Her Majesty, our shipmates and all who have served in the Armed Forces.



CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Leslie Hall](#)
[Dave Phillpotts](#)
[Eric Andrews MBE](#)
[Charles H. Thompson](#)
[David Bruce Asprey](#)
[David Warner](#)

Leslie Hall - Harrogate & District and Nidderdale Branches

Harrogate Branch are very sad to announce that Shipmate Leslie Hall crossed the bar on 3 June 2020, aged 96

S/M Leslie served in the Royal Navy between November 1939 and through the Second World War up until May 1957. As you can imagine he served in a 'few' establishments and ships including;

Ganges, St Georges, Pembroke, Suffolk, Falcon, St Angelo, Phoebe, Ceres, St Kitts, Dainty, Obdurate, and Birmingham.

He was a founder Member of both Nidderdale Branch and Harrogate & District Branch and a 'Life Member' of the RNA.

'Calm Seas Shipmate'

Dave Phillpotts – Newport (South Wales) Branch

Newport Royal Naval Association is sad to report that Shipmate David Phillpotts (ex – LMEM) has crossed the bar.

David was born in Newport on September 20, 1951. After moving with his family to the Midlands in 1960 he joined the Royal Navy aged just 15, and became a LMEM (Leading Stoker). He served on HMS Bulwark, HMS Manxman, HMS Galatea, HMS Naiad, HMS Euryalus and HMS Undaunted.

Since he moved back to Newport around 25 years ago, David has been involved with the City of Newport Male Choir. And he was also a member of the Abercarn RFC where he spent several seasons as chairman.

He joined Newport RNA in December 2018 and instantly made an impression with his easy manner and good humour, and his willingness to be involved in the social aspect of the group where he entertained his shipmates with stories of his time in 'the mob' as well as the City of Newport Choir, and his time as first aider to the Abercarn RFC Devils. Newport RNA chairman Ken Lowe said: 'Sadly, the time we had with David was far too short. He'll be truly missed by his shipmates here in Newport.'



Stand Easy Shipmate

(Thanks go to S/M Brendan O'Brien for writing the above obituary)

Eric Andrews MBE - Limavady Branch



Limavady Branch have the sad duty to report that the branches President, Shipmate Eric Andrews MBE, crossed the bar on 03 June 2020, just weeks short of his 90th birthday. S/M Eric was a long standing member of the Branch.

S/M Eric served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1946 until 1969 reaching the rank of CPO REA(A). Arriving for Artificer part (1) training at HMS Caledonia, Part (11) and then HMS Ariel (RNAS Worthy Down) he was selected for rating pilot training, unfortunately he was returned to Trade when all pilots were required to become Officers with the introduction of jet aircraft. He went on to serve in Aircraft Carriers & Naval Air stations at home and abroad including: HMS Gannet (RNAS Eglington) 1952, HMS Ariel 1954, HMS Bulwark 1955, HMS Eagle 1956 (Suez), HMS Seahawk (RNAS Culdrose) 1959, HMS Sanderling (RNAS Abbotsinch)

1962, HMS Simbang (RNAS Sembawang), married accompanied, in 1964, and finally HMS Daedalus (RNAS Lee on Solent) in 1966.

A notable highlight of his naval career was when he flew in the 1953 Coronation Fleet Review Fly Pass at Spit Head, while Serving on 849 NAS (AEW) Gannets, where he flew from the carrier deck as a flying maintainer.

S/M Eric was originally from Warrington, Cheshire and while stationed at HMS Gannet (RNAS Eglinton) he met & married a local girl Naureen Thorpe, who was an ex Wren.

On leaving the RN Eric worked at the New University Coleraine, where one day showing a group of Americans from the AVX company around, they recruited him for a new job , requiring him to go to South Carolina USA for 6 Months. Returning to Coleraine he commissioned the new AVX (advanced electronic components plant), where he worked until his retirement.

Charles H Thompson BEM MSM– Portland Branch

A feeling of sadness and shock enveloped RNA Area 4 when news from the Area Secretary informed that RNA Life Member and Area Life Vice President, Shipmate Charles H. Thompson BEM MSM 'Crossed the Bar' on Tuesday May 5th 2020, aged 87.

Charles 'H' will be remembered for his forthright manner, his good humour and dedication to the RNA both with Portland Branch and Number 4 Area. A Shipmate who created a vibrant and sincere impact ever present throughout the enjoyable moments in his presence.

Called up for National Service in 1949, joining the Royal Navy as a Photographer training at RNAS Ford (HMS Peregrine} in Sussex. One of only seven National Service RN to serve as a photographer. Joining the Carrier HMS Theseus in 1951 and operations in Korea, followed by a period in the Mediterranean on the Staff of Admiral, The Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

Drafted to RNAS Culdrose (HMS Seahawk) in 1954 then to Singapore with 848 Squadron for the Malayan Emergency, later joining Staff of C in C Far East.

During this period Charles achieved 1st Class Referee Certificate with Joint Services and Officiated at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. During the period 1959 to 1966 he instructed at the RN School of Photography HMS Fulmar (RNAS Lossiemouth), joined Staff of Flag Officer Naval Command at Yeovilton, returned to Lossiemouth as Chief Phot Instructor for two years, a period in Aden during the Emergency as Joint Services Public Relations Chief Photographer working closely with C in C Middle East, Admiral Sir Michael Le Fanu, then a return to HMS Osprey on the Staff of FOST.

H joined the Weymouth Branch of the RNA 1966 and was subsequently elected Branch Delegate for Area 4 Meetings and National Conference. His responsibility as Manager and Community Officer of Portland Married Quarters created the opportunity to set up the local RN Community Centre incorporating the Kimberlin Club. HRH Prince Charles was stationed at Yeovilton 1974 and took



part in a Games Night organised between the Wardroom and CPO's Mess. His Royal Highness was drawn against Shipmate Charles in the Darts Match, due to confusion between the names of the two players, Prince Charles honourably renamed our illustrious Shipmate as 'Charles H'. A name which he cherished and adopted as his own personal identity. Awarded British Empire Medal and subsequently the coveted Meritorious Service Medal 1980, he transferred to RNA Portland Branch in 1982.

Finally, he 'stepped off' the Royal Navy Gangway in 1992 on his 65th birthday, having served an unprecedented 48 years and 7 months; at the time the longest ever serving CPO Airman. To further enhance his dedication and commitment Charles reached another milestone in 2016 – 50 years as a proud member of the RNA. Manager Kimberlin Club 1974 -1997, Chairman RNA Area 4 Reunion 1975 -1996, Chairman Area 4, 1979 – 1996 Area Life Vice President 1996. RNA National Ceremonial Officer 1995-1996.

RNA 4 President, Shipmate David White MBE MSM conveyed the following message to Area 4 Shipmates, "What better tribute can we pay Charles than, as an Area, to continue along the lines that he led us while he was Chairman, and follow the guidance he gave us as an Area Life President."

On Behalf of RNA Portland.
NCM 4

David Bruce Asprey– Chard Branch



Chard Branch are sad to announce that Shipmate Dave Asprey has crossed the bar on 10 June 2020, aged 76.

Shipmate Dave spent early years growing up whilst travelling around the country in a military family (father served in the Royal Air Force) . He was the eldest son and had a younger brother and a sister. David joined the Royal Navy at HMS Raleigh as a Seaman but changed branch to become a Naval Airman in the Fleet Air Arm where he spent all his Naval service.

He went to sea initially on aircraft carriers but later in service he joined the small ship's flight/aircrew maintaining and flying in the helicopters carried by the ships he was on.

He met his wife Margaret a WRNS Writer during his time ashore and they married and lived in and around the area of Yeovil and Ilminster. David left the RN after 9 years but after numerous jobs ashore he rejoined the service and served the rest of his full time completing his service on HMS Birmingham towards the end of the Falkland's campaign.

Both Dave and Mags became members of the Chard Branch Royal Naval Service and were both active members until both crossed the bar after fighting cancer within two years of each other. David leaves two sons, a daughter in law and a three-year-old grandson.

(Information and image supplied by Dick Moon Chard Branch RNA)

David Warner – Chard Branch

Chard Branch RNA has been saddened by the death of Shipmate David Warner.

David was born the year the Second World War broke out. Unfortunately, David's father was captured by the Japanese during the war and never returned. David attended a Naval Boarding school and from there joined the RN as a Telegraphist/Communications rating. He served on many ships, the most memorable being HMS Amethyst, but the Yangtse incident happened many years before he served on her.

Before the closing of RNA Axminster Branch David took on the role of Chairman (being a founding member) and was also the Chairman of the RBL Axminster Branch. On the sad closure of Axminster Branch David became a member of RNA Chard Branch. David also held the position of Head Warden of the Minster Church, St Mary's in Axminster.

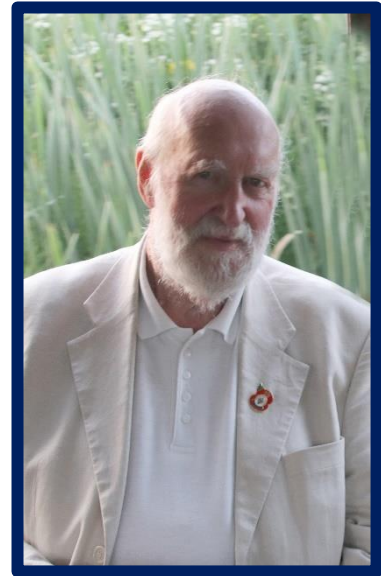
After leaving the Royal Navy David joined the Surrey Police Force, serving in Haselmere until he retired and continued with similar work for Surrey County Council.

David met his first wife, Alma, from the Haselmere area and both moved in time to Uplyme, near Lyme Regis, before moving to Membury. Sadly, David became a long time carer for Alma until she passed away.

Unfortunately, David was taken into hospital as an emergency and was diagnosed with sclerosis of the liver. The medical team managed to control the issues with the liver but unfortunately, whilst in hospital, David contracted the Coronavirus. Despite a good fight sadly this virus took David's life.

He is survived by his wife Valery (who remains an Associate Member of Chard Branch) and two children from his previous marriage. David was cremated at the East Devon Crematorium in Whimple on 14th May 2020 where the eulogy was given by the former Axminster Mayor and Royal British Legion stalwart Mr. Mervyn Symes. The attendance was limited due to the Government guidelines appertaining to Covid 19.

(Submitted by Chard S/m Bill Shephard on behalf of David's wife Valery. Image of S/m Warner by Dick Moon.)



RNA Members Benefits

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



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.

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

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

	Please check go to link for RN Shipmates.co.uk for a comprehensive list of further reunions. www.rnshipmates.co.uk	
5/9 Oct 2020	<p>The HMS LOCH FADA ASSOCIATION F390 will hold their 23rd Annual Reunion & AGM @ the Royal Beach Hotel Southsea from 5th to 9th October 2020. This will be our 4th 4 Day Reunion after the great successes of our 1st Three.</p> <p>Friday venture into Pompey (Under own Steam) Saturday 1030 AGM & 1830 Reunion Dinner (Black Tot day being Mourned by the Issue of Real Pussers Rum) in the Company of our Special Guests The Lord Mayor & Escort of Eastleigh (our Warship week Town).</p> <p>Sunday Mystery coach tour (towards Southampton).</p> <p>All Bookings & Arrangements are being made by Isle of Wight Tours email iowtours.com or telecom 01983 405116, or F390.sec@virginmedia.com or Snailmail F390 Sec, 91 Ayling Lane, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3ND. Telecom 01252 310767</p>	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
31 Oct 2020	BRNC Entry September 1980 40 th Anniversary reunion dinner, BRNC Dartmouth, Saturday 31 October 2020. Details available from Cdr N J 'Nobby' Hall neil.hall324@mod.gov.uk	BRNC Dartmouth

Swinging the Lamp – July 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	1831	'Weeovil Yard' renamed Royal Clarence Victualling Yard Portsmouth.
2 nd	1950	The start of United Nations operations in Korea. The light cruiser <i>Jamaica</i> , Capt J.S.C. Salter RN, in company with US cruiser <i>Juneau</i> (flag) and sloop <i>Black Swan</i> , destroyed five enemy MTBs off Imwon-jin, E. coast of Korea in the first naval action of the campaign. Battle Honour: Korea 1950–3.
3rd	1970	Admiral Sir Michael Le Fanu promoted Admiral of the Fleet on retiring early as First Sea Lord. In that post, the ginger-haired admiral presided over the demise of the Tot; his biography by Richard Baker was consequently entitled <i>Dry Ginger</i> . Admiral Le Fanu was mortally ill and died later that year.
4 th	1940	VC: A/LS Jack Foreman Mantle in <i>Foylebank</i> , sunk by German Aircraft at Portland.
5 th	1969	Frigates <i>Arethusa</i> and <i>Mohawk</i> , with Royal Marines embarked, arrived in Bermuda on a routine visit coincident with start of a three day international Black Power conference held in the Island.
6 th	1918	First recorded use of 'Asdics', in memorandum from Admiralty research establishment at Harwich.
7th	1988	Frigate <i>Phoebe</i> and MCMV <i>Blackwater</i> led SAR operation at Piper Alpha oil rig explosion, 120 miles N.E. of Aberdeen.
8th	1944	Light cruiser <i>Dragon</i> (Pol) damaged and minesweeper <i>Pylades</i> sunk by German one-man submarines in Juno area, Seine Bay. <i>Dragon</i> became blockship. Operation Neptune.
9th	1794	Captains' Servants remustered as Boys, in three grades.
10th	1911	King George V granted the title of Royal Australian Navy to the Permanent Naval Forces and the Citizen Naval Forces (Reserves) of Australia, which had been formed in 1901 at a federation of the individual state navies, thus creating the RAN and RANR. Royal Assent signed in October 1911.
11 th	1941	Destroyer <i>Defender</i> , returning to Alexandria after running supplies into Tobruk, damaged by a heavy bomb in bright moonlight which exploded under her engine room and broke her back in Gulf of Sollum 7 miles N. of Sidi Barrani. <i>Defender</i> taken in tow by destroyer HMAS <i>Vendetta</i> but had to be torpedoed by <i>Vendetta</i> (31.45N, 35.31E). No casualties.
12th	2001	The Captain General Royal Marines, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, presented new Queen's and Regimental Colours to 40 Cdo (Lt-Col David Capewell RM), 42 Cdo (Lt-Col David Hook RM) and to 45 Cdo (Lt-Col Tim Chicken RM) at a parade on Plymouth Hoe. The three units had last received colours at Malta in 1952.

13 th	1965	Submarine <i>Tiptoe</i> , Lt-Cdr Charles Henry Pope RN, in collision with frigate <i>Yarmouth</i> , off Portland Bill. Flag Officer Flotillas, Home Fleet, Rear-Admiral J.O.C. Hayes, was embarked in the frigate. Court martial CO <i>Tiptoe</i> at Portsmouth 8 September: Severe Reprimand.
14 th	1749	Execution by 'a file of musketeers' of Lt Samuel Couchman and Lieutenant of Marines John Morgan on board <i>Chesterfield</i> (40) in Portsmouth Harbour for having led a mutiny in that ship off Cape Coast Castle, West Africa, the year before. The ship's former carpenter and three men were hanged.
15 th	1971	Submarine Service dolphin badges first issued at ceremonial divisions. FOSM made presentations at <i>Dolphin</i> . Other divisions held at Faslane; Vickers, Barrow; Dounreay; Birkenhead; Chatham and Devonport.
16 th	2003	<i>Anglesey</i> , Island-class fisheries patrol vessel, entered Portsmouth for the last time to pay off after twenty-four years' service. She had steamed 644,000 miles since joining the Fleet in 1979.
17 th	1945	First combined attack on the Japanese mainland (Hitachi area of Honshu) by the British Pacific Fleet and US battleships. Task Force 37. Ships: <i>King George V</i> , <i>Formidable</i> , <i>Black Prince</i> and <i>Newfoundland</i> with five destroyers.
18 th	1961	45 and 42 Cdos RM relieved on station in Kuwait where they had been landed by 845 NAS (Whirlwinds) from <i>Bulwark</i> (supported by Sea Vixens of 892 and 893 NAS, <i>Centaur</i> and <i>Victorious</i>). 42 Cdo left on 20 July.
19 th	1545	<i>Mary Rose</i> capsized and sank at Spithead when sailing to engage the French. Raised 11 October 1982.
20 th	1918	Submarine E 34 lost, probably mined, off Vrieland in Heligoland Bight, the last of twenty-eight E-class submarines lost in First World War. The body of her Captain, Lt Richard Pulleyne, was washed ashore in the West Friesian Islands. He had been the sole survivor from B 2, lost in collision with the Hamburg-Amerika liner <i>Amerika</i> on 4 October 1912.
21 st	1995	Rear-Admiral John Tolhurst, Flag Officer Sea Training, hauled down his flag at Portland and embarked in the frigate <i>Argyll</i> , the last ship to leave Portland before the closure of the base. The last ship to do OST at Portland was <i>London</i> . Sea Training HQ transferred to Devonport where FOST flies his flag in <i>Drake</i> . DCI(RN) 266/95.
22 nd	1942	10th S/M flotilla returned to Malta from ten week exile up the Mediterranean, to find its piggery in maximum production and to prepare for Operation Pedestal.
23 rd	1964	HM The Queen, principal guest at a Royal Marines Tercentenary dinner at RNC Greenwich presided over by the Captain General, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, directed that in future the Loyal Toast should be drunk seated in all Royal Marines officers' and non-commissioned officers' messes ashore and afloat. The Queen further directed that the health of the Captain General should also be drunk seated. The decisions were probably unplanned: Earl Mountbatten wrote the suggestion on his menu at the dinner and passed it to the Queen. Royal Marines Routine Order 201/64 dated 28 August 1964 made it so.

24 th	1915	The first success by a RN surface Q-ship deployed in anti-submarine operations. The 400-ton auxiliary fleet collier <i>Prince Charles</i> (Lt W.P. Mark-Wardlaw, seconded from the staff of Admiral Hon. Sir Stanley Colville, Flag Officer Orkneys and Shetlands, and whose merchant service crew had volunteered to a man), armed with concealed two 6-pdrs and two 3-pdrs, sank U-36 (Kapitanleutnant Ernst Graeff) off North Rona Island, 100 miles W. of Scapa (59.07N, 05.30W).
25 th	1797	Nelson's right arm, shattered in the repulsed attack on Santa Cruz in Tenerife in the Canary Islands, amputated on board <i>Theseus</i> by French surgeon M. Ronicet, a French Royalist refugee from Toulon.
26 th	1953	Aircraft maintenance carrier <i>Unicorn</i> liberated SS <i>Inchkilda</i> , which had been taken by three Chinese pirate gunboats and which she surprised off Ockseu Roads.
27 th	1973	Fleet Laundry Training Unit at <i>Drake</i> closed due to lack of use following the employment of Chinese laundrymen in home waters. DCI(RN)T.238/73.
28 th	1914	British fleets ordered to their war bases.
29 th	1943	Wellington G/172 sank U-614 in S.W. Approaches (46.42N, 11.03W).
30 th	1943	RMS <i>Queen Mary</i> , in her wartime troopship role, arrived on the Clyde from New York with 16,683 souls on board, the greatest number of people ever embarked in one vessel. Had departed New York 25 July; 3,353 miles covered in 4 days 20 hours 42 minutes at average speed of 28.173 knots.
31 st	1987	HRH Don Juan de Borbon y Battenberg, Count of Barcelona, appointed an honorary admiral in Her Majesty's Fleet. He was the son and designated heir of King Alfonso XIII of Spain and Victoria Eugenie of Battenberg; his father was replaced when the Second Spanish Republic was declared on 14 April 1931. Don Juan died 1 April 1993. His son is His Majesty King Don Juan Carlos I of Spain.