

# SEMAPHORE SHORT

**GREETINGS SHIPMATES** Welcome to this week’s Semaphore Short, and I hope you are well as we head towards the end of the autumn. Although the Short is now under ‘new ownership’, we are still very happy to hear from you if you would like anything included in a future edition – email the team here. If you are sending images, please attach them as separate files rather than embedded in a document, as the pictures will be of a better definition. Whilst all contributions will be considered, please note that the Semaphore Short is intended to be a brief update, including time-sensitive notices, and we can’t publish everything. Some content may be used for in the next monthly Circular.

**PLAY THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION WEEKLY LOTTERY AND WIN UP TO £25,000** [PLAY NOW](#)



**FIRESIDE CHATS** The next Fireside Chat (Monday 20 Nov) will be on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission by Rear Admiral Iain Lower, Director Global Strategy and Commonwealth Affairs for the CWGC. The following week will be an update on the US Navy by Capt J-M Sullivan USN. Fireside Chats take place every Monday at 18:30 and to access the chats, log into Zoom here. The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate. Pictured is the CWGC section of Bethune Town Cemetery in the Pas de Calais, France, the last resting place for two ABs from the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division.

**MEMBERSHIP DETAILS** The Semaphore Short and Semaphore Circular are important channels of communication between Central Office and our members. If you know of someone who is not receiving the weekly Short or the link to the Circular when it comes out (first Friday of the month) please make sure they let us know their contact details – email Sara on sara@royalnavalassoc.com

**Goodbye... Hello!** My colleague John Scivier signed off in style three weeks ago having produced the last of his excellent Semaphore Shorts. That honour now falls to me, Mike Gray, alongside the production of the monthly Semaphore Circular. Although I never took the Queen’s shilling, I did 22 years of sorts – at Navy News, where I had the great good fortune to work with all ranks, all branches and all fighting arms at home and overseas, so although I am not anchor-faced, neither am I completely green concerning the ethos, achievements and history of the Senior Service. I have also worked closely with the RNA for more than 20 years, so I look forward to hearing from you all.

**Copyright guidance** It is very simple to grab an image, or illustration, from an online source to use in your branch or Area (or even personal) website or social media account, but by doing so you could well be breaching copyright laws – and you could end up paying for it! The safest approach is to assume that every image is copyrighted and therefore off-limits for you to reproduce UNLESS you are absolutely certain that is not the case. Even if there is no copyright symbol (©) or attribution, just because they are on the Internet or social media that does not put them in the ‘public domain’ and automatically available for anyone to use for free. The only foolproof way of making sure an image is ‘safe’ is to use an image or illustration of your own, or that someone you know has produced and given you permission to use. Some online images are copyright-free, but they will state that, as is the case with some Wikipedia images (where they will also explain why it is royalty-free or out of copyright as well). Some sites, such as the Imperial War Museum, the Royal Navy Image archive and the MOD’s Defence Imagery website, allow use of their pictures under specific circumstances, which are made clear under their licensing arrangements. **Remember – if in doubt, leave it out!** For more information see the gov.uk notice at <https://tinyurl.com/b7hjrfs>



**A member of the ship's company of Type 45 destroyer HMS Duncan pays his respects at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the British and Commonwealth War Graves site in Souda, Crete. HMS Duncan is currently working with NATO's SNMG2 Task Group. See December's Semaphore Circular for more pictures from Remembrance ceremonies.**  
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**SCAM ALERT** Next Friday (November 24) is Black Friday – an American concept that has taken root in the UK over the past few years. It first gained wide usage in the US in the 1980s; at first it reflected the crowds that flocked to start their Christmas shopping straight after Thanksgiving, causing chaos on roads and in city centres, and another definition refers to the fact that at that point retailers moved into profit – from the red to the black.



With the rise of global online organisations such as Amazon, the concept of Black Friday was exported to other countries including the UK (in the Welsh language it is apparently known as 'Silly Spending Friday'), attracting bargain hunters with eye-catching discounts. But along with the sales and discounts come the fraudsters – when is a bargain not a bargain but a scam?

You can help keep yourself safe from online, email and phone-based fraud by taking a look at the Take Five to Stop Fraud website – part of a national campaign supported by the banks and the government to defeat financial fraud, particularly where criminals impersonate trusted organisations such as online retailers, financial institutions, charities and the police. Led by UK Finance, the campaign "offers straight-forward and impartial advice to help everyone protect themselves from financial fraud."

For more information see <https://www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>

**VETERANS SURVEY** The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have published information about the health of veterans and their provision of unpaid care.

The publication shows the numbers and percentages of UK Armed Forces veterans by their self-reported general health, by disability and by unpaid care, and how that compares to non-veterans. These data are presented by personal characteristics:

- Age
- Sex
- High-level ethnic groups
- Country of birth
- Residence length
- Sexual orientation

The data also show information about the health, disability and unpaid care of spouses or partners and children or stepchildren (of any age) of, and who lived with, a veteran on Census Day.

Further information on the employment of UK Armed Forces veterans as well as more details on additional topics will follow throughout 2024 – see <https://tinyurl.com/2r9x2abm>

The government launched the Veterans' Survey in November 2022, which generated thousands of responses from veterans from across the UK. The ONS are now ready to share the first insights into the results on 15 December 2023.

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