



**OCTOBER 2007
CIRCULAR**

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Dear Shipmate Secretary,

The Late S/M Alf Woonton OBE, Life Vice President

1. The funeral service of S/M Alf Woonton OBE LVP who served as a member of National Council for many years and was very active until quite recently, was held on Friday 28th September in Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow, Essex . Your Association was well represented by National and Area Officials, Standards and Shipmates. S/M Alf's Grand Daughter (Mrs Nicola Andrew), asked that the thanks of the family be passed on to all who attended, wrote or called.

The Orkney Branch of The Royal Naval Association - Commissioning Report

2. The Orkney Branch of the Royal Naval Association commissioned in Kirkwall on Saturday 6th October 2007 with the attendance of 16 founder members, in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Orkney, RNA National President, Scottish Area President, National Chairman, Scottish Area Chairman, Scottish Area National Council Member, the Presidents of Kirkwall and Stromness Royal British Legions, The Senior Naval Officer (Orkney) and a host of Shipmates and supporters. The Area Chairman commissioned the Branch which was followed by a social evening attended by some 120 guests. The Branch and its supporting Shipmates marched to the Cathedral of St Magnus behind a Pipe Band the following day, for a Service of Thanksgiving. The Scottish Area Standard was paraded along with a number of other Standards.. The Branch Honorary Chaplain (Reverend David Dawson) officiated and he preached a fine sermon which is reproduced below. The Royal Naval Association sends its best wishes to the Orkney Branch and wishes them every success.

Sermon preached in the Cathedral of St Magnus, Kirkwall on Sunday 7th October 2007

The Old Testament Lesson - Amos Chapter 8 verses 4-7.

The New Testament Lesson - Acts of the Apostles Chapter 5 verses 1-11.

The 29th of March 1957 proved, I am told, to have been a typical example of an early spring day in Orkney. Bitterly cold in the gusting wind with an overhanging backdrop of lowering clouds, a small contingent of Royal Navy personnel, supported by a larger gathering of local islanders, listened to the bugle call 'Sunset' as the White Ensign was lowered at Lyness, marking the end of a lengthy maritime relationship between the Navy and Scapa Flow. But whilst the occasion was muted and lacked the pomp and ceremony one might have expected, there remained, within the hearts and minds of generations of Orcadians, fond memories of the special relationship which had bonded together men and women of the Royal Navy and the people of these islands. A relationship that had been forged in the furnace of tragedy of two world wars, islanders sensing and sharing the pain of loss whenever names like Her

Majesty's Ships 'Opal', 'Knarborough', 'Vanguard' and, of course, 'Royal Oak' were mentioned. A relationship that had seen happy times besides sad; the Royal Navy's contribution to the local community in so many ways; the romantic links between many a matelot and local girl and, not unnaturally, the making of Orkney as a permanent home for some retired personnel. Save for the fact that Lyness remained a Fleet oil storage depot until 1976 together with the links maintained through the Royal Naval Auxiliary Service (itself disbanded in 1994) and the Sea Cadet Corps, not to forget the occasional use by Her Majesty's ships during NATO exercises, it was really there, on that grey day in 1957, that the Senior Service's formal relationship with Orkney came to an end. Two communities, united in so many ways, parted company.

Yet now, here in this ancient cathedral, the tower of which, if stones could speak, has witnessed the comings and goings of almost a thousand years of naval activity, in one form or another, in Scapa Flow – here today, that old bond between those two communities, albeit, in a much different form, is once again being reunited. Granted, most shipmates present, will not have been part of the massive structure that were the ships and shore establishments of Scapa of two world wars, some possibly having seen service in other waters such as East of Suez, Malaya, not to mention having contributed to the defence of Britain during the Cold War and, more poignantly the Falklands Campaign, where loss to both the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines proved the heaviest since 1945. But irrespective of where and how you served Her Majesty's Royal Navy, you – the shipmates who today form the freshly commissioned Orkney Branch of the Royal Naval Association – you now have rekindled something of that community within the community of Orkney. And a community you indeed are – for, I need not remind you, that without the crucial elements that go to make a true community – with all the essential trappings of tradition, unity, loyalty and comradeship – a warship, be that a timber hulled man of war of Nelson's era or one of today's Vanguard class submarines – would be incapable of operating efficiently. You have formed a community that is, in effect, a mirror image of the ideal that God seeks for the world and people that he has created. For the motto of the Royal Naval Association – *Unity, Loyalty, Patriotism, Comradeship*, is, in all truth, that which could be applied equally to first, the Christian Church and wider still, the people it seeks to serve.

God, from his earliest dealings with the human race which he created sought that all should live in community – community that places God at the centre and community that reflects all that we could, indeed, *should*, be doing to improve the lot of those around us. And that is what, in part the Royal Naval Association stands for. Yes, it serves as a fraternity of shipmates, regardless of rank held, to share, reflect and continue the unique ties that bind men and women who have served our country in peace and at war. Yes, it serves as a visible and tangible symbol to our country in places where there is no military presence (such being the consequence of changing times) that, despite the arguably hedonistic, even selfish and self-seeking society which seems to have developed, there are still those who are prepared, if the need arises, to give their all – including their lives - for the sake of the freedom of others. But it also serves as an organisation that looks to the welfare of those who have served Queen and Country in the defence of the freedom of both our shores

and the world's sea lanes but who may, for one reason or another, have fallen on hard times, be that the hardship of illness, infirmity and old age or who have fallen through the tattered holes of our welfare state.

The Royal Naval Association therefore, in company with the Royal British Legion and other ex-service bodies, seeks not merely to be a community of the like-minded and a glorified social club, but a community that embodies the principles of that which God calls all people to. Our first two Bible lessons, from the prophet Amos and the Acts of the Apostles, at first reading might seem a trifle harsh on those who fail to live to that ideal. Amos positively threatens, in characteristic Old Testament fashion, those who lie, cheat and swindle others, promising the wrath of God on those who engage in such chicanery. The Old Testament is bung full of such texts, conveying the image of a vengeful God who will judge severely his people who stray from his commandments. And, given the ancient Hebrew understanding of God as they believed they knew him, the language employed is not so unusual.

Now, whilst we perhaps live in more enlightened times with a greater understanding of exactly the ancient writings of the Old Testament sought to achieve, we should not underestimate the fact that our God of Love (as opposed to Amos's God of vengeance) continues to grieve over the sins perpetrated through greed and self-seeking. Granted, our God may not (and this we cannot be entirely sure of this side of life) pass a punitive judgement on wrongdoings of this nature, but it nonetheless remains that, whatever the outcome may be, evil acts that deny the rights of others, harms others needlessly or humiliates them through cheating and uncharitable behaviour, such acts are contrary to God's will. Even the account of Ananias, his wife and their jiggery-pokery over the sale of property and the cash raised results in their untimely death – although I should add that, although St. Peter warns Sapphira, the wife, that one should not test the Lord's Spirit, there really is nothing to suggest that God brought about their demise. If anything, what is being demonstrated here is something along the lines of "what goes round comes round" – in other words we, through our selfishness and other sins, are really the authors of our own misfortune – and not, as some might assume - God.

But the key to what God calls us to be – the community that he desires – is to be found in the Gospel lesson from St. Matthew. Jesus, in his discourse concerning the future for those (the sheep) who follow Him and his teachings and those (the goats) who will not inherit the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus makes it crystal clear that God will ultimately judge us all in accordance with our reaction to human need. By way of example he cites that the aid we give to our brothers and sisters in distress is in the simple things. No grand gestures, no extravagant and showy displays of altruism, nothing that is calculated to make us look good in the eyes of others. Nothing like that whatsoever. Merely simple giving – a meal to a hungry person; a drink to the thirsty; a welcome to the stranger; a cheering visit to the sick, clothing the unclothed and visiting prisoners – that is all we are called to do. For that is essentially what community is all about. Simple acts of caring - simple acts of sharing. A community that comprises individuals, be they numbered in tens, hundreds, thousands or more, for whom life revolves solely around themselves and their own interests cannot be a community. A society it might

be, but not a society that is just and honourable through which its members seek at all times the common good. But it is most certainly not a community.

Tragically, we live in an age where many in towns and cities throughout our land, will not know their neighbours – the regular discoveries of the remains of old people who have died alone in their own homes, sometimes months before they have been found, bears stark witness to the loss of the spirit of community. A twelve year old child is gunned down in a Liverpool suburb and, despite the knowledge that there were witnesses in the vicinity, the police still desperately crave those witnesses to identify themselves. No one wishes to become involved. There are countless examples of the crumbling of community in Britain today. In spite of the Welfare State, there are people, many of whom are former servicemen and women, who fall through the gaps in the care net. Hence the reason that organisations such as the one whose entry into Orkney life we mark today are vitally important.

I have lived in Orkney for fifteen years and during my time here I have encountered a number of former Royal Navy personnel and others who have served their country in peace and war and who have chosen, either by virtue of birth, marriage or simply through choice, to make their home in these islands. Some of them are comfortable, others less so. One in particular stands out in my memory. Sadly no longer with us, having battled with a number of problems in his remaining years, the one whom I now recall had served not in the Royal Navy, but with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

He would readily talk of his younger days at sea, his exploits and experiences afloat and ashore in foreign climes (not all of which would necessarily make for a family audience!). Sadly, not all his experiences were happy. For in spring 1982, he was thrown, quite unexpectedly into what has gone down in history as the Falkland's Campaign. And consequently, on the 8th May 1982, Jack, as I'll call him, was aboard the RFA landing ship, '*Sir Galahad*' at Fitzroy in East Falkland, preparing to disembark troops in support of the Welsh guards at Fitzroy and nearby Bluff Cove. I need not remind any of you what happened next. Anyhow, Jack survived. He was one of the fortunate. Sustaining slight physical injuries, Jack was latterly able to return home to Orkney and tried as best he could to make something of life. But he never returned to sea. The physical injury sustained at Fitzroy rapidly healed. The mental wounds never left him, remaining with him and plaguing him until his dying day. Being in the RFA, Jack had been a merchant seaman and would laugh, in his lighter moments at the old traditions held by the Royal Navy, but whenever his demons would manifest themselves (for a demon indeed is that which we recognise as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) Jack felt alone. Doctors, nurses and social workers would nod sympathetically. Yes – they understood PTSD. But what they failed to understand and with which they could not empathise *was the mind of a sailor*. Where Jack was failed was the lack of empathy. Sure, there were lashings of sympathy at times, but none of the medical and social care professionals really understood his seaman's mind. Although technically a former merchant seaman, he could now have qualified for full membership of the Royal Naval Association – had there been a local branch here at the time. Jack died six years ago, but had he survived, I'm confident that he might have been one for whom a local branch would have been of tremendous benefit. It's too late for Jack, but I'm equally sure

that there exists out there, in these islands, many more who could reap much from this branch will have to offer.

Some of you here today may not realise it, but through your membership of the Royal Naval Association and your subscribing to its motto of *'Unity, Loyalty, Patriotism and Comradeship'* you will be living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For besides the social gatherings and reminiscence of times past you will have the opportunity, thanks to the welfare support offered by the association, to effectively feed the hungry, visit the sick and clothe the unclothed – to support people like Jack. And in so doing you will have God's blessing now and always.

Working for God's Kingdom in this world is not the sole domain of the Sunday worshipper, pious, the holy and the supposed righteous. It is not the unique preserve of Sin Bosuns and Devil-Dodgers. Far from it! Jesus makes it clear that those who, without thought of favour or reward, help the needy will receive God's blessing.

Fifty years have elapsed since that blustery day at Lyness when the White Ensign was lowered for the final time. The changing face of global politics, the changed face of the Royal Navy means that it is unlikely that the great anchorage of Scapa Flow will once more see itself as the hub around which the Fleet will revolve. But the true spirit of Her Majesty's Navy in Orkney has *not* been consigned to history, thanks to you the members of the Royal Naval Association.

May you go march forth from here today, you and your standards proudly displaying to the people of Orkney that the finest traditions of the Senior Service are very much alive and well in this community. You have been called, as indeed we all are called, by God to live in community with one another.

May God richly bless you all in the work that lies ahead.

Amen.

Revd. David Dawson (Chaplain, Orkney Branch Royal Naval Association)

Dedication of the Armed Forces Memorial in The National Arboretum on Friday 12th October 2007

3. The Armed Forces Memorial commemorating the death of some 16,000 British Servicemen and women who have died in the Service of their country since 1945, was dedicated at the National Arboretum on 12th October 2007 in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh and HRH The Prince of Wales. Your Association was represented at the parade by seven Standards borne by the National Standard Bearer and six Shipmates from No. 8 Area. The number of Standards able to be paraded was restricted due to the very strict security precautions surrounding the event. The dedication ceremony was described as profoundly moving with readings by parents, wives, sons and daughters - the memorial itself is said to be impressive and a visit is highly recommended. Unfortunately, there are (as

yet) no facilities for disabled access since the memorial is not yet complete, but these will be included as time permits.

HRH The Prince of Wales took an especial interest in the RNA contingent and on Saturday 13th October, The Sun featured a photograph of Prince Charles talking to S/M Adrian Beavis and S/M Mick Kieran (National Standard Bearer). Many other Shipmates attended the ceremony and all enjoyed the event and its attendant hospitality.

The Royal Naval Association Welfare Seminar

4. An RNA Welfare Seminar was held in the Warrant Officers and Senior Ratings' Mess, HMS NELSON on Saturday 6th October 2007. This event was attended by some 32 delegates from Areas and Branches and a lively and interesting day resulted.

After the usual introductions, the meeting got off to a very useful start by hearing from Mrs Carol Howden a former Benefits Lecturer from the Department of Social Security who is also a Naval wife. Mrs Howden reminded delegates of the range of benefits available to the mature citizen and advanced much useful advice on the completion of application forms and use of the Appeals procedure. She gripped the attention of her audience using her enormous wealth of experience to advise and educate them in processes and procedures.

This session was followed by an interactive session (led by S/M Rita Lock - National Charities and Welfare Adviser) on points to watch for when assessing completed standard application forms (the A Form) for almonisation (in use in various forms by the RBL, SSAFA and RNBT. Clearly there were significant points to be noted and a useful discussion arose in which Field Worker training differences between RBL and SSAFA were discussed. A number of delegates thought that formal field work training should be introduced for Area Welfare Advisers and the General Secretary undertook to explore this subject with the RBL (who provide field work training both for themselves and SSAFA) to see what training can be afforded to the RNA. Then there was lunch.

The afternoon session began with a structured discussion led by the General Secretary on Relative Poverty and the ex-RN Community. This subject was chosen because it is becoming increasingly clear that a sharp divide exists between a relative young group of welfare claimants who believe they have an absolute right to a certain standard of living which must be provided either by the state or by charities, and an older and perhaps more traditional band of shipmates whose pride and self-sufficiency often precludes them from seeking help in adversity. The discussion embraced a range of views and decided that the balance to be struck by RNA Benevolence was somewhere between the two extremes, but that those engaged in welfare work had to be especially diligent in discreetly seeking out those cases where benevolence is needed but not being sought because of misplaced pride. As this discussion

developed, a certain amount of horror (and amusement) crept in as the General Secretary produced some of the "horror stories" from applications inappropriately recommended for grants by various SSAFA and RBL Case Workers.

The next session was a useful canter around the various aids and appliances available to the disabled sector of the community and thanks to S/M Ron Gould (8Area) each delegate was given a comprehensive Keep Able Catalogue for use in their welfare work. At this stage also various publications and aids were distributed for use by Welfare Officers, and S/M Rita Lock gave many tips and hints in dealing with specialised cases. During discussion it was suggested that some members would welcome the opportunity to pre-register their funeral requirements with their branches so that the branches are aware of individual preferences. Additionally it was suggested that the details of the RNA Sponsored Funeral Plan with Co-operative Funerals Ltd be highlighted to members. The General Secretary undertook to write a General Secretary's Memorandum (GSM) on each of these topics - the plan is to include all GSM's in the Association Website as time permits.

The final session of the day considered how RNA Benevolence should be conducted in the future. It was unanimously agreed that the RNA Welfare Handbook deserved revision and the General Secretary intends to undertake this task during the coming winter months. Once the revised handbook has been approved at National Council level it will be published on the Association Website. The National Charities and Welfare Adviser (S/M Rita Lock) reminded delegates that when necessary, branches should go to Area Welfare Funds for Assistance and that they in turn had the facility of asking for help from the Central Charities Fund if they needed to do so. Finally, a spirited discussion was held on how the RNA was involved in helping our Servicemen in Afghanistan and Iraq and how we could offer assistance to returned wounded, injured and ill Servicemen in Selly Oak MDHU. The General Secretary and Welfare Adviser told the delegates of the various plans they were developing to assist with Headley Court Rehabilitation Centre, The Help the Heroes and the Victory Services Club. There was a great deal of interest expressed in these plans.

There being no further business the Seminar closed at 1530. The General Secretary thanked all attendees for coming and for producing such a stimulating event. He asked all to consider over the winter months the various views expressed and solutions propounded. He hoped that it would be possible to have regular welfare seminars and hoped that they would be able to be mounted at less than biennial intervals.

Royal Naval Association National Advisory Posts

5. The National Council makes appointments of National Advisers for specific subjects as required. These appointments include the Charities and Welfare Adviser, the Clubs Adviser, the Ceremonial Adviser and the Communications and Public Relations Adviser. These appointments will be made for a two year period at a National Council meeting scheduled for December.

Each post may be filled by any Member of the Association, including a member of the National Council, who has the appropriate qualifications or experience. The closing date for nominations is 16th November 2007. The self-nomination form attached to this Circular is to be used and forwarded to the General Secretary by the closing date. The current incumbents of the posts have each signified their willingness to be re-appointed if chosen. At the National Council meeting all candidates must be proposed and seconded by Council members before a vote is taken. If there is more than one candidate then the vote will be by ballot with the candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast being appointed to the post concerned.

Winter Fuel Payments - A Reminder

6. During November and December, the Government is making Winter Fuel Payments to help with winter heating costs. If you were aged 60 or over on or before 23 September 2007 you could get a payment of up to £200.

You should get a payment automatically if:

- a. during the week of 17-23 September, you were getting a State Pension or social security benefit (apart from Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or Child Benefit); or
- b. you got a payment last year and your circumstances and contact details have not changed.

In other cases you may need to make a claim for a Winter Fuel Payment. If you think you need to make a claim, please call the helpline3 on 08459 15 15 15 or visit the website at www.thepensionservice.gov.uk/winterfuel.

If you have not had a payment by Christmas but think you should have, please call the office that normally pays your benefit or State Pension. If you do not get a social security benefit or State Pension please call the Winter Fuel Helpline on 08459 15 15 15. All claims for Winter Fuel Payments must be received by 28th March 2008.

e-MAIL ADDRESSES

7. RNA HQ Staff are attempting to build a library of e-mail addresses within the Association. It would be extremely helpful if those Branch Secretaries able to communicate by e-mail would forward a short e-message to HQ on paddy@royalnavalassoc.com so that registration can begin

RNA Club Permits for 2008 - Form RNA C3

8. Application forms RNA C3 to renew club permits are required to generate an Annual Permit to continue to use the title "Royal Naval Association". These forms require the endorsement of the Area Secretary and should reach RNA Headquarters by 30th November. A fee of £3-00 for the club permit will be debited to the branch account. Rule B62(e) requires that two copies of the audited account should be provided to The General Secretary each year and a number of clubs have yet to forward Club Accounts for 2005 - this should be done now as a matter of urgency, as Forms C3 will not be issued until they are received.

The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust - Improved Website

9. The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust Website has undergone substantial improvement and contains much of interest, especially to Welfare Officers. Visit the site at www.rnbt.org.uk.

Gift Aid

10. Following the change from covenanting to Gift Aid, we have somehow lost momentum. The number of Gift Aid forms, from a membership of 27,680 stands at a modest 3,500. May we remind you that this is free money, which has helped us to maintain our annual subscription at £10.00. A blank Gift Aid form is included with this Newsletter. Once completed, a Gift Aid Declaration lasts until it is rescinded. Thank you.

Navy News Subscriptions - Special Offer for Royal Naval Association New Subscribers

11. The Navy News is offering a specially reduced subscription to all Royal Naval Association new subscribers. This splendid monthly publication featuring all that is of interest in The Royal Navy and The Royal Naval Association can now be delivered to your door each month at a specially reduced price of £17-50 per year in The United Kingdom or £21-50 Overseas (please phone 02392-734448 for Airmail prices or contact subscriptions@navynews.co.uk). This special offer represents a saving of £3-00 per annum on the normal subscription price. See the offer each month in The Navy News.

A Proposed RNA Trip to New Zealand - February/March 2009

12. Following a recent successful tour of New Zealand by the Association of Wrens, S/M Vice President Stuart Thorn (a New Zealand resident) would be keen to have expressions of interest for a possible RNA tour of New Zealand in February/March 2009. It has been suggested that such a tour could be organised by Ron McPhail of McPhail Business Tours and a proposed 14 day itinerary could comprise :

Arriving in Auckland, visiting the Naval Base at Devonport with a reception there, a visit to Rotorua, Tauranga with the Ex-Navalmen's Association who would lay on a reception, fly to Christchurch where the RNZN Association would probably offer a reception, a stay in Queenstown and Dunedin, a visit to Nelson where there could be a reception by the local RNA Branch, fly from Nelson to Auckland for the return flight to UK.

Costs have yet to be calculated and would depend largely on the size of the party. Those interested can contact S/M Thorn direct on sbthorn@xtra.co.nz (copy to RNA HQ please) or for those who are not connected to e-mail, RNA Headquarters will be very happy to relay your expression of interest to S/M Thorn.

Royal Naval Association Christmas Cards

13.. Royal Naval Association Christmas Cards do not appear to be as popular as they once were. This may be due to the easy access to computers and the ability of Branches to produce their own individualised cards, however the result is that HQ has a sizeable stock of unsold but undated cards, which are now being offered for sale at special rates. The type available is:

A. A view of Christmas from the bows of HMS VICTORY and,

The Cards are available at the special price of 10 for £2 (post and packing free). Send your orders to HQ on the attached form for a speedy response.

Contacting the RNA Headquarters Book-keeper

14. The Royal Naval Association's Book-keeper (Miss Vicki Egerton) is employed in a part-time capacity and works from home. From time to time, Shipmates have observed that contacting her to resolve queries was a difficult task because of her other commitments. To improve communication, we have installed a combined Telephone/FAX/Answerphone in Miss Egerton's home and believe that this will help overcome the problem. The number of this combined instrument is **01795-530534**.

Ceremonial Rum Tubs

15. The Selsey Branch are fortunate in having a Member who can make Rum Tubs and a few Branches have expressed an interest in having one also. If there is sufficient support the Selsey Shipmate may be able to undertake this task. Any Branch interested should write to The Hon Secretary, Selsey Branch at: 39 Hillfield Road, Selsey, West Sussex PO20 OLB. Costing details will be calculated once the level of interest is established.

HMS WHIMBREL - Battle of the Atlantic Memorial

13. 16. An Association has been formed to attempt to bring HMS WHIMBREL back to the United Kingdom where it is hoped the ship will form a Battle of the Atlantic Memorial. A fund raising team has been established and His Grace The Duke of Westminster has agreed to be Patron. Vice Admiral Michael Gretton CB CVO MA FNI (a distinguished son of a distinguished Battle of the Atlantic Father, Vice Admiral Sir Peter Gretton) has agreed to be Chairman. Clare Beavan has been appointed as the Project Fund Raiser and is developing a strategy to raise the Memorial Project's profile within the Merseyside Area and beyond, Demonstrate the benefits WHIMBREL could bring to Liverpool's tourist and leisure sector, Identify major potential donors and increase public support for WHIMBREL's return - if you are able to help the project's aims in any way, please contact Clare at The HMS WHIMBREL Project, RN Headquarters Northern England, East Brunswick Dock, Sefton Street, Liverpool L3 4DZ or on clare@mersinet.co.uk.

Looking for a Crucifix

17. The Bourne Branch of the RNA is seeking a Crucifix on which to hang its newly acquired ceremonial lifebelt. Any Branch or Shipmate able to assist in this quest should contact the Hon Secretary (S/M Brenda White) on 01780-753787 or at Brenda.white@tesco.net. Collection or payment for delivery can be arranged.

Battle Class Destroyers

18 We have just seen and read one of the best books of the year! This comprehensive and fascinating history of a famous class of destroyers in which many of us served, is a joy to browse and enjoy. It can be obtained via Maritime Books at Lodge Hill, Liskeard PL14 4EL, Cornwall. Tel : 01579-343663, Fax : 01579-346747, e-mail www.navybooks.com.

Castle Class Corvettes

19. Another fascinating tome about a class of ships which were a mainstay the Battle of the Atlantic. The book is comprehensive and well illustrated. Again, this may be obtained from Maritime Books at Lodge Hill, Liskeard PL14 4EL, Cornwall. Tel : 01579-343663, Fax : 01579-346747, e-mail www.navybooks.com.

EVENTS

20. The year 2007 is an extremely busy year with a great number of events, many of which commemorate the 25th Anniversary of The Falklands Campaign. The events below are listed chronologically and not by perceived importance. It is our intention to keep the list as up to date as possible and we are happy to hear of local initiatives so that we can keep Branches in the picture.

HMS DAUNTLESS Association - WRNS 90th Anniversary Weekend - 2-5 November 2007 in Blackpool

21. The HMS DAUNTLESS Association is organising a fun filled weekend in Pontins, Blackpool between 2nd to 5th November 2007 to mark the 90th Anniversary of the formation of The Women's Royal Naval Service. Details may be obtained from wrens90@ntlworld.com or send a SAE to 1 The Rocks, Tansley, Matlock, Derby DE4 5ES.

Field of Remembrance – Opening Thursday 8th November 2007

22. The 2007 Field of Remembrance will, by kind permission of The Dean and Chapter of Westminster, open at 1120 on Thursday 8th November when a short Service will be held. The Royal Naval Association, together with other organisations, is invited to attend and those attending should be in position by 1100. A senior member of the Royal Family has kindly agreed to attend and inspect the plots. We have been allocated Plot 227.

Remembrance Sunday - 11 November 2007

23. Headquarters have been allocated a limited number of tickets for the Cenotaph Parade and Service on Sunday 11th November 2007. Shipmates are reminded of the physical demands of standing in Whitehall for at least one hour and then marching for a distance of at least one and a half miles, possibly in inclement weather. Any Shipmate attending who requires a carer should also have applied for a ticket for the carer (one carer per participant). Tickets will be available for dispatch as postal conditions allow. We ask Shipmates who receive tickets from the RNA to march in the RNA Platoon.

The Destroyer Memorial 1939-1945 - Unveiling and Dedication Ceremony

24. The Royal Navy's last operational Second World War Destroyer, HMS CAVALIER, is now preserved at The Historic Dockyard Chatham. Under restoration since 1999, she is a memorial to the men of The Royal Navy who lost their lives in such ships during that conflict. Mid-morning on 14th November 2007, a specially commissioned monument will be unveiled alongside HMS CAVALIER to commemorate the 142 Royal Naval Destroyers sunk during the Second World War and over 11,000 men who lost their lives as a result. This unique memorial, created by the eminent British Sculptor Kenneth Potts, will mark the very special contribution made by these ships and the men who served in them. The Trustees of the HMS CAVALIER

(Chatham) Trust, who commissioned the memorial, and the trustees of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, invite all those who wish to attend this ceremony to apply for tickets. There will be no charge for attendance. Priority will be given to those who served in Second World War destroyers, particularly anyone who survived their ship being sunk, and family members of those who lost their lives. Some seating will be available. Applications, in writing, to be sent as soon as possible to :

Destroyer Memorial Unveiling and Dedication
c/o Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, The Old Surgery
The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TZ

Giving details of:

- Any particular link with Second World War Destroyer(s) in which the applicant or a family member served.
- Any relationship to someone lost in Destroyers during the Second World War.
- The number of places required and if any of these are wheelchair users.
- Any other mobility issues.
- Contact details, including a daytime telephone number.

Alternatively, a registration form is available from their website, www.thedockyard.co.uk. Those who register, either by post or through the website, will receive tickets and other information by the end of October. At this stage, it is intended that only Destroyer Association Standards will be paraded at the ceremony.

The HMS LOCH FADA Association

25. The 11th HMS LOCH FADA re-union will take place at Mill Rythe Holiday Resort from 7th to 10th March 2008. For details and booking forms contact Bob Harris on 02380-391848 or e-mail bobharrisf390@supanet.com. Details of the HMS LOCH FADA Association can be found at www.hms-lochfada.org.uk.

HMS COSSACK Association

26. All past Ship's Company members of the famous WW2 Destroyer (L03) and the C Class Destroyer (D57) are welcome to join. The next re-union weekend will be in The Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing from 11th-13th April 2008. Family members of those who served on either of the ships are welcome as Associate Members. Contact the Membership Secretary (Doug Parkinson) on 01420-83521 or on dougirene@onetel.com. See also the website www.hmscossackassociation. The 70th anniversary of the "Altmark Incident" falls in 2010 and plans are already underway to mark the event.

Seasonal Greeting from the Uxbridge Branch of the Royal Naval Association

27. The Uxbridge Branch will not be sending Christmas Cards this year because of the high cost of postage. However all Uxbridge Shipmates send warm greetings for a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. The Branch will be making a donation to a local charity in lieu of cards.

28. History Notes

- 1ST Nov 1956 HM Ships NEWFOUNDLAND and DIANA sank Egyptian Frigate DOMIAT (ex-RN River-class Frigate NITH) in Gulf of Suez.
- 2nd Nov 1918 Last two British Merchant Ships (Murcia and Surada) to be sunk in the First World War torpedoed by UC-74 off Port Said.
- 4th Nov 1971 Pennant hauled down at JUFAIR (Bahrain) and post of SNO Persian Gulf (SNOPG) ceased.
- 5th Nov 1956 Carriers withdrew from Suez assault zone having destroyed Egyptian aircraft and sunk four MTBs.
- 6th Nov 1860 Admiral Sir Charles Napier died : "It is seamen, not ships, that constitute a navy".
- 8th Nov 1942 Operation Torch - Landings in North Africa.
- 9th Nov 1914 SYDNEY destroyed the German Cruiser EMDEN at the Cocos Islands. First RAN Battle Honour.
- 11th Nov 1940 Fleet Air Arm attack on Italian Battleships in Taranto Bay.
- 15th Nov 1967 Admiral of the Fleet Lord Chatfield died. Flag Captain to Beatty throughout the First World War and First Sea Lord 1933 to 1938.
- 17th Nov 1869 Opening of the Suez Canal.
- 21 Nov 1918 The German High Seas Fleet (370 warships including 33 battleships and 90,000 men) arrived in Firth of Forth en route to Scapa Flow for internment.
- 23rd Nov 1979 HMS LAYMOOR paid off. Last RN Ship propelled by steam reciprocating engine.
- 25th Nov 1960 Royal Marines (except recruits and bandsmen), authorised to wear the green beret of the Commandos.

- 27th Nov 1978 The last catapult launches in the Royal Navy.
- 29th Nov 1917 WRNS established by Admiralty Office Memorandum No. 254.
- 30th Nov 1944 HMS VANGUARD launched. Christened by Princess Elizabeth, aged 18, but name of ship not published. Last RN Battleship in commission afloat.

James McClurg
General Secretary
Paddy@royalnavalassoc.com

SELF NOMINATION FORM FOR ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL ADVISORY POSTS

NAME:

BRANCH :

MEMBERSHIP TYPE : FULL LIFE/ LIFE/ ASSOCIATE

DATE JOINED THE ASSOCIATION :

I wish to be considered as a candidate for : (Tick appropriately) :

1. National Welfare and Charities Adviser
2. National Ceremonial Adviser
3. National Communications and Public Relations Adviser
4. National Clubs Adviser

and understand that this application must be proposed and seconded by members of the National Council.

Signature:

II

Relevant experience :

Please return this form to the General Secretary by 16th November 2007.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Title Forename(s) Surname

.....

Address (Area no; -----)

.....

..... Post Code

I want the charity to treat all donations I have made from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid Donations

Signature:-

Date:-

Notes

1. If your declaration covers donations you may make in the future:
 - . Please notify the charity if you change your name or address while the declaration is still in force.
 - . You can cancel the declaration at any time by notifying the charity - it will then not apply to donations you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration (see note 1).
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity. Or you can ask you local tax office for leaflet IR113 Gift Aid.

CHRISTMAS CARD ORDER FORM

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Please send me :

.....**Packs of Card A (Christmas from VICTORY)**

at £2-00 per pack. I enclose a cheque to the value of

OR

Please charge my Credit Card. The details are:

Type: Visa, Mastercard etc

Account No.....

Start Date.....Expiry Date.....

Security Code (if applicable).....

RNAS Culdrose has commissioned a 60th anniversary painting depicting many of the aircraft that have served there since 1947.

High quality, full colour laser prints (approx size 57cm x 40cm) of the painting are now offered for sale for £10 each

These would make an ideal gift for anyone with an interest or affiliation with the Fleet Air Arm or RNAS Culdrose

***Prints are available from Glyn Timmins, the Central Amenities Fund Treasurer, on:
01326 552283
e-mail : aocash@culdrose.mod.uk***

Make cheques payable to “Central Fund RNAS Culdrose”

Postal sales welcome just add £2.50 postage and packing