



The Semaphore Circular

No 690

The Beating Heart of the RNA

June 2019



Outgoing First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB ADC signs up to the RNA/RN free transition programme 'Shipmates and Oppos' under the watchful eyes of the Press Gang team Captain Bill Oliphant, General Secretary of the RNA, Mrs Kim Richardson, Greenwich Hospital, who sponsor the programme and Mrs Chrissie Hughes, the programme Deputy Project Manager. Admiral Jones will now be contacted once a year for the next five years just to check on his well-being!

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

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

1. [D Day commemorations Southsea Common 5/8 June](#)
2. [Conference 2019 Information](#)
3. [Raleigh Mentors Coordinator](#)
4. [A Thousand Good Deeds](#)
5. [Important Diary Date](#)
6. [RNVC Series – Lt Cdr John Bridge GC](#)
7. [Guess Where](#)
8. [Victory Squadron – Senior Officers' Rounds](#)
9. [Twitter Ye Not..](#)
10. [Joke Time – Golf Joke](#)
11. [Assistance Please – S/M Terry Day](#)
12. [Veterans Priority NHS Treatment](#)
13. [Armed Forces Pension NI Reduction](#)
14. [Further to the last pipe – AB Parker](#)
15. [Photo Caption Competition](#)
16. [RNRMC – Forces Law – Free Wills](#)
17. [First Defence Finance](#)

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
DGS	Deputy General Secretary
AGS	Assistant General Secretary
CONA	Conference of Naval Associations
NCBA	National Charter, Rules and Byelaws Advisor

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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From the General Secretary

Dear Shipmates,

Well, it's all happening in Portsmouth with the announcement that President Trump is coming on 5th June to accompany Her Majesty for a Heads of State national event to commemorate D-Day 75. There is more detail later in the circular about how veterans can take part but judging by the activity on Southsea Common, it promises to be a big show and, politics aside, it's absolutely right that these Heads of State who are visiting should respect and commemorate the sacrifice made during that monumental and crucial opening of the Western front in WW2.

BBC One will start coverage at 0915, on 5th June, the outline published programme is:

- **1130** National Commemorative event on Southsea Common with veterans, armed forces and VIP's for a BBC program of live music, performance and flypasts. Tight security will prevent general public viewing so large screens will be provided.
- **1245** Royal Navy Frigate will fire a Naval gun salute followed by a fly-past of up to 25 historic and modern aircraft.
- **1600** Red Arrows air display.
- **1825** Royal British Legion's specially chartered ship *MV Boudicca* will set sail from Portsmouth for Normandy with 300 veterans on board. She will be escorted by Type 23 Frigate HMS ST ALBANS. Ships docked in port will pay their respects before the ship emerges into the Solent to be met by a flotilla of Royal Navy vessels who will sail past her and Cheer Ship in the traditional manner. The public have been encouraged to line key vantage points to wave off the veterans as they re-trace the journey they made in 1944.
- **1940** Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will fly over Portsmouth to mark the departure of the Royal British Legion ship.

On 6th June, Portsmouth City Council has published an invitation to veterans to march and parade standards – see the flier at the end of the Circular – so I hope that local Branches will be able to come down and take part. A useful link is here <https://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/d-day-75>



Here in the Dockyard, the yanks have arrived already!

Meanwhile, our France Nord Branch will be flying the RNA flag in Normandy. On 5th June they will be laying a wreath in the Rose Garden by the Peace Museum in Caen, on 6th June on the Landing Beaches of "Sword" and "Colleville-Montgomery" plus the Ferry Terminal Memorial to honour the landing craft crews, and finally on 7th June, joining the Royal British Legion at Luc sur Mer for a town parade. I apologise that your sterling efforts often go unrecognised and I promise to publish a piece in the next edition about your activities.

Of course, back in 2014 when it was the 70th Anniversary of D-Day everyone was telling us that this would be the last large-scale commemoration of these sort of events. How wrong they were and had we realised that the whole Centenary commemorations of WW1 would pique such interest – even without surviving participants – we probably wouldn't have arranged our Annual Conference at the same time or, indeed, would have organised it in Portsmouth. Notwithstanding, I'm very glad to report that

there has been a late charge with delegates for Conference at Wyboston and, as I write, we are up to **67 delegates**, so thank you to the Branches that have responded to our call to come along. There's a ton of work gone into the organisation by No 6 Area and I'm sure it's going to be a great Conference.

Don't forget to discuss the annual report, financial statements and Conference agenda in Branch meetings. Remember that if you have any questions at all – I am delighted to answer them before Conference – or have notice of a question so I can get the best answer to you. This is your Association and Central Office staff are here to assist you, so please feel free to ask.

Wyboston will mark the handover of the National Standard from Bob Coburn to David Corrigan. Bob has been our proud National Standard bearer since 2008 barring a couple of years 2012-14 when Steve Susans held the post. Bob takes up the post of National Ceremonial Advisor and is very much looking forward to keeping us all in line at the Cenotaph for our Biennial Parade.

The 2019 **Biennial Parade** will be held on **Sunday 8 September 2019** at the Cenotaph. Can I ask that Branch and Area Committees include this in their planning and keep the weekend free for attendance at the RNA very special event.

Field Gun Day. 01 Jun, HMS COLLINGWOOD. Even before all of the above, it's well worth considering a day out this weekend to HMS COLLINGWOOD for the annual Field Gun Day. The RNA has a well-positioned pitch adjacent to the Parade Ground which it will establish alongside the RNRMC and, with the able assistance of Pussers Rum, it will serve as a natural hub for any ex-matelot to take a seat and he or she might even be fortunate enough to find a wee tot waiting for them. Rather than overt recruitment, the tent will serve more as a 'benefit of membership.' Of course, it is hoped that this passive seduction might prove a more enticing recruitment model.

Open Days. We have had the first of our open days on Friday 17 May with members from Edinburgh, Manchester, Aylesbury and Horsham. We have a full programme of Open Days over the summer season however there are still places so please assist in spreading the word that these opportunities exist.

LIBOR Minibuses. A reminder to get booking the LIBOR buses for your summer trips. Anyone wanting the bus to shift to their area for a longer period – please give a shout and we'll take a serious look.

Mentors. I had the privilege of visiting the mentors at HMS RALEIGH a few weeks back and it's just super to see the work that this programme delivers and the confidence it brings to the youngsters joining up in Phase 1 of their training. BZ to all involved!! Please note the advert later in the Circular for new mentors.

Finally, a big thank you to Rayleigh Branch for inviting me along to their outing at the Bluebell Railway last month – what fun! You just can't beat the smell of hot oil and steam – do I have a problem?! It's my claim to fame that I could drive a steam engine before I could drive a car so it's no surprise that I started in the Andrew as a clanky Tiffy Apprentice! Jim Hammond (NCM 5 Area) and I found the recruiting sign in the photograph – I've signed Jim up for another 22!



New Recruits!

Best wishes from the Central Office Team, Bill

1. ★ 5-8 June 2019 D Day Commemoration Southsea Common

During the D Day commemorations on Southsea Common from the 5 to 8 June, the RNA will have a meeting place in the Arena area where shipmates and their friends can take refuge from the hot sun/ drizzle/ windy weather. Or you can just meet up there to have your lunch or share a hipflask to refresh the parts only Pussers can reach. (Other rums are available!)

During the events there will be a special commemorative D Day 75 book on sale at the event. For those of you attending Conference this book will be available the special price of £5. At Southsea and thereafter these books will cost you £10 and are good value for money as a souvenir of the occasion.



If you ask Nigel he will be able to get bulk supplies of this book for anyone wanting them to sell on (at a profit) at public events. The RNA will have a good spread in the book so it is worth buying one.

2. Conference 2019 - Information

As Shipmates are aware No 6 Area are hosting this year's Conference 2019 at Wyboston Lakes in Cambridgeshire. What you probably do not know is that there is fantastic website which has been set up to provide you with details of the weekend.

It really is well worth a visit, even if you cannot attend Conference on this occasion.

Please visit: <https://rna-community.com/conference/> for more information.

Also..... Hot of the Press from Nigel.....

At Conference we will be selling the RNA Poppy badge £1 each or 50 pence each for 10 or more. There will also be lots of literature FREE for you to give away , and paper RNA Sailor hats too!

3. ★ Raleigh Mentors new Co-Ordinator

Shipmate Les Yeoman has taken on the role of RNA mentors Coordinator at HMS Raleigh. As volunteers, the mentors work alongside the instructors to help and guide the recruits as they make the transition from civilians to military personnel.

Les left the Royal Navy in 2000 but continued serving with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary until 2010. He became a mentor in 2015. Les is assigned to Nelson Division and makes regular visits to his class during their 10 weeks training. He uses his skills as a Mountain Leader during the exercises on Dartmoor and at Pier Cellars, on the Rame Peninsular, to assist the staff in teaching map and compass work.

There are currently 21 mentors (which includes four ladies), from various 4 Area branches of the RNA. S/M Les hopes to attract more Veterans to join the mentoring team. Meeting new recruits on day one and seeing them smartly turned out at the passing-out-parade in week 10 is very rewarding, having been allowed the privilege of imparting our experience and knowledge.

This includes our involvement in adventurous training and sporting activities at the highest levels and, of course, a considerable amount of 'dits' and sea-stories."

Mentors were introduced at HMS Raleigh in 2008 and Captain Richard Harris, the Commanding Officer of the establishment, said:

"The mentors play a key role in helping us instil the Royal Navy's ethos and core values of commitment, courage, discipline, respect for others, integrity and loyalty, into the recruits. They also give the recruits a better understanding of the commitment required of Service personnel. Their involvement in initial naval training is hugely appreciated by both our recruits and the staff."



Anyone who would be interested in becoming a mentor should contact Les on telephone 07795231397 or email: lesyeo3@gmail.com

4. ★ 'A Thousand Good Deeds' – RNA Falmouth Branch

Falmouth Branch Chairman, Shipmate Mick Stevens has very kindly forwarded the article below which, I think you will all agree, shows the RNA at its very best.

Some years ago the Falmouth Branch was contacted by an antiques dealer stating that he had a silver tray commemorating the death of a Falmouth Royal Naval Rating in WWII, if no one was interested in purchasing it then it would be 'disposed' of to recover the silver content.

The plate commemorates the death of John Kenneth Ainsworth Parnell a Telegraphist; Service number D/JX 194166; Killed In Action on 16 June 1942 at the sinking of HMS Hermoine.



The Falmouth Branch voted unanimously to purchase the plate and preserve it but with no premises of their own to display the four inch diameter plate inside its display case the plate was carried to and from Branch Meetings by Shipmate Mick Stevens. However at a recent monthly meeting the Branch took the decision to donate the plate to Falmouth Town Council where it will be permanently displayed.

It was handed over in a short ceremony following Falmouth Town Councils signing of the Armed Forces Covenant on Wednesday 15 May

2019, the photograph shows Falmouth Town Mayor Grenville Chappell (ex Ganges Boy) receiving the plate from Shipmate Mick Stevens, Chairman of the Falmouth Branch

5. Important Diary Date – Biennial Parade - Whitehall Sunday 08 September 2019

Shipmates just a gentle reminder that the Biennial Parade, which is a designated RNA national event, will take place take place in Whitehall London on Sunday 08 September. Reviewing the March past will be the First Sea Lord. A detailed programme of events will be published in next month's Semaphore Circular.

6. ★ RNVC Series – Lieutenant Commander John Bridge GC, GM & Bar Royal Navy

The George Cross (GC) is the second highest award of the honours system. It is awarded "for acts of the greatest heroism or for most conspicuous courage in circumstance of extreme danger", not in the presence of the enemy, to members of the British armed forces and to British civilians. Posthumous awards have been allowed since it was instituted.

So.....This month's RNVC series features a most worthy winner of a George Cross and George Medal with Bar and is undoubtedly worthy of his own article alongside the VC winners.



Lieutenant Commander John Bridge was born in Lancashire in 1925 and crossed the bar on 14 December 2006 aged 91. After school he read physics at University of London followed by a teaching job in Sheffield. He volunteered to join the RN in 1940.

Lt Cdr Bridge led a squad which defused a bomb with a delayed action fuse in September 1940, for which he received the George Medal followed in March 1941 when he defused 15 bombs, including a bomb which had fallen in the Naval dockyard at HMNB Devonport, for which he received a King's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

In October 1941 he was awarded a bar to his George Medal after defusing a bomb in the docks in Falmouth.

In 1943, he cleared mines and depth charges from Messina harbour in Sicily, preparing the way for the Allied invasion of Italy. He made 28 dives to defuse groups of booby trapped depth charges and rendered safe another 207 mines and depth charges, tethered at or below the waterline. His longest dive during the action lasted twenty hours.

He served as a naval bomb safety officer during the Normandy landings of June 1944, defusing many bombs, mines, and shells. He cleared mines in the river Scheldt and various harbour basins in September of that year and was then posted back to England and promoted to Lieutenant Commander.

For his work in Messina harbour, Bridge was awarded the George Cross in June 1944, although the investiture did not take place until March 1945.

The London Gazette announced the award of a George Cross as follows;

"The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the GEORGE CROSS to; Temporary Lieutenant John Bridge, GM RNVR (Warrington)"

And the citation read:

"For the most conspicuous and prolonged bravery and contempt of death in clearing Messina Harbour of depth charges. The recommending officer stated that he had never before had the fortune to be associated with such cool and sustained bravery as Lieutenant Bridge displayed during the 10 days of the operation."

Bridge received the medal from King George VI at Buckingham Palace on 16 March 1945.

7. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment

Good Luck with this is one

... The answer will be in next month's edition. Remember no hovering or looking in google or Wiki!!!

And so, the answer to May's Guess the Establishment.....

It was.....



The former Dockyard ticket office on South Railway Jetty in Portsmouth Naval Base.

Sadly S/M Leo Whisstock was wrong as he thought it was HMS Ganges.

8. ★ Victory Squadron Senior Officers Rounds – HMS Collingwood

Victory Squadron, HMS Collingwood's Part Two training Division carry out Senior Officers' Rounds three times a year. HMS Collingwood Commanding Officer and Senior Officers attending the Commanding Officer Desig Course (CODC) conduct the rounds, inspecting all Part two trainee's accommodation.



Shipmates may wish to know that the RNA sponsors two of the awards during these rounds; Best Mess and Best Single Bed Space. The awards are presented by an RNA 'VIP' guest. A variety of deserving Shipmates have represented the RNA on these occasions, it is a great opportunity to meet the next batch of sailors just setting off on their Naval careers. Please contact your NCM if you would like to be considered for selection as our 'VIP' representative at Senior Officers' Rounds.



The photos show Shipmates Bob Stanyard and World War Two Veteran Bob Barnet chatting to trainees during Rounds.

Victory Squadron would like to say a big thankyou to both 'Bobs' for traveling from Ferndown to take part in this evolution as the RNA Veterans really add to the sense of occasion which is the main objective of Senior Officers' Rounds.

9. ★ Twitter Ye Not.....

Shipmates may wish to know that the new Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral Nick Hine has joined Twitter. For information there are currently 127 other Service Personnel, Unit's and Organisational accounts currently in use.



He is looking forward to telling you about his work and engaging with Service personnel, Civil servants and Contractors.

You can follow him at [@VAdmNickHine](https://twitter.com/VAdmNickHine)

10. ★ Joke Time - Golf Joke

Ed and Carolyn met while on a singles cruise and Ed fell head over heels for her. When they discovered they lived in the same city only a few miles apart Ed was ecstatic. He immediately started asking her out when they got home.

Within a couple of weeks, Ed had taken Carolyn to dance clubs, restaurants, concerts, movies, and museums. Ed became convinced that Carolyn was indeed his soul mate and true love. Every date seemed better than the last.

On the one-month anniversary of their first dinner on the cruise ship, Ed took Carolyn to a fine restaurant. While having cocktails and waiting for their salad, Ed said, "I guess you can tell I'm very much in love with you. I'd like a little serious talk before our relationship continues to the next stage. So, before I get a box out of my jacket and ask you a life changing question, it's only fair to warn you, I'm a total golf nut.



I play golf, I read about golf, I watch golf on TV. In short, I eat, sleep, and breathe golf. If that's going to be a problem for us, you'd better say so now!"

Carolyn took a deep breath and responded, "Ed, that certainly won't be a problem. I love you as you are and I love golf too; but, since we're being totally honest with each other, you need to know that for the last five years I've been a hooker."

Ed said, "I bet it's because you're not keeping your wrists straight when you hit the ball."

11. ★ Assistance Please – S/M Terry Day – Spalding Branch

Hello Shipmates,

I am trying to raise as much awareness and support as possible for Prostate Cancer, so I hope you don't mind but I am emailing all my contacts. In March I joined the above project, which is Charity Choir in Peterborough, along with guys who like me had no past, or very little singing history.



The whole aim of the project is to show, in such a short time, how with dedication and teamwork, anything is achievable, but mainly to raise awareness and much needed funds to help find a cure for **PROSTATE CANCER**. Should you wish to Sponsor me or just to make a donation, to help rid this terrible curse that takes so many men's lives, donations can be made online at :- www.Virginmoneygivingcommenunitedinsong2019

Rehearsals have been carried out each week for the last nine weeks, with next Wednesday's rehearsal being the last before our Concert next Saturday 11th May 7.30pm, at The Cresset Theatre, Peterborough.

Also performing on the evening, will be The Peterborough Youth Choir and Peterborough Male Voice Choir (who incidentally are performing at the moment in Truro, Cornwall). The whole evening in aid of Prostate Cancer is looking to be a night to remember (they say).

Thank you for reading this and for any support that you can give.

Regards

Terry Day (Spalding Branch Sec).

12. ★ Veterans Priority NHS Treatment



NCM 11 Shipmate Ian McQueen wishes to highlight too Shipmates that you are entitled to priority access for NHS care **relating to conditions associated with their time in the armed forces (service related)**.

Shipmates should ensure that your medical records are annotated with code; C13JY and /or XADCL so that your GP can recover your medical notes from your time in the service. For further detailed information please open this link;

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/military-healthcare/priority-nhs-treatment-for-veterans/#>

13. ★ Armed Forces Pension Reduction Under National Insurance Modification Rules

Captain John Lavery, the CEO of the White Ensign Association, has very kindly forwarded the article below to clarify the situation concerning the reduction of pension under the National Insurance modification rules.

Upon reaching State Retirement Age (SRA) members of the Armed Forces in receipt of AFPS75 and/or AFPS 75/15 are likely to have their Armed Forces Pension reduced if they had served prior to 1 April 1980 and separately if they served prior to 5 April 1997.

The one-off reduction in pension relating to service prior to 5 April 1980 is fairly minimal at a rate of £0.88 for each complete year of Reckonable Service prior to this date. E.g. 10 years = £8.80. This adjustment is made at SRA whether or not an individual actually takes their State Pension or defers it.

The other more significant one-off reduction for service prior to 5 Apr 1997, which takes place only upon drawing State Pension, relates to what is known as Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP). The GMP is the minimum pension which a United Kingdom occupational pension scheme has to provide for those employees who were Contracted Out of the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme (SERPS) between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997. AFPS 75 was a Contracted-Out Scheme. The amount is said to be 'broadly equivalent' to the amount the member would have received had they not been Contracted-Out.

It has recently come to light from a case that Equiniti appear to have been making the adjustments when individuals reach the age of 65 – the old State Retirement Age – and not at when individuals reach their actual revised State Pension start date under the new State Pension introduced in 2016. If you are in receipt of AFPS 75 benefits and have reached your 65th birthday since 1 April 2016 but not yet receiving the new State Pension check to see if your Equiniti Advice of Payment notification has correctly stated “Pension Reduced from State Retirement Age”. If it says “Pension Reduced from Birthday” call Equiniti 0345 121 2514 and seek immediate correction.

14.★ Further to the last pipe..... concerning AB William ‘George’ Parker

Shipmates will remember the lovely article Central Office received from S/M Dick Moon (Chard Branch concerning AB William ‘George’ Parker, the longest serving AB, which was published in last month’s Semaphore Circular. Well CO was delighted to have received another super ‘Eyewitness’ article from one of AB Parker Shipmates HQ Roll member S/M Ken Rydings.

Dear General Secretary,

I served with George on HMS St Kitts between 1950/51, I was a Q/M3, member of No 3 Mess (watchkeepers mess), George was also a member of that Mess.

George did no watchkeeping duties, he was not a member of any part of ship, or any watch, he followed his own routine. His rig of the day was “overalls and leather sea boots”. I possibly saw him in his No1’s only 5 or 6 times during my time on board.

George was a ‘legend’, he was the St Kitts. As I understood his story, he was attached to the Kitts prior to its Commissioning, and never left. It was said that several replacements had been drafted to replace him, but George stayed put. George had his own ‘kaboosh’, and one or two storage spaces, and anything that required wire, rope, or canvas were his responsibility. He never scrubbed his hammock, he replaced it with a new one, and always had someone to give him a tot for the old one. In fact, I had a bespoke hammock provided by George, a bit longer than the Pusser model!

*He rarely went ashore wherever we docked. His only run ashore would be to The Fleet Club in Gib for the Tombola (that did require rig of the day), and also The Flying Angel if we were moored in the destroyer pens, that did not warrant George getting out of his overalls!
George took very little leave, he always made arrangements with a shipmate to send a telegram after an agreed number of days to recall him to the ship.*

His medals and decorations were always a mystery, he never wore them, you could not see them. It was said that the Skipper prior to our Skipper (Cmdr G A G Ormsby), Dolly Gray, requested that as a leaving present George wear his No1s and decorations so that he could see them!! In 1947 the St Kitts acted as escort to HMS Vanguard for the Royal Tour to South Africa. It is said that Lord Mountbatten came on board, and when addressing the ship's company was asked if they knew why a gold steering ball was at the mast head, said "we know why, don't we George). The unknown decoration , said to have been of Russian origin, in my time was attributed to "making a pot mess during a Force 9 "

During a visit to Portugal by the 5th Flotilla in 1950, six Officers were drowned in an accident in Setubal. They were buried in Lisbon, in what was almost a State Funeral. This is when his original rate as bugler was used, he played the Last Post.

George was a legend, he was the St Kitts, he was part of the 5th Flotilla, known throughout the Fleet and the Depots, I don't think we will see his like again in any Navy.

There is one thing that intrigues me, in the article George's medal ribbons are shown, and it includes the yellow and green Korean Medal. I cannot see how he would be eligible for that award. His time on the St Kitts stretches from at least 1947 until 1953 and beyond, I do not think the "yellowish ribbon" mentioned in the original article could be the Korean Medal, as it also would have been accompanied by the United Nations medal.

In conclusion could I add my congratulations to the Project Semaphore team for their recent award, it is entirely due to their efforts that I am able to communicate with you today, I am most appreciative,

Yours aye

S/m Ken Rydings

(Editors Dit - Can anyone provide an answer to this mystery?)

15. ★ Photo Caption Competition



The photo opposite shows three members from Bloxwich Branch about to enter church for the Funeral of a Shipmate who had crossed the bar.....

What do think they were thinking/Saying.....

They have been well and truly stitched up by Bloxwich Hon Sec!

This could be fun.

16. ★ RNRMC – Forces Law - Free Will Writing

The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity has partnered up with Forces Law to offer a free Will writing service. Solicitors have agreed to waive their fees for writing basic Wills in return for a donation to the charity.



Book your appointment now, help us support our sailors, marines and their families for life. For more information, please visit rnrmc.org.uk/make-a-will Or call **Forces Law** on **0845 601 1260** or via email enquiries@forceslaw.com

17. ★ First Defence Finance

First Defence Finance Plane Saver Credit Union strengthens ties with Armed Forces community Plane Saver Credit Union, a member of the Joining Forces partnership, is delighted to announce the launch of First Defence Finance, (<https://www.firstdefencefinance.co.uk>) a new brand targeting serving Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families.

They, have added a [Let's Talk Money](#) section to this new website, to help with financial education, in answer to some common challenges faced by our members, such as 'how to check your credit score' and 'how to find free debt advice' which will be added to on a regular basis. The partnership comprises three credit unions, including Plane Saver Credit Union which has already helped 3,000 serving personnel save over £1 million and borrow £9 million since 2015. The Credit Union also launched a special Payday Payoff loan last year to help service personnel pay off high interest rate payday loans.

As a Silver Covenant holder, the credit union also donated £5,000 to The Royal British Legion, in December to support of the charity's life-changing work.

Visit www.firstdefencefinance.co.uk for more information.

RNA Longcast

2019	
30 May	Inter Service T20 Cricket - Lords
01 Jun	COLLINGWOOD Field Gun Day
05 Jun	D-Day 75 th Anniversary commemorations - Portsmouth
7-9 Jun	Conference – Wyboston Lakes (Area 6)
7 Jun	National Council / AMC/ FAC / SOC Meetings
8 Jun	Main Conference Day – Gala Dinner.
21 Jun	Open Day
29 Jun	Armed Forces Day - Salisbury
25 Jul	Mid-year Budget Review - London
26 Jul	Open Day
03 Aug	Area 3 Meeting - Portsmouth
03 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly - Rayleigh
30 Aug	Open Day
07 Sep	National Council Meeting /AMC./FAC - UJC
08 Sep	Biennial Parade - Whitehall
21 Sep	Area 4 Meeting - Weymouth
11 Oct	Open Day
02 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
08 Nov	2020 Budget Meeting - London
15 Nov	FAC
16 Nov	AMC
23 Nov	Area 3 Meeting - Gosport
07 Dec	National Council Meeting
2020	
01 Feb	Area 5 Quarterly/AGM - Harwich
14 Feb	FAC / SOC
15 Feb	AMC
29 Feb	Area 3 Meeting - Netley
07 Mar	National Council Meeting
TBC Apr/May	National Standard Bearers Competition- HMS Collingwood
02 May	Area 5 Quarterly - Stowmarket
8/10 May	2020 Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations in Londonderry
05/07 Jun	National Conference – Liverpool (Area 10)
05 Jun	National Council / AMC/ FAC / SOC Meetings
01 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly - Norwich
21 Aug	FAC
22 Aug	AMC
12 Sep	National Council Meeting
31 Oct	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
20 Nov	FAC
21 Nov	AMC
05 Dec	National Council Meeting

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA 12 Area](#)
[RNA Uxbridge](#)
[RNA Chatham](#)
[RNA Wrexham / Llangollen](#)
[RNA Wansbeck](#)
[RNA Huntingdon](#)
[RNA Orkney](#)
[RNA Falmouth](#)
[RNA Londonderry](#)
[RNA St Neots](#)
[RNA Romford and Hornchurch](#)
[RNA Plymouth](#)
[Area 2](#)

RNA 12 Area

RNA No 12 Area (Ireland) and the Northern Ireland Branch of the Royal Marines Association held a joint event at the Irish National War Memorial Gardens on Sunday 14 April 2019 to Commemorate the Centenary of the Disbandment of the Royal Naval Division in April 1919.

The venue the Irish National War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge in Dublin were designed by the famous architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and are dedicated "to the memory of the 49,400 Irish soldiers who gave their lives in the Great War, 1914–1918", out of over 300,000 Irishmen who served in all armies.



Two Buglers from the Royal Marines Band Scotland, Si Booth and Sam Beal, led a parade consisting of detachments from the Royal Naval Association, Irish Naval Association, Royal Marines Association, Royal Irish Regiment Association and Royal British Legion Northern Ireland and Republic Of Ireland District Officers. Each detachment was led by their Senior Standard.

The Assembled VIP's and Veterans were welcomed by S/m Robert Buchanan, Chairman No 12 Area (Ireland). He then invited Cdr Rob Milligan MBA CMgr FCMI MRAs RN, the Senior Naval Officer Northern Ireland, to address the parade and he gave an informative speech about the service and sacrifice of the Royal Naval Division.



The Rev David McBeth BEM BTh, Honorary Chaplain, Royal Naval Association (Londonderry Branch) then read from scripture and led the parade in prayers.

The Royal Marine Buglers played the Last Post, Standards dipped and silence was observed



until Reveille was sounded. Wreaths were then laid on behalf of the British Ambassador by Col Darren Doherty, Defence Attaché. Royal Navy by Cdr Rob Milligan SNONI. The Irish Navy and Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM was represented by Capt. Fitzgerald. Royal Naval Association by S/m Paul Stephenson, National Vice Chairman. Irish Naval Association by Bryan Gildea, President. Royal

Marines Association by Brig Richard Spencer CBE MA and Col Barry Barnwell OBE. Royal Irish Regiment Association by Jason Dougherty, Chairman Londonderry Branch. The Royal British Legion by John Stewart Chairman Northern Ireland District, Brian Crawford Vice Chairman Republic of Ireland District and Tracy Gilliland Chairman Women's Section. The wreath laying ceremony was concluded by S/m Buchanan reciting Binyons Ode.

Cdr P C D Campbell LVO OBE DL RN. Life Vice President, Royal Naval Association, read the poem, 'Crossing the Bar' by Alfred Lord Tennyson. The ceremony concluded with the Chaplain giving the blessing and the Parade Commander, Phil McMullan RMA, then dismissed the parade. There were many photo opportunities taken with the Royal Marine Buglers before the attendee's retired to the Garda Boat Club for some refreshments.



Photos courtesy of S/M James McCurdy, Hon Sec , Limavady Branch.

Our thanks to S/M Robert Buchanan for forwarding this article.

RNA Uxbridge

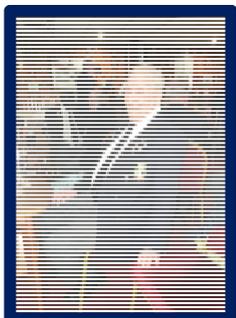
RNA Uxbridge would be delighted to see any Shipmates attending the Biennial Parade on Sunday 8th September. They are already hosting are already hosting 30 members from Waterlooville Branch after the parade with big eats, entertainment and of course Tots.

It is always nice to host visiting Shipmates as now a days they are in short supply at Uxbridge so if any other branches would like to be included after the parade please, or out and about visiting near London please come and visit us. We are conveniently situated just of the M40 at Hillingdon UB10 9PG. To arrange a visit please contact us via e mail rna.uxbridge@Hotmail.co.uk or by phone 01895 230071

Thank you and best wishes, Slinger Woods RNA Uxbridge Hon Secretary

RNA Chatham Branch

Shipmates from Chatham Branch 'Invaded' RNA Gravesend on 23 March 2019 for a Run Ashore! As always Gravesend greeted them with; a warm welcome, great company, Entertainment, Raffle, Sandwiches and Bread Pudding to round off a splendid evening. They really know how to make guests feel welcome and the 'Shipmates of Kent' or 'Kentish Shipmates' wanted to pass on their heartfelt thanks for their hospitality.



Pictures from Port to Starboard, Shipmates- Ron Hudson, Branch Secretary Chris Stout, (Val Ide, Jackie Hughes) and a few jolly Jacks ,(too many to mention)

RNA Wrexham and RNA Llangollen Branches

It is the sad duty of Wrexham Branch to report that the Llangollen Branch laid up their Standard in March 2019, shipmates from the Wrexham and Shrewsbury Branches and the local RBL Branch offered their support on the day.

However, the good news is that the remaining members of Llangollen have transferred to the Wrexham Branch.

Talking of Standards Shipmates of Wrexham Branch started a campaign prior to Christmas to replace the Branch Standard, at nearly 50 years old the standard had seen better days. With contributions from RNA CO, Area 10, Members and the Mayor of Wrexham Community Fund, a new order standard was ordered and was blessed by the Branch Padre Rev Heather Shotton at a St David's Day Social.



In April the Branch visited the Mayor of Wrexham with the new standard. Both the Mayor and Mayoress of Wrexham have been strong supporters of the Branch. The Branch took the opportunity to have the Branch name spelt Bi-lingually

RNA Wansbeck Branch

Shipmates from Wansbeck branch attended the annual ANZAC Day celebrations on 28 April at West Chevington Cemetery in Northumberland.

The event was well attended day with approximately 400 people including a band in attendance.

There were 15 standards on parade, 17 wreaths laid in honour of the fallen plus 32 crosses onto graves that honoured Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and Polish Air forces.



As well as RAF personnel in attendance there were 50 ex service veterans including Shipmates representing Wansbeck Branch along with various regiments, who were able to be in the march past, and some not quite so able in wheel chairs etc.

There was also a guard of honour of 10 + 1 from RAF Boulmer in Northumberland.

RNA Huntingdon Branch



Huntingdon RNA have had a busy time engaging in various activities and events since the last edition of the Semaphore Circular. On the 27th April, S/Ms Bill Small and Graham Murray manned a charity stall at Morrisons in St Ives, they were visited and supported by S/Ms Pete Aston and Andrew Bish. In May, the branch enjoyed our annual visit to Twickenham for the Army v Navy rugby, a great day out even if the army snatched a win.

On the 9th May, S/M Karl Webb, in his town councillor's role, was Appointed Deputy Mayor of Huntingdon with S/M Hilary Meers-Webb as his Deputy Mayoress. The next day, S/M Karl Webb joined other members of No 6 Area for the funeral of our former No 6 Area Treasurer, S/M Ron Woods.



On Sunday 19th May, S/Ms Andrew Bish and Martin Girvan manned another charity stall, this time at Tesco Bar Hill.



Photographs show some of our shipmates at the Army v Navy rugby, S/Ms Karl Webb and Hilary Meers-Webb as the new Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Huntingdon (left, in blue robes), and S/Ms Andrew Bish and Martin Girvan at the charity stall at Tesco Bar Hill.

RNA Falmouth Branch

Following an involvement in the successful implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant at the Royal Cornwall Hospital, Treliske during 2018, resulting in the hospital gaining Veterans Aware accreditation the Falmouth Branch of the Royal Naval Association turned its sights on Falmouth Town Council.



Branch Chairman, Shipmate Mick Stevens, wrote to each town councillor at the beginning of the year asking them to consider signing up to the Covenant. He then attended a full meeting of the Town Council in March accompanied by Rachel Brannigan of Wessex RFCA where the presentation outlined the benefits to both the Town Council, serving personnel, veterans and their families. Falmouth Town Council then voted unanimously to sign up to the Covenant.

This culminated in a ceremony on Wednesday 15 May 2019 where Brigadier 'Jock' Frazer

RM, Naval Regional Commander South West signed on behalf of the MOD with Town Mayor, Grenville Chappell, (ex Ganges Boy), signing on behalf of the town.

Falmouth Royal Naval Association Chairman, Shipmate Mick Stevens, is shown on the left of the group photograph behind the Lady Mayoress, Mrs June Chappell.

RNA Londonderry Branch

The annual BoA events were held over the weekend 11/12 May 2019 in Londonderry.

Saturday 11th May:

The BoA Commemoration Dinner was held in the Royal British Legion Club, Londonderry. VIP's included the Deputy Mayor of the City, Councillor Derek Hussey, Lord and Lady Hay of Ballyore, Cdr Rob Milligan, Senior Naval Officer Northern Ireland and Cdr Peter Campbell, LVO OBE DL RN, National Life Vice President RNA.



No 12 Area (Ireland) Standard and Londonderry, Belfast and Submariners Branch Standards, were piped in by the Branch Ceremonial Officer S/m Billy Doherty and received by No 12 Area President, Cdr Campbell and No 12 Area Chairman S/m Buchanan.

S/m Buchanan welcomed the VIP's, guests from the RBL and Shipmates from other branches, Belfast, East Antrim, Beccles and NI Submariners. On completion of an excellent dinner, Cdr Campbell read a letter of greeting from our patron, Her Majesty the Queen and proposed the Loyal Toast. Cdr Milligan then proposed a toast to The Royal Navy and its Veterans. The evening continued with lamp swinging, dancing and

refreshment to a late hour! A huge well done and thank you to S/m Eric Mitchell, Branch Vice Chairman, for organising the catering.

Sunday 12th May:

The Parade mustered at 10.00 at the RBL Club and marched off at 10.30 led by the Churchill Band, eleven Standards, RNA Shipmates, other Veterans Associations, the Londonderry unit of the Combined Cadet Force, (Naval Section) and a detachment of Sea Cadets from TS Duke of York, Portrush. They made their way the short distance to All Saints Church Clooney for the annual Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration Service and Act of Remembrance. The Rector, Rev David McBeth, Hon Chaplin of Londonderry Branch, welcomed the Lord Lieutenant of the City Of Londonderry, Dr Angela Garvey and other VIP's and Organisations.



Rev McBeth gave a very interesting address to a packed congregation. The lessons were read by Shipmates Cdr P Campbell and R Buchanan. Still was piped by S/m Frank Brown, the Act of Remembrance was observed, and Wreaths were laid by Cdr Rob Milligan RN, S/m Robert Buchanan RNA and S/m Billy Doherty MN. The Standards were returned and the National Anthem was played.

The Parade was formed up and marched off, the Salute was taken en-route by the Lord Lieutenant, Dr Garvey, accompanied on the dais by the Deputy Mayor, Cdr Milligan and the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet. On return to the RBL Club the parade was thanked by the Area Chairman and dismissed.

Before a light lunch was enjoyed by the assembled personnel, there was a presentation to a long serving member of Londonderry Branch. Cdr Campbell presented S/m Eddie Lavery with a token of the branch's appreciation as S/m Eddie had stood down after more than 20 years' service as Branch Treasurer.

Londonderry Branch wishes to thank everyone who supported BoA 2019.

Photos courtesy of S/m Frank Brown Londonderry and S/m James McCurdy Limavady



<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2448573831861359&set=a.2448573258528083&type=3&theater>

Finally, One for your Diary.....Battle of the Atlantic 2020.

Planning is at an advanced stage for BoA 2020. This will be another major event over three days, Friday 8th May, Saturday 9th May and Sunday 10th May 2020. We will, once again, welcome our international visitors and shipmates from near and far as we commemorate BoA 2020 and the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

For more information contact S/m Frank Brown at frankjf22brown@gmail.com and cc to S/m Robert Buchanan at castlecooley@hotmail.co.uk

RNA St Neots Branch

The branch collected for 'good causes' at the Eaton Socon May Day event on the 6 May 2019. Stand support from members was excellent as you can see here in the photo the Shipmates looking very happy at the outcome!



From Left are S/Ms- Tony Webley, Geoff Patterson, Yvonne Webley, Maureen Ridley and Helen Patterson. In the rear, holding the fort, are S/Ms Jim Lawson and Mick Noble

Attendance at the stand was very healthy and the branch were startled when a lady pensioner insisted on donating £10 but refused to draw a ticket! (Despite our protestations and entreaties). The RNA stand was also a favourite of the local dignitaries and S/M Keith Ridley, recovering from an op, also gave moral support.

One chap came to the stand having already won 3 bottles of wine elsewhere and, shiver me timbers, he also won another bottle at the RNA stand as well! One measure of success was that of 40 adult prizes only one was left at the end of the day. The children's section was, as always kept busy, and the ever popular sailors hats were given out, which drew others to the stand.

RNA Orkney Branch

Central Office received the letter below from Shipmate Dave Hughes, Chairman at Orkney Branch, concerning their policy in laying of wreaths over a wreck.

Over 2,000 sailors lie in the waters around Orkney and their Sea Graves are under the protection of the RNA Orkney Branch. Our Duty is clear, as a Branch we will remember these sailors and honour the service they gave to our country and we do this all year round. Where possible on the anniversary of the Ship's sinking we attend at the wreck site to lay a wreath and salute their memory.

Over the last few months our Branch has debated the use of plastic wreaths being thrown into the waters above the Sea War Grave, we feel this is not the way to proceed as we know it involves some measure of pollution and therefore not fitting to honour our fallen shipmates.

Our Branch agreed to only lay a wreath at the Ship's Memorial stone ashore and with our Branch Standard we will Salute and remember these lads. Over the wreck site we will toss into the water bio-degradable poppy petals as a further act of remembrance.

This now RNA Orkney Branch Policy but we do not criticise others who cannot achieve this.

RNA Romford and Hornchurch Branch

S/M Brian 'Popeye' Johnson has kindly forwarded the article below;

On 9 May Shipmates from the Branch attended the Russian Victory Day service in the grounds of the Imperial War Museum. Vice President S/M Popeye Johnson with S/M Ernie Davis, who was proudly wearing his 'white beret' both laid wreaths for the fallen, the Branch Standard was carried by Vice Chairman Simon Moore along with S/M Helen Harris representing the Ladies Club. Lord Admiral West and the Russian Ambassador were also in attendance. Shipmates enjoyed the reception afterwards sampling many Russian culinary delights and a strange clear drink known as Vodka as opposed to Pussers! Shipmates did admit had had very similar effects to Pussers.....

It is with regret that the branch lost one of its long-standing members. Shipmate Tony Lovegrove who had served in the Royal Artillery and had been an Associate member of the branch since 1986. After leaving the Army he became well know in the East End as the co-ordinator of the RNLi and on Remembrance Day would carry the RNLi Standard along with his wife Shirley, who carried the Merchant Navy Standard.

As a mark of respect the branch managed to obtain a Royal Artillery Flag to drape over his coffin at his funeral. He will be missed by his fellow Shipmates at Romford and Hornchurch.

RNA Plymouth Branch

A Gentle Reminder from Social Sec Sue. Trafalgar Dinner, Plymouth Branch are holding their 12th Biennial Trafalgar Weekend 2019 at the 'The Livermead House Hotel', Torquay on the weekend 11th to 13th October 2019. The branch would like to invite shipmates to join them.

"An exceptional weekend, fine cuisine at an outstanding venue"

Bed, Breakfast, Evening Meal with a formal Saturday Night. 3 nights £190, 2 nights £130, 1 night £65.

Deposit £20 (non- returnable). Balance August 2019.

Details from: Sue Gutteridge (Social Sec)

suzanne5571@virginmedia.com or T. (01752)

849176



Area 2

Please see below a list of Area 2 Events for 2019. Also see www.rna2arae.org

Tue 25 Jun 19	Chatham Sea time Boat Trip - Queenborough to Whitstable.
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Sat 29 Jun 19	*Armed Forces Day Great lines Gillingham
Sun 7 Jul 19	*09:30 Bromley Sea Service Holy Trinity Church.
Sun 14 Jul 19	*14:00 Area 2 Sea Service Maidstone Civil service club.ME14 5AZ. Charles Lucas V.C. Memorial service Mereworth Church
Sat 20 Jul 19	11:00 Area 2 Committee Bromley RNA.
Sun 21 Jul 19	Reigate RNA. HMS Amethyst Memorial parade. Sec for details
Sat 10 Aug 19	19:00 Ashford Summer Soiree Railway club Ashford
Sat 17 Aug 19	13:00 Area 2 Delegates Sittingbourne, The Appleyard. 19:00 Maidstone RNA Quiz Night
Tue 3 Sep 19	*Chatham Drill Shed Memorial service. Merchant Navy Day.
Sun 08 Sep 19	*RNA Biennial parade Whitehall London.
Sat 21 Sep 19	19:30 Sevenoaks RNA Fish & Chip supper social evening.
Sat 28 Sep 19	Early Trafalgar Night Dinner, Inn on the Lake Shorne. DA12 3HB
Sat 12 Oct 19	11:00 Area 2 Committee Bromley RNA.
Sat 19 Oct 19	Trafalgar Dinner King Charles Hotel Gillingham
Sat 16 Nov 19	13:00 Area 2 Delegates Whitstable.
Items marked with a Star * means Standards are invited	

CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Charles Henry Wright](#)

[Arthur John Shirley Knocker](#)

Charles 'Shiner' Henry Wright – Stroud Branch

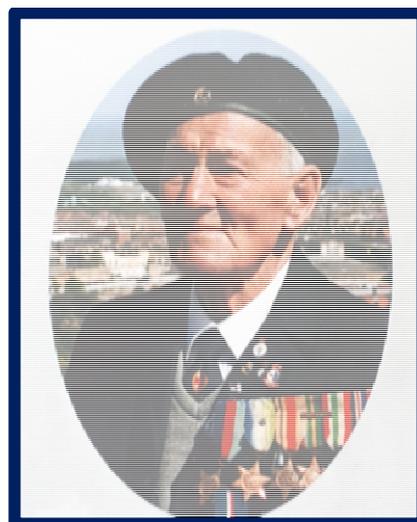
Shipmate Shiner Wright was born on 1 July 1919 and crossed the bar on 7 April 2019 aged 99 years and 9 months. He was the President of Stroud Branch RNA and was one of the Founder members in 1986.

He joined the Royal Navy on 12 November 1935 and left on 5 May 1948, He served on 11 ships; HMS Impregnable, HMS Ganges, HMS Royal Sovereign, HMS Hardy, HMS Montrose, HMS Prince of Wales, HMS Dorsetshire, HMS Drake, HMS Polruan, HMS Whelp, HMS Nigeria.

After joining HMS Prince of Wales on 18 December 1940, the ship was sunk on 10 December 1941 by the Japanese. Obviously, Shiner survived and went on to join HMS Dorsetshire which was also sank by the Japanese on 5 April 1942. He spent 36 hours in the sea before being rescued.

When he crossed the bar, we believe he was the penultimate survivor from HMS Prince of Wales.

After leaving the Navy, he became caretaker for the local primary school, where he stayed for 35 years. He was quite a character and very well known in Stonehouse, riding his treasured bicycle everywhere, until about 2 years ago when he obtained a mobility scooter.



Shiners funeral service was well attended with standing room only and included the First Lieutenant from the current HMS Prince of Wales who flew down from Rosyth. His family are due to visit the ship to present memorabilia from the first HMS Prince of Wales.

He will be missed by many.

Arthur Knocker – Paddock Hill Branch

Arthur Knocker crossed the bar on 14 March 2019 aged 92.

Arthur had a long and distinguished career in the Royal Navy. He joined the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, as a cadet aged 13 in January 1941. In September the following year the College was bombed and partially destroyed by German aircraft and after some delay Arthur's training was resumed at Eaton Hall, the Duke of Westminster's home near Chester which had been commandeered by the Government. Arthur joined his first ship, HMS Newfoundland in September 1944 and in April 1945 the ship was attached to the British Pacific Fleet.

With the war over in September 1945, Arthur was appointed to HMS Teazer and returned to the UK. Upon completing his Sub Lieutenants course he then joined HMS Wild Goose on which he served for over 2 years in the Persian Gulf. During the 1950s he served in HMS Finnisterre, HMS Vanguard, HMS Rocket and HMS Albion. In 1961 he went to the Far East as Flag Lieutenant and Staff Signal Officer to Flag Officer (2) FES and during his time there he served in HMS Belfast, HMS Bulwark, HMS Centaur, HMS Ark Royal and HMS Tiger. There followed appointments with the MOD on the staff of Director Naval Signals, to NATO, HQ in Brussels as Commander on the International Military Staff and finally back to the UK where he once again joined the Signals Staff at MOD. Arthur retired from the Royal Navy in April 1977.

Arthur became President of Paddock Wood RNA from the start in 1990 and only stepped down a number of years later due to ill health. He remained a staunch supporter of the Branch and was always interested in what was going on, receiving Minutes of our meetings each month.

He will be much missed by his Shipmates at Paddock Wood.

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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!.

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- RAC Breakdown and recovery service
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Shortcast

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 £2,400 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh and by the way their service is first class as well.

Fri 7th Jun 2019	Fleet Air Arm Buccaneer Association	Royal Court Hotel Coventry
Sat 29 Jun 2019	Those interested can access more information via the following link: www.tiffs-reunion.org.uk Or they can apply for tickets by emailing their Tiffy credential to: sultan2019@tiffs-reunion.org.uk	HMS Sultan
Sat 7th Sep 2019	847 NAS HMS SIMBANG 69 - 71 Association cliff.jones1948@gmail.com	Aztec Hotel Bristol
Fri 20/23 Sep 2019	HMS Ulster Reunion in Torquay. Details can be found at - https://www.candoo.com/ulsternorrie/reunions.html .	TLH Toorak Hotel, Torquay
Fri 20 /22 Sep 2019	RNCCA Reunion (50 th Anniversary) – RNCCA (50th Anniversary) Annual Reunion, Dinner Dance and AGM. Royal Beach Hotel Southsea, Hants honsec@rncca.org.uk < mailto:honsec@rncca.org.uk >	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
Fri 04 Oct 2019	HMS Lowestoft Association	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
Fri 04 Oct 2019	HMS Troubridge (Final Commission 66/69)	Adelphi Liverpool
Fri 04-7 Oct 2019	HMS Ajax & River Plate Veterans Association 2019 Reunion. Annual reunion for all who served on WW2 cruiser and F114 frigate. All are welcome including wives/partners/guests AGM, Up Spirits & Gala Dinner on Saturday Visit Chatham Historical Dockyard on Sunday Book through Isle of Wight Tours - enquires@iowtours.com or Contact Malcolm Collis - malcolm.collis@gmail.com	Holiday Inn Coniston, Sittingbourne, Kent
11/12 Oct 2019	Type 21 -10 th Anniversary Reunion .	RBL Crownhill Plymouth

	<p>Friday 11 Oct – Venue TBC Saturday 12 Oct - Saturday 12th October, RBL Crownhill, Tailyour Rd, Plymouth PL6 5DH,AM AGM, followed by main event from 1900 - 2345 great raffle prizes, a hot buffet will be laid on and a tot. Cost will be £22 via Eventbrite details to follow. For further information please email Paul Gower at type21clubpro@gmail.com 07446 196733</p>	
11-14 Oct 2019	<p>HMS Llandaff Association Reunion will take place in Eastbourne. Please contact kevin.wood@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 01895 230071</p>	Eastbourne
Fri 25/Mon 28 th Oct 2019	<p>The Survey Ships Association will be holding its twenty fifth reunion at the Mecure Chester North, Woodhey House Hotel Cheshire. From the W/E Friday 25th October – Monday 28th October 2019. For information on membership and reunion please send a SAE to: The Secretary SSA 16 Quay Ostend Cliff Park Great Yarmouth Norfolk NR31 6TP. E mail: secretary@surveyships.org.uk Phone number 07974156996</p>	Mercure Chester North
Sat 09 Nov 2019	<p>Fisgard Association AGM and Lunch</p>	Portsmouth, RMC
22/25 Nov 2019	<p>The 2019 Reunion of the HMS Relentless Association will be held over the weekend of 22nd - 25th November 2019 at the Hotel Royale, Bournemouth. All ex- 'Rusty R' members 1942-1968 are very welcome. For more information please contact the Association Secretary (email) Secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk <mailto:Secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk> (Tel: 02392 599640), or book direct with SFEVENTS (email) hmsrelentlessreunion@sarahfletcherevents.co.uk <mailto:hmsrelentlessreunion@sarahfletcherevents.co.uk> (Tel: 01452 813173)</p>	Hotel Royale Bournemouth
Sun 1st Dec 2019	<p>H.M.S. Ajax & River Plate Veterans malcolm.collis@gmail.com</p>	Trip to South America

Swinging the Lamp – June 2019

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	1998	Lt Katherine Babbington, first woman to win the Queen's Sword at Dartmouth, presented with the sword by Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace. Lt Babbington was serving in Sandown in the Gulf when Divisions were held.
2nd	1854	Parliament passed an Act 'to empower the Commissioners of the Admiralty to construct a tunnel between H.M. Dockyard at Devonport and H.M. Steam Yard at Keyham'.
3rd	1747	Captains who were not to be employed again were automatically promoted to flag rank and became 'Superannuated Rear-Admirals'. Nicknamed the Yellow Squadron.
4th	2007	Universal right to elect trial by court martial. Any officer or rating whose offence was capable of being tried summarily could henceforth elect for court martial instead. RN Regulating Branch re-mustered as RN Police. Regulating ranks and rates unchanged. New slides and boards for officers and ratings with RN Police added to standard designs first shipped on 17 December 2008.
5th	1939	Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham arrived at Alexandria in cruiser Penelope and took over next day from Admiral Sir Dudley Pound as C-in-C Mediterranean.
6th	1944	<p>D-Day</p> <p>Ships taking part in the Operation - of which 78 per cent were British (including Canadian), 17 per cent were American, and 5 per cent were French, Norwegian, Dutch, Polish and Greek. Over 10,000 Royal Marines took part, including 5 RM CDOs, an Armoured Support Group, an RM Engineering CDO, Landing Craft Obstruction Units, signallers, drivers etc. Marines manned two-thirds of the assault landing craft.</p> <p>Warships 1,212</p> <p>Landing Ships and Craft 4,026</p> <p>Ancillaries 731</p> <p>Merchant Vessels 864</p> <p>Total 6,833</p>

7th	1973	Second Cod War. First collision between frigate Scylla and the Icelandic Coastguard vessel Aegir. Eleven further collisions were to follow.
8th	1915	King George V opened Rosyth Dockyard.
9th	2005	The bow section of Daring, the first Type 45 destroyer, built by Vosper Thornycroft in Portsmouth Dockyard, left Portsmouth on a barge for the Clyde where it was united with the ship's main hull at BAE Systems yard at Scotstoun.
10th	1960	'A case has occurred in which items of officers' clothing have been damaged whilst stored in their cabin wardrobes. The damage was attributed to intermittent rubbing of the clothes against fittings which projected inside the wardrobes, resulting in excessive wear of clothes in direct contact with such items . . . Commanding Officers of HM Ships are to arrange for all officers' wardrobes to be examined . . .' – AFO 1549/60.
11th	1847	Sir John Franklin, naval officer and Arctic explorer, died on his ill-fated expedition in Erebus and Terror to find the North–West Passage. While his fate was still uncertain he was promoted to rear-admiral of the blue 26 October 1852. When it was ascertained that he had died earlier, the Admiralty annulled the promotion and removed his name.
12th	1652	Capt Sir George Ayscue (Rainbow) with a squadron of four men-of-war and seven hired merchantmen, captured six ships of the Dutch outward-bound Portuguese trade off Lizard Head.
13th	1514	Henry VIII launched Henry Grace à Dieu at Woolwich and paid the Chaplain who blessed her 6s 8d.
14th	1853	Chief Petty Officers. Admiralty Circular No. 121: 'My Lords consider that it would improve the discipline of her Majesty's ships, and be in other respects advantageous to the Service, to establish a class of Chief Petty Officers, and they therefore direct that the following be established accordingly: Chief petty officers – Masters-at-Arms, Chief Gunner's Mate, Chief Boatswain's Mate, Admiral's Coxswain, Chief Captain of Forecastle, Chief Quarter-Master, Chief Carpenter's Mate, Seamen's Schoolmaster, Ship's Steward, Ship's Cook. As an inducement to render themselves proficient in all branches of their duty . . . My Lords are pleased to direct that a higher class of able seamen be established under the denomination "leading seamen" . . . to be exempted from corporal punishment, except by sentence of a court martial, or for mutiny.'
15th	1944	Sickle sunk by mine in Aegean. The forty-fifth and last submarine lost in the Mediterranean.
16th	1987	Warrior (1860) arrived at Portsmouth. Ex-Hulk C77, removed from the Navy List as Vernon III in 1904, ex-Warrior, second of the name.
17th	1918	Lychnis, the only First World War Q-ship to serve in Second World War, sank U-64 off southern Sardinia (38.07N, 10.27E).

18th	1940	RNAS Yeovilton (HMS Heron) commissioned. 'The new fighter training station . . . was nothing but three runways in an ocean of mud.' – Capt Eric Brown, Wings on my Sleeve, p.12.
19th	2003	Albion, Capt Peter Hudson RN, commissioned at Devonport in the presence of her sponsor, HRH The Princess Royal and Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, Captain of the previous Albion.
20th	1982	Illustrious commissioned. The first RN warship to be commissioned at sea.
21st	1997	Cdr Charles Eckersley-Maslin, naval aviator, died aged 96 in Tasmania. In 1918, lying about his age, he enlisted in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and was wounded in France. Found to be still only 16, he was returned to Bedford School 'where he was treated with some awe'. Served five years in RAF; resigned his reserve commission in February 1939 and joined the Royal Navy as a lieutenant-commander. Wartime service in carriers in Far East and Mediterranean and commanded HMS Simbang, the RNAS in Singapore, during Korean War. Father of Rear-Admiral David Eckersley-Maslin.
22nd	1841	Trafalgar, first rate, launched at Woolwich in the presence of HM Queen Victoria and HRH Prince Albert by Nelson's niece, Lady Bridport, using a bottle of wine which had been in Victory at Trafalgar. The figurehead is in the RN Museum, Portsmouth.
23rd	1915	First successful action of a RN decoy ship in anti-submarine operations. Disguised trawler Taranaki, Lt H.D. Edwards, towing submerged submarine C 24, Lt F.H. Taylor, intercepted by U-40, Kapitanleutnant Gerhardt Furbringer, off Aberdeen. U-boat put a shell across her bows and the trawler's crew simulated panic. Telephone link to C 24 failed and she could not slip her end of the tow. Taranaki therefore cast off her end and with 100 fathoms of 3.5-in wire hawser, 100 fathoms of coir hawser and 200 fathoms of telephone cable trailing from her bows C 24 torpedoed U-40 (57.00N, 01.50W). C 24 surfaced but had twenty turns of the telephone cable wrapped around her propeller shaft.
24th	1340	Battle of Sluys, Edward III (Thomas) captured or destroyed the whole of the French fleet of about 200 vessels in the Zwyn, thus pre-empting a French descent on England, and recaptured the Christopher. His letter of 28 June to the Black Prince may count as the first naval dispatch.
25th	1908	Indomitable commissioned. First battlecruiser and first of the name.
26th	1857	Queen Victoria held the first VC investiture in Hyde Park, decorating sixty-two of the eighty-five men gazetted. Thirteen of the twenty-seven RN and RM recipients had been attached to Naval Brigades.
27th	1734	First official recognition of the title Commodore as a temporary rank made by King George II. 'Our Will and Pleasure therefore is . . .

		That Commodores with Broad Pendants have the same Respects as Brigadiers General, which is, to have one Ruffle.'
28th	2005	<p>2005 HM The Queen reviewed an international fleet at Spithead from the Antarctic patrol ship Endurance led by the THV Patricia. HM Ships present:</p> <p>Albion, Archer, Bangor, Blazer, Bulwark, Cattistock, Cardiff, Chatham, Cumberland, Endurance, Enterprise, Example, Exeter, Explorer, Gloucester, Gleaner, Grafton, Grimsby, Invincible, Illustrious, Iron Duke, Lancaster, Ledbury, Marlborough, Middleton, Montrose, Nottingham, Ocean, Pembroke, Puncher, Raider, Ramsey, Ranger, Roebuck, Scott, Shoreham, Sovereign, Southampton, St Albans, Tracker, Trafalgar, Trumpeter, Turbulent, Tyne, Walney, Westminster. RFAs Argus, Fort George, Fort Victoria, Hurst Point, Orangeleaf, Sir Bedivere, Sir Galahad, Sir Tristram, Wave Ruler, HMAS Anzac, HMCS Montreal.</p>
29th	1950	<p>The Communist North Korean Army attacked the South Koreans across the 38th parallel. Within a week the Royal Navy was operating in Korean waters, sinking coastal shipping and attacking communications ashore. The Chinese reinforced the North Koreans and advanced into North Korea during the winter, driving the United Nations forces back. Allied sea power was used to the full, both in launching seaborne air attacks against North Korean forces, and in evacuating and landing troops as required. Russian-built MiG jet fighters were deployed against the Fleet Air Arm in Korea.</p> <p>Lt P. Carmichael shot down the first Russian MiG to be destroyed by the Royal Navy and, remarkably, by a piston engined aircraft.</p>
30th	1997	<p>Hong Kong returned to China at midnight. Prince of Wales and former Governor, Mr Chris Patten, embarked in HM Yacht Britannia at 0022 1 July, completing British withdrawal. Ship sailed at 0045 and, with Royal Marine band playing 'Rule Britannia' and 'Jerusalem', amplified by ship's broadcast, she led Chatham, Peacock, Starling, Plover and RFA Sir Percivale out of harbour. Group rendezvoused with seventeen ships of Ocean Wave Task Group commanded by Rear-Admiral Alan West, which had been standing by over the horizon. All ships steamed past Britannia on 1 July.</p>

Dear Shipmates,

Please see below an invitation from Portsmouth City Council. For further information please see contact details at end of invitation.

Kind regards
Andy



On behalf of the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth and the Portsmouth South branch of the Royal British Legion, I would like to invite you and members of your association to the Memorial Service at the D-Day Stone, Southsea Esplanade on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day on Thursday 6th June 2019 at 10:45am. This annual Service is being jointly organised by the Royal British Legion and Portsmouth City Council.

The Service will be attended by veterans from across the city who will march to the Stone, preceded by a platoon from the Royal Marines Cadets. The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines will lead the parade.

FORMAT

Marching veterans are asked to assemble at Canoe Lake car park, Southsea Esplanade where you will be marshalled by the Veteran's Parade Commander, Spike Redwood. Toilet facilities and first aid will be available in this area.

The parade will be led by the Standards, so we ask that your Standard Bearer assembles at the front of the parade. The Standard's Parade Commander will be available to brief your Standard Bearer on arrival.

Non-marching veterans should go directly to the D-Day Stone near South Parade Pier where seats will be provided.

The march from Canoe Lake Car Park to the D-Day Stone is approximately 500 – 600 metres.

Veterans in wheelchairs are very welcome to take part in the parade.

The Service will be conducted by the Revd Canon Bob White. Towards the end of the Service there will be an opportunity to lay wreaths; please allow the official wreath layers to go forward first, Father Bob will then invite you to make your way to the Stone if you wish to lay a wreath.

After the Service, the parade will form up on the road, and march past the saluting dais. The Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire has kindly agreed to take the salute.

TIMINGS

By 10.15am Veterans assemble at Canoe Lake car park.

10.20am Parade marshal forms up the parade.

10.30am Parade step off, led by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines

10.50am D-Day Service begins

11.30am Parade forms up and marches past.

In the event of wet weather, the event will carry on as planned above.

DRESS

All those taking part are invited to wear Regimental Blazers, berets and medals where appropriate.

PARKING

Parking is available free of charge for veterans in the Canoe Lake Car Park. Alternate parking is available free of charge on Castle Field (next to the Pyramids Car Park). Please note that all other guests will be charged to park in either of these parking locations. Please show your medals to the parking officer who will allow you access. Buggies will be available at both car parks to transport you to the D-Day Stone if required.

Alternatively there is plenty of free on street parking around Canoe Lake. Please note that road closures will be in place on St Helen's Parade and Southsea Esplanade around the D-Day Stone area from 06:00am so to access Canoe Lake car park or the on street parking at Canoe Lake you will need to approach from the Eastney end of the city.

I do hope you and members of your association will be able to join us on this occasion. I would be grateful if you can let me know numbers of veterans attending from your association by Monday 3rd June 2019 at the latest. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 023 9268 8938.

Should you wish to find out further information about the events in Portsmouth, please visit our website: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/documents-external/d-day-75-programme.pdf>

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Events Manager



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