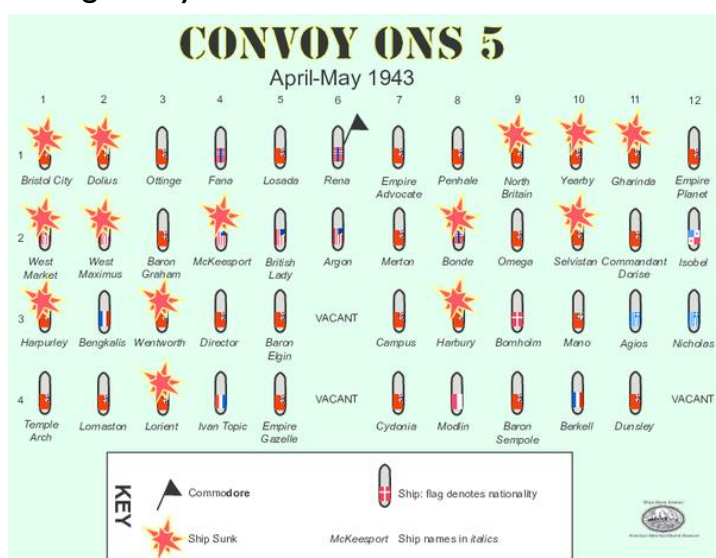




GREETINGS SHIPMATES Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well and enjoying the lovely weather of late (tempting fate?). As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in future Shorts, email the team [here](#). Whilst all contributions will be considered, please note that this is a short update newsletter and we can't publish everything. Some content may be used for inclusion in the next Circular.

RNA LOTTERY – win up to £25,000 and support the RNA at the same time, more details available on this [link](#). There is a form [here](#) for those shipmates without internet access.

FIRESIDE CHATS Tonight's chat will be given by Vice-Admiral Mike Gretton who will cover the first WWII Tonnage War and in particular, Convoy ONS-5, which was hounded and attacked by between 40 and 60 German U-Boats during the crossing from Liverpool to Halifax in April/May 1943. The image shows the disposition of the ONS-5 ships in the convoy and those sunk (picture credit Joshua Smith – Academia). Next week's chat (26th June) will be given by Richard Jones and will cover the sinking of the SS Lulworth Hill which was sunk by an Italian submarine in March 1943. Fireside chats take place every Monday at 18:30 and to access the chats, log into zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.



BFRS NATIONAL CAREERS FAIRS BFRS (British Forces Resettlement Service) are an independent Community Interest Company that provides employment advice and services to serving and former members of the UK military. They will be holding National Careers Fair at [Tidworth](#) on 14 September and [Catterick](#) on 23 November. Click the respective links for more information. For more detail on BFRS, visit [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS At a recent Royal Naval Association Area 4 meeting, held in Bodmin, Cornwall it almost seemed like there were more presentations than you could shake a stick at! Following the recent highly successful Area 4 Flotilla Reunion, in Bideford, funds raised in excess of £2,000. Blind Veterans was gifted £1,000 from Mike Lawton, the Committee Chairman. This was gratefully accepted by Fay Lawton on their behalf. Another charity to benefit was Help for Heroes and the £1,000 cheque was presented to H4H Ambassador and Hon. Secretary for Bodmin, Annette Laurie (pictured). Sea Cadets Bridgewater was given a donation of £100 as a thank you for the use of their training facilities, used throughout the year for the RNA's standard bearers training and competition. And finally, recent retiree from the Area 4 Committee, Christine Payne aged 93, is to be awarded a lifetime Vice Presidency for all her exceptional work to the Area – her recent story was published in the [May Navy News](#) (P31). Before the meeting finished on a high note of Cornish Cream teas and pasties, there was a very successful rum raffle and other tasty treats, raising £522 for the Bodmin Branch which was attended by many branches and Councillor Phil Cooper, the Mayor of Bodmin, who gave a history of military links with Bodmin and the Royal Navy.



RNA AT DARTMOUTH As part of our continued drive to increase awareness and membership of the Association, our General Secretary and Shipmate Dave MacAskill, our engagement officer, paid a visit to BRNC to attend the recent Family's Day. The team got to meet the Officer Cadets and their families on what proved to be a very worthwhile and enjoyable day. The RNA is a rank blind organisation and this first of many trips to BRNC Dartmouth is important to align with the work we already do with the new recruits and families at HMS Raleigh.



NEW NAVAL BOOK SHOP – GOSPORT For those living in the Gosport area, a new naval bookshop has opened in the bus station, opposite the ferry ticket office. The shop has a wide variety of naval themed books and RNA members have been given a 10% discount on all cover price books bought. The shop opens from 09:00 – 13:00 Mon-Sat.

AND FINALLY.....

CPO(PTI) JUMPER COLLINS COMPETES IN THE MINE CLEARANCE EVENT IN THE 1952 ALTERNATIVE GAMES

