

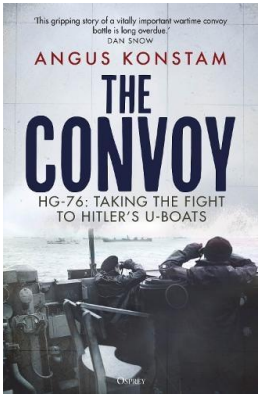
# ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION SEMAPHORE SHORT

FRIDAY  
OCTOBER 20th  
2023

**GREETINGS SHIPMATES** Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well. As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in future Shorts, email the team [here](#). If you are sending a document, please also attach any embedded pictures separately. Whilst all contributions will be considered, please note that this is a short update and we can't publish everything. Some content may be used for in the next monthly Circular.

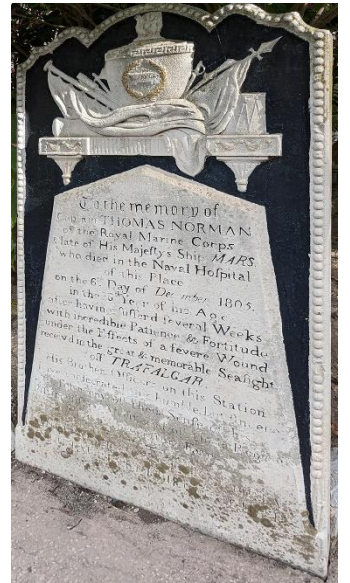
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**FIRESIDE CHATS** Monday evening's Fireside Chat (October 23rd) will be a talk entitled 'the Convoy' and will be presented by Angus Konstam. The subject of the talk will be the WWII Convoy HG-76 which sailed from Gibraltar to Britain in December 1941 and was seen as the first really successful convoy of the war due to developing anti-submarine tactics and equipment and the use of new escort carriers for air defence. Please note that at present, (but subject to change) there will be no Fireside Chat on Monday 30th October. 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.

**TRAFALGAR DAY** As many you will all be aware, tomorrow marks the 218th anniversary of the Battle Of Trafalgar. As a former CO of HMS Victory, this is always a poignant time of year for me and I will be onboard on Saturday morning for the annual commemoration ceremony. A couple of days ago, I was in Gibraltar and visited the Trafalgar Cemetery, which despite its name, only contains the bodies of two people who died as a direct result of the battle. Lieutenant William Forster, of HMS Colossus who died on the day of the battle and Royal Marine Captain Thomas Norman who died on the 6th of December 1805 of wounds sustained in the battle on HMS Mars. Of course the vast majority of those that actually fell on the day were buried at sea, then and there, with the notable exception of Vice Admiral Lord Nelson. The cemetery does have a number of headstones of others that did die after the battle and who were buried at St Jago's cemetery, near the Charles V wall but now no longer used. Their bodies remain there.



**WORLD UCKERS CHAMPIONSHIPS** Saturday 14th October saw the much anticipated clashing of dice and blobs in the RNA World Uckers Championships held at the Royal Maritime Hotel in Portsmouth. The event was great fun and the banter and rivalry were as expected. The winners were; Doubles: Kev Atkinson and Buster Brown (left) (Runners Up: Let and Pearl Davison). Singles: Stan Patterson, (Runner up: Bob Field). Snake Eyes winner: Peter Jones, Best Dressed Winner: Pay Smyth and Winner 8 Pieces: Shirley Smith. Well done to all the timber shifters that took part and of course, Dave MacAskill for making it all happen

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**ADMIRAL BERTRUM RAMSEY TALK** On Thursday 2nd November at 6.00pm via Zoom, Michael Ramsay will talk about his grandfather, Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, who masterminded the Dunkirk evacuation in 1940 and was Allied Naval Commander in Chief for D-Day in 1944. Despite these successes, Admiral Ramsay has been largely forgotten. His grandson, Michael Ramsay, will talk about his grandfather's family, personality, career and apparent lack of recognition by the Admiralty when alive. The talk last from 45 minutes followed by questions and the cost is £10. You can book your place [here](#). Please note this is not an RNA Fireside chat, but an independent event

**AND FINALLY.....**

*Dinger was not so sure that he trusted his gunnery oppo as much as he should.....*

