



27 FEBRUARY 2023

GREETINGS SHIPMATES Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well. I can't believe how time flies and as we race towards the end of another month, just a reminder that there will be no Short next week as the Circular will be published. As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in future Shorts, email me or the team at <mailto:comms@royalnavalassoc.com>. 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 passed to Mike for inclusion in the next Circular.

FIRESIDE CHATS Tonight's Fireside Chat will be a talk by Stuart Wright who is the CEO of the [White Ensign Association](#) whose mission is to inform and provide guidance to all serving and former members of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Fleet Auxiliary, their reserves and their families on employment, finance, resettlement and personal administration. Stuart is a retired Commodore with 35 years naval service under his pusser's belt.



Next week's chat (subject to confirmation) will be a talk given by the Warrant Officer of the Royal Navy, WO1 Jim Wright RM. 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.

ROYAL NAVY RUGBY Last week, I promulgated the RN rugby union teams fixtures (with horrendous crime of mentioning the First XI - apologies). Of course, the RN also plays rugby league and in fairness, information and fixtures for the league teams can be found [here](#). I did mention last week that I would try and get the RNFA to publish fixtures outside of the MoD intranet. They did say they would do it but it may take a little while. Information of the RNFA for round ball fans can be found on their website [here](#).

THE LISBON MARU There can be few stories from the second world war more disturbing than the sinking of the SS Lisbon Maru, a Japanese merchantman carrying



over 1,800 POWs, that was torpedoed by a US submarine on October 1st 1942 in the South China Sea with the loss of over 820 British servicemen, 144 of which were Royal Navy. On February 19th, the Chinese Embassy in the UK hosted a reunion event in Gloucester for survivors and families of those lost. Chinese fishermen in the area were instrumental in the rescue of survivors hence the Embassy event. More detail on the reunion [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

FOOD INSECURITY SURVEY Northumbria University is working with the RN, RM, Army and RAF Associations to carry out research on food insecurity and financial hardship within the UK Ex-Armed Forces Community. Food insecurity is the lack of enough affordable food of decent quality for your own needs. There is currently very little research on the risk of financial hardship, food insecurity and service attributable injury within the UK veteran population, therefore the research team is inviting veterans and their families to participate in an online survey. Please participate [here](#)

NOVOTEL LIVERPOOL A couple of Shorts back, it was stated that the Novotel had reduced rates of ring-fenced rooms for the AGM weekend by 50%. This is not the case unfortunately. Rooms have already been discounted for the event and the rates published are what they are, they are not subject to a further 50%. Rooms will gradually be released back to the public if not taken so if you want to book, sooner rather than later is the key. Apologies for the miscommunication - yet another week's nines then.....

BZ TO STANDARD-BEARERS Shipmate Grassy Meadows (Nottingham RNA) was Battery Commander for the Field Gun runs at the Birmingham International Tattoo held at the Resorts World Arena at the NEC on the 11/12th of this month. He passes on a big BZ to all RNA Shipmates and Standard Bearers involved. Tickets and information on next year's event which will take place on Feb 10/11th 2024 can be found [here](#).

AND FINALLY, with thanks again to Shipmate Bob Carr

