



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



The Semaphore Circular

No 708

The Beating Heart of the RNA

April 2021



As part of the RNA's current drive to attract new members using the QR Code is the way ahead.

Shipmates just point the camera on your smart phones or pads and let it lead you to the 'sign up' page for free membership. As the late great Paul Daniels would say "It's Magic!"

Shipmates Please Stay Safe

If you need assistance call the RNA Helpline on 07542 680082

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

	Central Office Contacts	
General Secretary	023 9272 2983	Bill@royalnavalassoc.com
Finance	023 9272 3823	Kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com
Communications	07860 705712	comms@royalnavalassoc.com
Digital Communications		Mike@royalnavalassoc.com
Fundraising – Special Events	07926 128754	Malcolm@royalnavalassoc.com
Membership Support	07542 680082	Nigel@royalnavalassoc.com
Membership Support	023 92723747	Sara@royalnavalassoc.com
Welfare Programmes	07591 829416	Lynda@royalnavalassoc.com
Project Semaphore		Julie@royalnavalassoc.com
Operations	07889 761934	Andy@royalnavalassoc.com
Admin	023 9272 3747	Admin@royalnavalassoc.com
	National Advisors	
National Branch Retention and Recruiting Advisor		Rna.brra@outlook.com
National Welfare Advisor		Geoff@royalnavalassoc.com
National Rules and Bye-Laws Advisor		njpurkis@hotmail.com
National Ceremonial Advisor		Robertcoburn001@btinternet.com

PLEASE NOTE DURING THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS CENTRAL OFFICE IS CLOSED. PLEASE USE EMAIL OR, IF THE MATTER IS URGENT, THE HELPLINE ON 07542 680082.



Staff photo (L – R) Bill Oliphant, Nigel Huxtable, Kathryn Brindley, Michelle Bainbridge, National President Vice Admiral John McAnally, Mike Gray, Charlie Darlington, Andy Christie. We'll update this photo with new joiners Lynda Pearson and Sara Field as soon as circumstances allow.

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

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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
CONA	Conference of Naval Associations
NCBA	National Charter, Rules and Byelaws Advisor

ind Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

RNA Website / Members Area / Downloads /
Circulars / Code (shipmate)

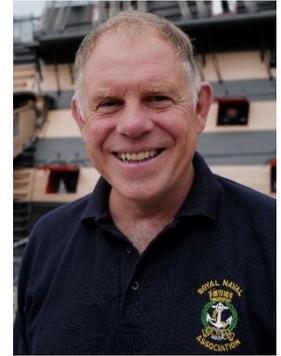
Snail Mail - Postal Address

RNA Central Office,
Building 1/087,
Scott Road,
HM Naval Base,
Portsmouth
Hants PO1 3LT

From the General Secretary

Dear Shipmates,

I write this as lockdown measures begin to ease and we can at last see away ahead after this hideously restrictive year, indeed, the sun is shining, and I've just had the pleasure of watching a Type 45 sail from Portsmouth. The *Portsmouth News* is already reporting our Parade through the City, planned for Sunday 19 June 2022, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the end of the Falklands Conflict and there's a lot of interest in our Biennial parade this autumn. Meanwhile, we're nearly 900 members better off than we were at the start of the year so things are indeed looking up. And, if you are one of those 900, can I offer you a warm welcome to the Association.



Bill Oliphant

We are constantly looking to improve our benefits of membership and I'm very pleased to announce a new partnership with Forces Cars Direct who are now able to extend their wide-ranging discounts to veterans as well as serving. Please see more at article 23.

There's a lot been going on in Central Office this month and I am proud to introduce a new member of staff, Malcolm Little. Malcolm has been employed as our fundraising liaison coordinator. Having shifted to a donation based finance model just prior to Christmas, it was realised that there was nobody on the staff who had the sole responsibility of fund raising - clearly an omission in our order of battle. Malcolm has a difficult path to tread as I don't want him to compete with the RNRMC as they have supported us to move to this model, but with his military experience and previous work in the charity sector, he will be able to liaise very closely with the RNRMC's fundraising department to keep a check on the fundraising opportunities which may present themselves. Welcome Malcolm.



Malcolm Little - Fundraising Liaison

I've also tasked Malcolm with looking at a project to provide a mentoring scheme for personnel leaving the Royal Navy. This would be geared primarily towards support for individuals finding employment and I would envisage a scheme whereby shipmate's could volunteer to become mentors to help individuals with their CV, with their interview technique, and just arm them with a little bit of guidance to make that successful leap into the civilian job market after their naval career. Let's face it, those who are leaving after 22 years with their pension, probably joined aged 18-25 so therefore are popping out aged 40-47; they are probably in the thick end of a mortgage, they might also have school fees to consider and the bottom line is the Pussers pension is probably not sufficient to allow the luxury of filling their pipe with their favourite baccy, sticking on their slippers and watching daytime telly or, better still, now that the golf courses are open again, attempting to reduce their handicap. No, or rather, not yet, and finding meaningful and rewarding employment will be important to most. This will be open to all leavers of course not just those who have cracked the 22. We've been in touch with RFEA, The Forces Employment Charity – link [here](#), who have the responsibility of running the Careers Transition Partnership (CTP) and are seeking a relationship with them and also of course with the White Ensign Association. Shipmates will remember the *Shipmates and Oppo's* programme which was run by the Association for many years until funding ceased early last year and I see this

opportunity as a resurrection of this programme albeit with a more focused output. We are all about comradeship in the RNA and I see this as another important string to our bow.

Good news from Lynda Pearson too on the befriending front as she seeks to launch the Sparko TV pilot initiative this month with a few "Special Agents" to see how it performs before hopefully broadening the scheme to a wider audience. Sparko is aimed at those who really can't get to grips with social media and IT so they will be able to use their TV to reach a range of activities and also to communicate face 2 face with shipmates/family – very clever!



The General Secretary proudly presents Dave Barter of Salisbury Branch with his new membership card at Central Office. Dave works in QHM's department in Ports NB.

Talking of clever, I was delighted at how easily our Comms Officer, Charlie Darlington, was able to set up a QR code to take the casual enquirer direct to the joining page. Branch Secretaries, please feel free to copy this and put it on your correspondence and any marketing material you might be creating. For those who don't know quite how it works, just open your camera on your smart phone and hover over it. A link should pop up which takes you directly to the "Join us" page on the RNA website - isn't technology wonderful!



After a slight supply chain hold up (if only more Jack Dusties worked for the Post Office!) the new membership Cards have arrived and, when they were stacked by Branch sitting on the table side by side, it was stark to see the relative size of some Branches compared to others. They'll be issued this month; Branches first, to get rid of the bulk, and then the HQ Roll who will have theirs despatched individually.

So keep with it on the social distancing, mask wearing and abiding by your national regulations and don't let your guard down at this stage. Every loss is a tragedy but at this stage even more so. Remember, the Association has plenty of 'stuff' going on for you to join in on, whether that's virtual tots on a Saturday evening or Fireside Chats on a Monday.....or maybe pick up one of Jenna Brodie's excellent podcasts from the website. The latest one is fabulous. And there are always interesting things going on in the Semaphore Short which is published on the Mondays of weeks when we don't have the monthly Semaphore Circular.

Finally, thank you to all our shipmates who continue to make donations and send in donation forms, it really is hugely appreciated.

As ever,

Bill Oliphant

Chairman's Chat

It is pleasing to know that our Shipmates in the Fleet do read this circular. The evidence being the bottle of PUSSEY'S RUM I personally put forward as a prize for the first Dit submitted by a serving member has been won! Congratulations to LET (WE) (CIS) Richard Jones, or Jonah as he likes to be called, onboard HMS WESTMINSTER. Your prize awaits you at RNA Central Office upon the Ship's return to Portsmouth. Jonah, being a rather shy guy does not want you to know he has written a book called 'Living the Dream, serving the Queen'. Copies are available from Juliette Jones Editorial Services, Amazon and I believe the author himself. For the next opportunity for a serving member to win a Bottle of PUSSEY'S GUNPOWDER, make sure you keep reading the Semaphore Circular.



Good News - Bill Oliphant has reported at the start of this month's circular, over 820 new members had joined the Association between 4th January and 19th March compared with the historical average of 30 per month. Absolutely amazing. The Zero subscription membership to a Donations based membership is working. BZ to Bill who came up with this idea.

New, reforming and expanding Branches on the Radar: Within my own No 6 Area, Wantage Branch which was in danger of closing due to a dwindling membership is about to re-launch and expand thanks to the Town's Mayor Cllr Jim Sibbald who has joined us as an Associate Member. Arrangements are in hand for 2022 to Grant Freedom of Wantage to HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH, the invitation having been accepted by the Captain. What an amazing achievement. Well done Councillor Sibbald, I look forward to meeting you along with my Area Committee to lend whatever support required.

New Branches forming and appearing on the radar are the MOD Establishment at Abbey Wood (No 7 Area) and RAF Marham (No 5 Area) home of the Navy's F35 Squadron or soon to be - Squadrons. Well done to all those involved. The Riders Branch continues to attract new members which now boasts 112. Sadly, as their recently appointed National Council Member, the Branch will not allow me to join them on a 'Ride'. The Secretary, Dave Ives made derogatory remarks about my Raleigh Mountain Bike not being able to keep up the pace, cheek. How was I to know that the Branch consisted of Motorcycle Riders and not Bicycle Riders! On a serious note, this unique Branch simply cannot wait for the Lockdown to end so that they can start getting out and about showing the RNA Flag on Rides around the UK. Sadly, Fiona Laing had plans for an exciting Ride into Europe but has had to put her plans on hold for now. Keep up the good work Riders.

The Monday nights Fireside chats & Saturday Virtual Tot Nights continue to be a great success amongst members. We have had, and continue to have guests from Lanzarote, Qatar, San Diego, and Brazil. If you are interested in joining in (provide your own Tot) check out the RNA Community Facebook page for ID & Passwords. Keep up the good work Eric Holmwood, Kevin Hackett, Bill Oliphant supported by IT Guru Karl Webb. BZ Shipmates.

Although we have been restricted in having physical Area & Branch Meetings, I am disappointed that some Areas and Branches have not taken the opportunity to hold meetings using Zoom. I accept that not everybody is familiar with Zoom technology, but the host of such meetings does

not have to be a Branch Officer, simply a willing Area or Branch volunteer who liaises with the Secretary. Although you are restricted to a 40 minute meeting using basic Zoom, Central Office will reimburse Branches the cost of Zoom Pro which is not time restricted, and costs £4.99p per month. Come on you Branch Officials, check amongst your members to get a volunteer to host a meeting. That said, I acknowledge the fact that not all members have access to the internet to enable them to take part in a Zoom Meeting, but for those who do, please try your best.

A polite reminder to all Areas & Branches who are independently registered with the Charity Commissioners. Your Trustees are legally required to submit an Annual Return, even if you have not held a Branch Meeting during the past year. So please check you are up to date.

To all our serving Shipmates including reservists, who continue to support the frontline against Covid-19, keep up the good work, to Shipmates and your families in the UK and throughout the world keep safe. For those at sea, a safe return. Stay safe everyone, we will overcome Covid, and we will all emerge to share dits and a Tot together.

Yours aye

Keith Ridley

nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com

1. ★ New Membership Cards Update....

Literally as we go to print the Central Office Team, notably Nigel and Sar are 'bows under' printing and forwarding out the brand spanking new Membership Cards to Branch Secretaries.

As you can see they haven't even had time for a Stand Easy scoff of Easter Eggs.....



2. ★ Naval Associations Biennial Parade in Whitehall - Sunday 12 September 2021



Shipmates, last month I reminded you of an important date for your diary, see below. This month could I gently remind you of the need to book your **accommodation**, as I have been made aware that there are one or two other events scheduled to take place in London that weekend. Remember first in the galley queue gets the best choice of scran!!

Shipmates an important date for your Diary..... The newly named Naval Associations Biennial Parade will be held in Whitehall on Sunday 12 September..... Please

advertise the date as widely to the 'Naval Wider Family Community' as is possible. Specific details will be issued nearer the time but don't hesitate to contact Central Office if you have any questions. When passing information concerning the parade it is important that consideration is given to the possible security implications.

Remember Loose Lips sink Ships!

We have also had a number of enquiries from our fellow Naval Associations who would like to join us on Parade, the more the merrier, let's make this a proud Naval occasion. Permission has been granted to march in a 'Jack' 'bimble' style manner! Without being presented with a 'around the buoy again coxswain' type disc which meant you had to go round the parade ground again!!



3. ★ Finance Office Request

It would be much appreciated by the Central Office Finance team if Shipmates, who are kindly offering donations in the form of a Standing Order, would kindly ensure that they annotate their account name on the application before submitting it to Central Office.

4. ★ Welfare Spotlight Column – Good and Bad News on Covid.



Good News and Better Days keep coming with decreases in Covid infections and deaths to low levels and the start of a return to normality unfolding with restrictions beginning to ease across the UK. Details in this Spotlight were current as of 29 March but always check locally as things continue under review in all the devolved administrations and there are differences across the devolved administrations.

England began its **Step 1** of the roadmap out of lockdown on 29 March see details at (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary>). 29 March though was a great day for everyone with the sun coming out (literally) in most places and marked by the start of easing of restrictions with that all important and long-awaited opportunity to meet with family and friends.

So, what can you do in England from 29 March?

Meet up to six people or two households outdoors

Only socialise indoors with people you live with or who are in your support bubble

“Stay at home” message ended but people urged to minimise travel

Work from home if you can and only travel when necessary

Attend outdoor sports and leisure facilities, so a chance to get out there and your chosen leisure activity

Participate in organised sports such as grassroots football

Meet outdoors for Parents and Child groups with up to 15 parents

Hold weddings with six attendees, can be held but hopefully increasing in April

Hold funerals with up to 30 mourners, can be held but do check the local rules



And What can't you do?

Mix households indoors

Stay overnight at someone else's house

Holiday abroad

Shop in non-essential retail outlets

Use gyms and indoor sports facilities, which remain closed

Use Pubs and restaurants indoors, which remain closed



Step 2 (no earlier than 12 April and under review) in England will allow business and activities to resume in areas of retail, personal care, indoor leisure and most outdoor attractions, hospitality (but only outdoors). However, there's no need for customers to order a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks and no curfew, but customers must order, eat and drink while seated ('table service' only!). Funerals can continue with up to 30 mourners but the number of people able to attend weddings, receptions and commemorative events such as wakes will rise to 15 from 6.

Scotland will replace “Stay at Home” with ‘Stay Local’ from 2 April with restrictions on non-essential travel across local authority boundaries remaining in place. People must stay within their council area for non-essential shopping and should only travel to another area for essential shopping if there are no practical alternatives. Further easing is planned from 5 April with the opening of hairdressers, garden centres, car showrooms and forecourts, homeware stores and non-essential click and collect services. Details are at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-timetable-for-easing-restrictions/>

Wales lifted the “stay local” restriction on 27 March and also allowed self-contained accommodation to re-open, resumption of outdoor children's activities, re-opening of libraries and archive services, and social distanced meeting outdoors of people from 2 households .

Remember a reasonable excuse, such as work, is needed to travel in or out of Wales although no limit on travel within Wales and holiday accommodation is **only** open for people living in Wales. Details on the rules at <https://gov.wales/restrictions-from-27-march> .

Northern Ireland's restrictions are similar to the rest of the UK but you must not leave your home without reasonable excuse e.g. to access medical services and essential shopping. From April 1 up to six people (including children) from no more than two households can meet up outdoors in a private garden with social distancing and from 12 April up to 10 people (including children) from no more than two households can meet up outdoors in a private garden with social distancing and up to up to six people from a maximum of two households to meet in a non-domestic indoor setting. Overnight stays in a private home remain not allowed unless it is a member of your bubble, with some exemptions. Guidance on current restrictions at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you> ,

Yet better news is the onward march of vaccination in the UK with more than 30 million having had their first jab and more than 3 million their second jab gives support to continued easing of restrictions. Everyone is encouraged to take up their jab when offered. Jabs are mandatory but the weight of evidence is that the three UK options (Astra Zeneca, Pfizer and Moderna) give protection from first jab across the age groups, are safe and can help reduce the spread of the virus. However, let's not forget that this is only the start of easing and many restrictions continue for the protection of all. Most important of all, if you have symptoms get a test quickly and stay at home.



However, with all this good news we must not forget those of our shipmates who still find themselves in effect, in isolation. For example, shielding in England ended on 31 March but the medical advice has been to still take precautions, which in practice for many can mean staying in isolation. All of us must continue our efforts at local Branch level to support shipmates by a phone call, text, email or virtually through Zoom and Facetime. Isolation and the loneliness that it brings can be crippling to mental health. BZs to all those RNA Branches across the UK reaching out and keeping that “arm around the shoulder” that makes such a difference. Please keep it up and let's make it “normal operating procedure” for 2021. We must not forget either our hidden, lost and lonely shipmates and make best efforts to support them as well.

Last month I outlined the impacts of loneliness and isolation on our own mental health and that of others and listed ten ways in which to combat that. Try these to help yourself. Previously we've shared helpful apps to make you an “Appy Shipmate”. Some, such as Veterans Gateway and Forces Connect, offer welfare support and information in 24/7 directories of what's out there in your local area to help with issues such as finances, housing, employment, relationships, physical and mental health. Easily downloadable from Apple Store or Google Play.

Others focus on particular areas. One such is **Drinks:Ration** which could help you to feel better and save money by drinking less. This smartphone app for android and iPhone aims to help veterans understand more about their drinking and reduce the amount they drink; it provides advice and support for those who want to cut down their alcohol use. The app is in development still and your input and support as a veteran can help improve its effectiveness and your suggestions on how they can improve/modify the app are very welcome.

Why not give it a try and share your information via the app? You will be helping yourself and others. If you are having a problem with alcohol, this app can help with extra support available confidentially to those who need it. More information on the study website at <https://drinksration.app/>.

I end by welcoming Shipmate Selwyn Davies on board as the new Deputy National Welfare Advisor (Selwyn@royalnavalassoc.com). Selwyn of No 7 Area is very well experienced and active in RNA welfare work. I look forward to working together as we aim to support all shipmates with advice on welfare queries and helpful information plus support to all Area and Branch Welfare Officers. With Central Office shipmates we will continue the increased focus of RNA on welfare in 2021 and beyond. Look out for future news.

Suggestions for articles or questions from shipmates are welcome at any time to me.

Stay safe and stay well shipmates

Geoff Apperley Deputy National Welfare Advisor

geoff@royalnavalassoc.com

5. ★ Project Semaphore iPads – Given new life!

We are incredibly proud, excited and overwhelmed to announce that Project Semaphore has been awarded a further **£70,000** from the [Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust's Tackling Loneliness Programme](#).



This funding will allow us to run the programme for **a further two years!** Project Semaphore provides elderly veterans with iPads and the specialist training to use them, delivered by a team of RNA volunteers. The initiative allows veterans who were previously isolated and disconnected to get online, reconnect with long-lost family and friends, access welfare support, order their shopping and prescriptions, and

access the world of entertainment available online.

We can't wait to keep you updated as we relaunch the project and get to work with the next phase of iPad training delivery. The money isn't in our account just yet and we have an existing waiting list to work through, but we will let you know when we can accept new applications to the project...

6. ★ Change of National Conference Date to Saturday 04 September 2021



In light of the ongoing Covid crisis and the restrictions this poses on gatherings of any kind, the decision has been made to push the date of the 2021 National Conference to **Saturday 4th September**, in the hope that there is a much better chance of it taking place. The venue remains the same as originally planned for 2021 - The Crowne Plaza, Wollaton Street, Nottingham.

The new Conference booking form has been distributed with the February Issue of this Circular. Prices range from £106.50 pp for a 1 day stay to 4 nights £224, these prices include the cost of the Gala night dinner. It can also be found on the website at <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/downloads/conference>

We understand that many Shipmates will be disappointed that we have had to reschedule the conference once again, but we hope you all understand the reason behind this decision. We are

really looking forward to coming together once again and celebrating the end of such a difficult period, in true RNA fashion.

7. ★ Dit On Podcast Launched.....



For those Shipmates who have not had the time to investigate and listen to the 'Dit On' in the Podcast section of the Website

However for those of you who 'haven't a clue' (I know that is a Radio 4 quiz show) an explanation.....

Podcasts are really just a radio show that is pre-recorded and you can listen to them at any time. They are simply called 'Podcasts' instead of 'recordings'.

Hosted by Jenna Brodie there are now five episodes well worth a listen.

The new RNA 'Dit On' podcast is even easier to listen to as all you have to do is log into the RNA Website and follow this link [Dit On \(royal-naval-association.co.uk\)](http://Dit On (royal-naval-association.co.uk)) to get you started.

Or even easier is press ctrl on your keyboard and here with your mouse.



Listen here!

The podcast has been made possible by a generous grant from [The Morrisons Foundation](#), which will allow us to share the podcast far and wide (on our website, on Spotify, on Google Podcasts and on Apple Podcasts), and attract a wide ranging audience to recognise the stories and work of the RNA.

8. ★ Monday Evening Fireside Chats

For Shipmates who are unaware, a series of 'Fireside Chats' featuring some fascinating subjects including; Battle of Jutland, Operation Paraquet (Re-capture of South Georgia 1982), Naval Recruiting in 2020 to name but a few. The presentations are held on Monday evenings commencing at 1800 using 'Zoom'. All are welcome.

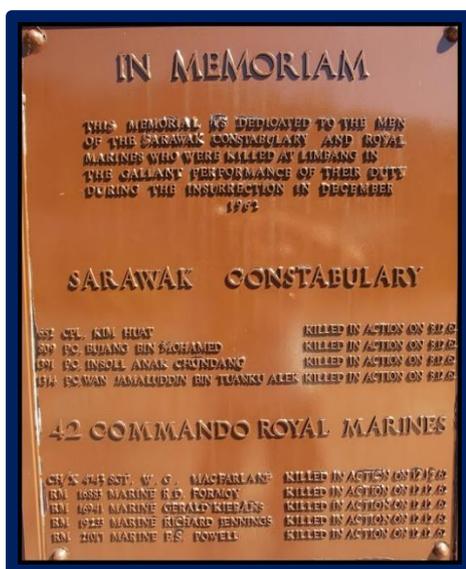
Meeting ID - 288 830 5105 Password – Shipmate (case sensitive) Or, click on the link [here](#)

Date	Presenter	Subject
Tuesday (Due to Easter Holiday)	Mike Milne	Op Chariot - The St Nazaire Raid
Monday 12 Apr	Janet Daykin	Prostate Cancer Briefing
Monday 19 Apr	Terry Corner	The Zeebrugge Raid
Monday 26 Apr	Bill Oliphant	Gallipoli Campaign
Monday 03 May	Jon Pearson	BAE Systems Support to the RN
Monday 10 May	Paul Godfrey	The Story of HMS Ark Royal IV - 1955 to 1978

Monday 17 May	Ralph Dodds	Norway 1940 - War in the Fjords
Monday 24 May	TBC (HOOD Assoc)	The sinking of HMS HOOD
Monday 31 May	Terry Corner	Dunkirk
Monday 07 Jun		D Day
Monday 14 Jun	Steve Bomford	Company of Makers
Monday 21 Jun	Dr Jann Witt	Mutiny and Piracy
Monday 28 Jun	WO1 Carl Steedman	RN Update from the Office of 1SL
Monday 05 Jul	Andy Dodds	CRAM - Phalanx on a lorry in the desert in Iraq
Monday 12 Jul	David Griggs	Op Rheostat - Mine clearance in the Suez Canal 1974/75
Monday 19 Jul	Ian Gardiner	TBC

9. ★ Borneo/Brunei Insurrection - December 1962

During the Borneo uprising of December 1962 Royal Marines were sent to the village of Limbang where the District Officer was being held by communist rebels. During the night of 11/12 December 1962 a Company of Royal Marines from 42 Commando, L Company, with two Z-craft or motorised barges, ferried the Marines commanded by Captain Jeremy Moore (the future Commandant General Royal Marines), upriver to Limbang in Sarawak.



At dawn, all appeared quiet on the final approach to Limbang, when “all hell let loose”. The well-armed insurgents, positioned on rooftops and in trees, fired down on the barges, and the first attempt to land the marines had to be aborted when the Coxswain was shot. The second attempt to land was successful but very sadly resulted in the death of five Marines and two sailors wounded. The action resulted in Lt David Wills RN being awarded the DSC and Capt Moore RM a Bar to his MM.

Whilst relaying this story to Shipmate Keith Ridley, our National Chairman, he told the following story relating to his time in HMS Albion, which was sent to Borneo in 1962, and a footnote to the Limbang Raid story.

The good Ship ALBION arrived off Brunei on the morning of 13 December, but it may have been 12th, around the time of the Limbang Raid.

We had just completed a 28 knot high speed run to Singapore 2 days after leaving Mombasa. At the time of the Admiralty signal being received tasking us to Brunei, our skipper, Capt Colin Madden DSC** was being shaved in the Crossing the Line Ceremony. We RAS'd to War State from a RFA some 50 miles ahead of us using our 26 helicopters (845 & 846 NAS's), RASing fuel when we caught up with the RFA. We had a 5 hour pit stop in Singapore (1600-2100 hrs) taking onboard remnants of 42 RM Cmdo, to compliment 40 RM Cmdo & a Battery of 29 Cmdo Royal

Artillery already onboard. By 1000 on the 12 or 13th we had deployed the Commando ashore holding one Company in reserve.

I recall doing outside machinery rounds finding boxes of ammo; Bren Gun Clips, loose rounds & GRENADES along the main passageway, and along which most commando Messdecks were located. For a Junior Stoker just 7 weeks past his 17th birthday along with my Shipmates, we had stepped up to the mark. Following our return to the UK some 17 months later having been hard at it involved with the Indonesian Confrontation, I was proud to have served. At the end of the Confrontation in August 1966, approx 130 Brothers in Arms had made the ultimate sacrifice. Sadly, who would have thought further Campaigns, indeed Wars would follow claiming many Servicemen's lives. May they RIP.



Footnote.....

Lima Company of 42 Cmdo was renamed Limbang Company in Honour of their loss that day. Approximately, 5 years back whilst waiting to collect a client at Heathrow I came across a RM Cmdo Sgt in jungle greens. I exchanged some banter and established he was serving with 42 Cmdo. I asked " What do you call L Company ?" to which he replied ' Lima Company ' Very sadly he admitted to not knowing about the Limbang Raid, nor Limbang Company.

10. ★ Royal Marines from CTC host Shipmates From RNA Wembley.

Shipmates from RNA Wembley enjoyed a day in the outdoors with the Royal Marines at CTC now that Covid regulations have relaxed. After walking round the assault course they were entertained to a few 'Pussers' in the NAAFI.

Shipmate Trippier said 'how much he had enjoyed the day' despite it being early April.



11. ★ Bunting Joke



Two Buntings were standing on the foc'sl looking up at the jackstaff. A Stoker walked up to them with a toolbox and asked what they were doing.

"We're supposed to find the height of the jackstaff" said one of the buntings "but we don't have a ladder".

The Stoker set down his tool box, opened it and took out a wrench. He loosened a few bolts, and laid the jackstaff down on the deck then he took out a tape measure and measured the jackstaff.

He announced, "Twelve feet, six inches" and walked away.

One of the buntings shook his head and laughed. "Typical stoker! We asked for the height and he tells us the length".

(Any complaints to..... NCM Area 7 and Glos a former hand-bag swinger!)

12. ★ Fastest Ship in the Fleet..... Well so far as we know.....

Central Office received an email recently from both the National President, Vice Admiral John McAnally and Tim Lewin concerning the 9 minute video of a full power trial featuring HMS Cavalier and HMS Rapid which prompted a debate as to what was the fastest ship in the fleet.

Dear All, it's a quiet afternoon here so I watched this 9 minute film again to lift my spirits; then I wanted to share it. This is an edited, by me, version of the 20 minute poor quality, but stirring, silent film in the IWM archives of the 1970? full power trial of HMS Cavalier and HMS Rapid, both 1943 emergency destroyers, both in late middle age, both giving it absolutely all they have got, and more. Cavalier won by having 20 feet of her focsle ahead of Rapid, this after 63 miles of hard steaming. If you are not moved by this, you are not old enough!

273 revolutions, 32.6 kts, with feeling . <https://vimeo.com/277260483>

Admiral John responded..... Those were the days and those were the ships. In ALACRITY we held the record for a passage from New Orleans to the Gulf of Mexico- 120 miles at 25 knots by night in a strengthening gale; 15 knots above the speed limit – to escape a hurricane. I've taken the liberty of copying this to RNA colleagues. Two of whom being engineers will no doubt applaud the combustion of both ships which looks like a copybook thin brown haze!

Having watched the video in the link Shipmate Darby Allen contributed by informing us that having delved into his collection of RN books of the 1960's navy, he confirmed that HMS Manxman had a top speed of 40knots at full power (72,000 hp). She was one of 6 dedicated minelayers, 3 being lost during WW2. HMS Apollo was still in service in 1960 but the other, HMS Ariadne was in the Devonport Reserve Fleet. Darby remembers going onboard Ariadne, to remove a Latitude Rider from the Gyro Compass, we were cannibalising in those days to keep our ships operational. Has anything changed!

HMS Manxman was converted to become the 6th Mine Sweeping Squadron's support ship in April 1963. She took over from HMS Woodbridge Haven, when I was leaving the squadron after a very interesting time in those good old days, when we had a China Fleet based in Singapore and Hong Kong.

S/M Andy Christie said that all this discussion of fastest ships and ship racing made him recall a 'modern navy dit'.....

Whist attending a Families at Sea Day about 6/7 years ago on my Daughters Ship HMS Sutherland (T23) we had a race from a standing start with HMS York (T42) who was pottering off the Isle of Wight. Both Captains were leaning over their respective bridge wings waving 'grand prix' type flags to start the race. All the Families in Sutherland were going nuts cheering the

Fighting Clan on and so were the Ships Company in HMS York (They had a clear lower deck).....

The result was a draw as mid race with Olympus, Tyne's and Spey's at full throttle the race was suspended because a cross channel ferry inadvertently tried to join the race! Everyone was booing, but I have to say the noise from those engines was incredible and so was the rooster tails. I just wish I had a photo to show you, I'll bet there are plenty around though.

Finally, S/M Darby.....

However, I do remember the race between the Cavalier and as I thought the Rocket. And was reminded of a time in the summer of 1961 when my then ship, HMS Chaplet returned to Devonport to pay off for disposal. On the trip back from Harwich it was decided to have a Full Power Trial all the way back in order to burn fuel and save some time with defuelling when back alongside.

The sea state was a flat calm all the way and having worked up to full power there was a huge Rooster Tail in the wake that you could not see over. I am not sure of the actual speed, probable 32 - 33 knots but she equalled her first full power trial of 1948.

Happy Navy days.....

13. ★ Joke-Time

I don't believe it !!

Just arrived at B & Q and they now have

designated parking spaces

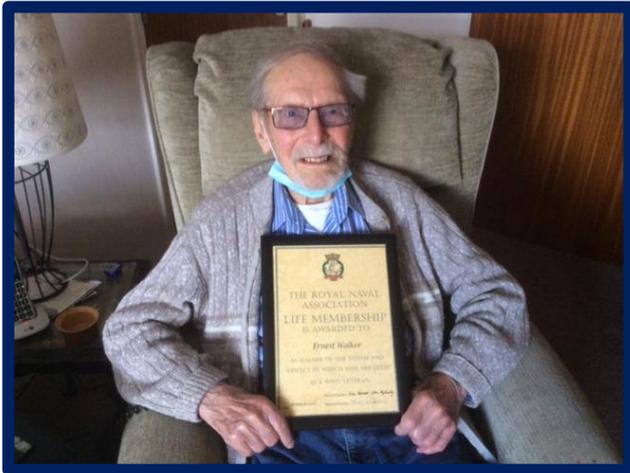
For very much larger gentlemen buying Barbeques



Apologies to my English Rugby Union friends but I was **told** to put this joke in by The General Secretary – A Scot and The National ~~Stoker~~ Chairman – Supposedly Welsh (It is said he only supports teams that are winning!)



14. RNA Life Membership – S/M Ernest Walker



S/M John Rance No 1 Leeds Branch 9Hon Secretary) has written on behalf of World War Two Naval Veteran Shipmate Ernest Walker to say thank you for the certificate and tie pin.

S/M John had a lovely (socially distanced) conversation with numerous photos of his old ships the cruiser HMS Rani and the converted carrier HMS Bermuda. As Ernest had a tale to tell concerning his time as a 'sickbay' tiffy! There were also some humorous stories as well.....

15. ★ Daily Telegraph Letters Page 22 Mar 2021

Our thanks to S/M Lester May, Lt Col Ewen Southby-Tailyour RM and the Daily Telegraph for publishing this absolute classic on the subject of MoD nomenclature.....

Fighting irons

SIR – On Ascension Island in 1982, a call was received for 12 knives (Letters, March 20). Irritably, an overworked logistics officer demanded to know why a small order for an everyday item deserved his “immediate” attention.

The Special Boat Squadron, sailing south that night, amended its request: “Reference knives. These are knives, stabbing, not knives, eating.” The request was met with alacrity.

Lt Col Ewen Southby-Tailyour RM (retd)
Ermington, Devon

16. ★ RNA Slops – RLP Embroidery

WWW.RNASLOPS.CLOTHING

The RNA Officially Licensed supplier of embroidered garments.

Polo Shirts, Hoodies, Sweatshirts, Fleece, Jackets, Knitwear, Blouses, Pilot Shirts, Softshell, Headwear,

The RNA Logo is included in your garment price. All you have to do is select New or Blazer Style badge and add your Branch Name, of which is optional.

Tel: 07983 151011 E Mail: ray@rnaslops.clothing



RNA SLOPS

RNA Slops is owned by RLP Embroidery and we pay Royalties to the RNA



17. ★ Volunteer Parade Marshals

The National Ceremonial Advisor, Shipmate Bob Coburn would like to hear from Shipmates willing to volunteer their services nationally as Parade Marshalls. There are number of events scheduled around the country (i.e. Naval Associations Parade, Remembrance Parade, Falkland 40th) that may be attended by RNA members and he is keen to hold a definitive list of suitably qualified Parade Marshalls. Anyone who is interested should forward their details and a small email providing their suitability to hold this prestigious role to:

robertcoburn001@btinternet.com or 07810 300383

18. Joint Force Development RNR/Reserves Opportunities - 'SERVE'

There are a broad range of exciting opportunities within JFD for ex regular or current reservists from all 3 services at the following locations: Oxfordshire/Wiltshire (Shrivenham), Middlesex (Northwood), Buckinghamshire (Halton) and London.

This includes a range of contracts from delivering short term projects to full time commitment roles.

If you wish to be placed on our database and notified of any upcoming opportunities or for any further information, please contact the e-mail address below. Alternatively, specific jobs can be found at www.findaforcesjobs.mod.gov.uk

Andrew.Bailey991@mod.gov.uk WO1 Andy Bailey

Please note that all applicants can only apply through the procedures - stated on the Job Advert on **Service for Experienced, Re-joiner and Volunteer Engagements (SERVE) at the following website address** www.findaforcesjobs.mod.gov.uk.

19. ★ Introducing Pussers Gunpowder Proof 'Spiced'



Pussers Rum LTD is proud to announce the production of its first batch of Gunpowder Proof Spiced Rum. It has been blended to Admiralty specifications (54.5% ABV) and aged for a minimum of three years in once used charred oak bourbon barrels and then mellowed with a subtle blend of spices including Banana, Vanilla, Chocolate, Cinnamon and a hint of Ginger that produce an incredibly smooth Spiced rum with deep flavours and a rich Amber colour that can be enjoyed neat, on the rocks or in a cocktail. The initial batch shall be sold exclusively through Paragon Brands, the Company's UK importer.

This new expression is replacing the old Pussers Spiced, which was bottled previously at 35%. Gary Rogalski (CEO of Pussers Rum) quotes: "We had an outpouring demand from rum aficionados around the world to "spice-up" liquid history

and I believe we have accomplished that goal. We have added a nuance of Caribbean fruits and spices without taking anything away from the blend's classic Demerara wooden pot still heritage. I believe our customers will find the sensory perception of this rum be world-class in every respect!"

Pussers Rum Ltd. Bottles blends and distributes the original Royal Navy rum – one of the most historic and traditional rums still available today.

The new Pussers Spiced expression retails at Nauticalia for £43.99 for a 700ml bottle....www.nauticalia.com

20. ★ Operation A thousand Good Deeds - RNA Northern Minibus



A huge thanks go to Shipmate David Barlow from Pendelton Branch who very kindly volunteered at short notice to become the 'Manager' of the Northern Minibus after very sadly S/M Alan Magrath crossed the bar.

Recently while the minibus was out on a run stretching 'her' legs, David dropped in to see 'Jimmy' from A E Auto Repairs in Warrington to thank him for saving the RNA around £600. A leading well-known local garage had quoted that amount for a repair but Jimmy repaired the Minibus

for free when he heard it was for the RNA. To say a huge thank you, S/M David was despatched with a bottle of Pussers You can see in the picture S/M David Barlow handing over the gift of appreciation. Once again BZ to Shipmate David for all his efforts and of course to Jimmy at A E Autos.

21. ★ Assistance from Shipmates Please x 2

Central Office received the email below from RN veteran Alan Ewart who has requested assistance with his project.

Dear Shipmates,

I am writing to tell you about a project I am working on for the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands war in the hope that you might be able to assist me. I hope you will bear with me whilst I tell you a little bit about myself and the project.

I am a Royal Navy veteran and retired Police officer. I was deployed elsewhere during the war but lost two good friends onboard HMS Coventry, and my younger brother was on HMS Argonaut when she was bombed. I did serve on Falklands guard ship duties on HMS Southampton from September 84 - March 85. I then spent 27-years as a police officer until I was retired as a result of PTSD in 2013. I worked as a photographer and writer for UK music magazines and an American news agency before returning to university in 2018. I graduated in 2019 with a Master of Arts (Photography) degree.

I am currently planning a project honouring those who served during the 1982 war, especially those still on patrol in the South Atlantic. I am looking for veterans of the war including those who

were non-military members of the task force who might volunteer a little of their time to assist me with the project.

The task for volunteers is not onerous. I need a photo of them from that era, preferably in uniform. I will visit them to take some photographs of them as they are now and to conduct a short interview about their personal experiences. This is about the personal rather than the operational. Interviews can be video, audio, or even by questionnaire if that is the volunteer's preference. Once the UK phase is complete I will travel to the Falkland Islands to repeat the process with Falkland Islanders.

The finished project will be exhibited in the Falkland Islands during the 40th commemorations, and then in the UK. I hope to accompany the exhibition with a short film based on the interviews and aim to release a book of the entire project.

I am delighted to say that my project has the full support of the Falkland Islands government, I attach a copy of their letter of support for your information.

So how can you help?

It should be clear that this is an expensive venture with costs running to many thousands. I am currently applying for funding grants from a variety of sources. Those funding bids are considerably strengthened when I can show support I have raised myself. Funding raised doesn't necessarily have to be cash donations, any "benefit in kind" such as reduced costs for accommodation can strengthen a funding bid.

My own financial contribution is very significant. I am running this as a not for profit venture, I am not taking a wage, my wife is offering admin support for free, and all profits will be donated to service charities. Obviously, I would be grateful for any financial or benefit in kind you might be able to offer, but there are other ways you could help.

I would be grateful if you could share this information with your members, and perhaps on any social media channels. You might be interested in being a "partner" organisation, something I think might be of benefit to us both? You may be able to signpost organisations who might be willing to make a financial contribution (however small).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Thank you for your consideration.

Central office also received the email below from Dr James Goulty, Military Historian and Author.

Dear Shipmates,

I am a military historian and author currently writing and researching a book on the experiences of personnel who served with the wartime RN and MN. The book is provisionally entitled 'Naval Eyewitness: The War at Sea 1939-1945,' and will be published by Pen and Sword Ltd.

I wondered whether it might be possible to be put in contact with any Second World War RN veterans who might be willing to share some of their memories and assist in my research? It is fully appreciated that the war was a long time ago, plus the pandemic situation makes life awkward for us all. However, if you or any of your members could offer any advice and/or assistance then I'd be extremely grateful.

If appropriate I'd be happy to provide further details on the book. I look forward to hearing from you in due course. Yours sincerely, James Goulty

22. ★ Gin Lovers.....

Shipmates the RNA is very pleased to offer the “1921 Reserve” Navy Strength Gin to our members.

This Gin was blended by the Handmade Gin Company on the Wirral in conjunction with the RNR Officers’ Club, Liverpool (Sea Urchins) to celebrate their Centenary this year.

This refreshing Gin contains botanicals from around the world to reflect our maritime heritage, including Lingonberries, Norwegian Angelica Root, complemented beautifully by Elderflower, Grapefruit, Licorice and Lemon at 57% ABV.

The good news is that this is available at only £35 (+£4.50 P&P) and the RNA receives 10% for each bottle sold, so apart from drinking a very smooth Gin, you are helping the Association! Don’t forget to click the button for RNA.



[Sea Urchins Navy Strength Gin - Mygin](#)

23. ★ Forces Cars Direct

Veteran-owned Forces Cars Direct is celebrating 20 years of service to the military community and we’re delighted to welcome them to the Royal Naval Association and our members in an exclusive partnership.



Offering unique new car discounts with savings up to 35% on a full range of makes and models, you can be sure to find the right car for you! Forces Cars Direct is endorsed with 5-star TrustPilot ratings from its customers, was named Veteran Business of the Year in the English Veterans Awards, and has support from the Chairman of the Defence Select Committee, so you not only save thousands, but can be assured of the highest level of service too.

With Forces Cars Direct you will also benefit from:

- UK nationwide, Covid-safe delivery
- Cash purchase and full finance options available
- Leasing service available
- All part exchange vehicles welcome
- Serving and veterans

Find out more about the service and savings available at <https://www.forcescarsdirect.com/rna> where you can browse and make your enquiry.

23rd March 2021



Dear Friends

I am writing to you on this National Day of Reflection, a year after the first national lockdown, announced by the Prime Minister the evening after we had completed our move out of Castaway House. At the time we thought we would be working from home for a few weeks and then it would all be over. How wrong we were! We have since endured a second lockdown in the autumn and have now been working from home since 21st December. We are all hoping that we may soon return to working from Castaway House again, but there are still difficult times ahead.

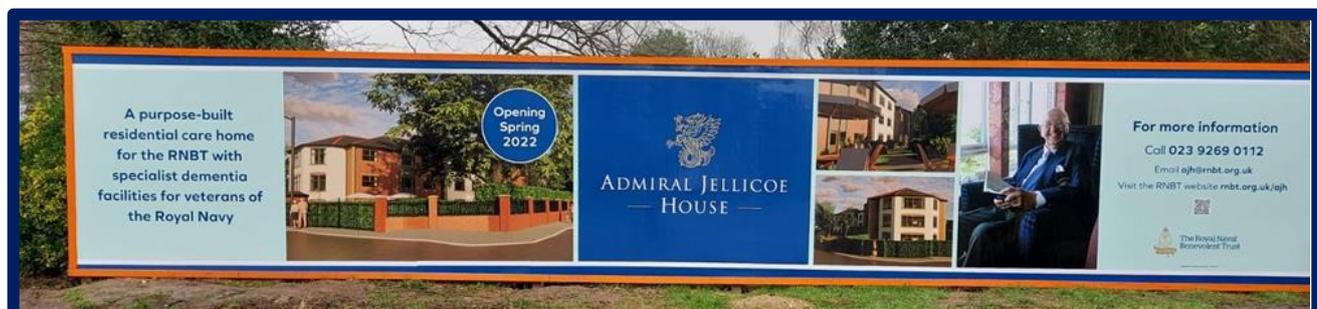
In reflecting on this year, I would like to pay tribute to Tarnia Harrison and her staff at Pembroke House on their amazing efforts. There have been so many changes to the way business is conducted by all staff, and yet the care and support and sense of humour shared with our lovely residents has never wavered. To keep the deadly virus at bay for so many months was a huge achievement, and we can look forward to the future with increased confidence. The sad loss of four of our residents to the virus over the Christmas and New Year period was a cruel blow, and we remember them particularly today.

I would also like to pay tribute to the HQ staff who have adapted to the challenges of three lockdowns with ingenuity, skill and camaraderie and no little humour. We have continued to focus on the delivery of benevolence to the RNBT Family, which has continuously and successfully been achieved. I would also like to thank our volunteers of the Grant Committee who continue to give us their wisdom and experience and have maintained their role in deciding on particularly complex and high value grant awards.

Work on Admiral Jellicoe House, our centenary care home project which started on 4th January continues. This is the unspectacular phase of groundworks, including drilling 14 boreholes for the ground source heat pump system which reach 140m below ground. We have enjoyed two very significant successes in our efforts to fundraise; the Gosling Foundation has granted us £500,000 and the Bernard Sunley Foundation £75,000 which takes us over the first hurdle of £1m raised. The estimated handover date has slipped very slightly to June 2022, still comfortably in the middle of our centenary year.

Very best wishes for a peaceful Easter and your safety and wellbeing during this difficult time.

Rob Bosshardt CEO



RNA Longcast

2021	
02 – 05 Apr	Easter Bank Holiday
16 Apr	Open Day - Cancelled
03 May	May Bank Holiday
14 May	Open Day
14-16 May	Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations – Londonderry
May TBC	Inter Services T20 Cricket – Lords CANCELLED
31 May	Late May Bank Holiday
04 Jun	National Council (Collingwood)
05 Jun	HMS Collingwood Open/Field Gun Day CANCELLED
18 Jun	IMC
25 Jun	Branch Motions for Conference – Deadline/SOC
25 Jun	Open Day
26 Jun	Armed Forces Day – Scarborough CANCELLED
08 Jul	Staff Day – Office Closed
23 Jul	Open Day
30 Jul	AMC / FAC - Zoom
30 Aug	August Bank Holiday
03 Sep	National Council - Nottingham
03 Sep	NC Dines Out National President (VA McAnally)
04 Sep	AGM/National Conference - Nottingham
12 Sep	Naval Associations Biennial Parade - Whitehall
23 Oct	World Uckers Championships Finals - Portsmouth
05 Nov	Budget Meeting
11 Nov	Field of Remembrance
12 Nov	FAC
14 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
18/19 Nov	AMC Meeting in Cleethorpes
09 Dec	National Council Dines-In National President (VA Potts)
10 Dec	National Council
23 Dec-4 Jan	Central Office Closed
25 Dec	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Boxing Day

2022	
11 Feb	AMC/FAC – Zoom
04 Mar	National Council Meeting - Zoom
15 Apr	Easter Monday
May	National Standard Bearers' Competition (Collingwood)
May	AMC/FAC (Collingwood)
Jun TBC	HMS Collingwood Field Gun Day
17 Jun	NC meetings
18 Jun	AG/National Conference
19 Jun	Falklands 40 th Anniversary Parade
Jul – tbc	Covid Commemoration Service - NMA

29 Jul	AMC / FAC – Zoom
10 Sep	National Council Meeting
10 Nov	Garden of Remembrance
11 Nov (pm)	Budget Meeting
13 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
19 Nov	AMC / FAC – Zoom
03 Dec	National Council Meeting
21 Dec – 03 Jan	Central Office Closed for Christmas

D’ye hear there’.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Aylesbury \(No1 Branch\)](#)

[RNA Rosyth & West Fife](#)

[RNA South Bristol](#)

[RNA Wallasey](#)

RNA Aylesbury No1 Branch

On Saturday 27th February 2021, Shipmates Ken Satterthwaite (Standard Bearer) and Ron Hale (Branch Secretary) on behalf of Aylesbury No.1 Branch, paid tribute to Captain Sir Tom Moore by parading the Branch Standard in the street o/s Kens home.

With social distancing being observed, several residents attended to witness and take part in the tribute.

After ‘marching in’ the Standard a Tribute was read by S/M Ron followed by the dipping of the Standard and Salute followed by 2 minutes silence after which the residents were thanked for their attendance as the Standard was marched off.



A copy of the Tribute is attached is below. A tot of Pussers was supplied by S/M Ken (enjoyed by himself and S/M Ron) and a toast was made to Sir Tom.

Sir Tom came to the attention of the nation in 2020 when he decided to undertake ‘a short walk’ of 100 laps of his garden to celebrate his 100th birthday and at the same time raise £1000 for the NHS. Once the media became aware he captured the hearts of the nation and his £1000 grew and grew until he’d raised more than £32 million.

It’s a cruel fate that the very disease that prompted the first lockdown, Covid-19, was the one that Sir Tom finally succumbed to in February this year.

Much has already been written about and also by Sir Tom, but what shines through is his sense of humour as he has asked that an inscription on his headstone should read, "I told you I was Old", his favourite comedian was Spike Milligan who has "I told you I was Ill" inscribed on his.

Sir Tom also wrote that it was, 'Odd and rather touching to think that people might weep over my passing – strangers I've never met'.

We have never met Sir Tom but on behalf of Aylesbury No.1 Branch of the Royal Naval Association we Salute You and say, ' Thank you for your service Sir, may you rest in peace, Duty Done'.

RNA Rosyth & West Fife Branch

RNA Rosyth And West Fife Branch wanted to provide a Special mention for their Branch Piper, Brooklyn Morris.

Brooklyn was competing in the National Piping Centres 25th Junior Competition this week (14th February) where he was playing in the Under 15 Piobaireachd Ground category and he only went and won it.

Piobaireachd is 'classic' bagpipe music that is meant to be played very slow but as you can tell from Brooklyn's winning entry, some of the movements are very hard.

We are MEGA proud of you Brooklyn... well done. From RNA Rosyth & West Fife Branch.



RNA South Bristol Branch

South Bristol branch Hon Secretary S/M Norman Low has forwarded the article below which acknowledges how proud and pleased the branch is that the war time service of its three WW2 Veteran Branch members has been recognized by the award of Life Membership of the Royal Naval Association.

Mrs Connie Gregory, 98 years, served as an Officers Steward in Warsash, Hampshire. Until recently she has been the Chairman of the Wren's Association, Bristol Branch. She is also an accomplished musician and has entertained many visitors to the S.S. Great Britain located in Bristol's Floating Harbour for a number of years.

Kenneth George Williams, 97 years, served from 29th July 1942 until 16th July, 1946 as an Able Seaman Gunner. Initial training in HMS Raleigh was followed by time on H.M. Ships Victory, Eagle in Ireland, Excellent, Saker in New York, Irwell in Liverpool followed by time on Vimy and

Assistance. Ken was involved in Atlantic, Artic and Pacific convoys during which time he visited Iceland, Newfoundland, America, Russia and Australia among many other ports. Ken is the proud holder of the following medals 1939-1945 Star, Atlantic Star, Artic Star, Pacific Star, and the 1939-45 War and Defence medals.

Eric Talbot, 95 years, joined in Portsmouth in 1944 and received training in Rosyth for minesweeping duties. He joined minesweeper HMS Albacore in Malta. Operations took place along the North Africa coast and in the Mediterranean. He remembers that on one occasion the ship was surrounded by 40 floating mines which were despatched by rifle fire. Eric was a member of an armed landing party in Greece whilst the Germans were retreating northwards. Whilst in Greece he visited places where his father served with the Manchester Regiment during the First World War. Later his ship swept along the Western coast of Italy. Eric was shaken but not injured when a mine exploded on the quarterdeck killing the First Lieutenant and injuring several seamen. Returning home Eric served on HMS Frisbee and finished his service as a Leading Stoker. Eric does not remember being afraid at any time - he just got on with it, TRUE SERVICE SPIRIT.

(BZ, to all three of you, from the General Secretary and Central Office Team)

RNA Wallasey Branch

Our thanks to RNA Wallasey PRO, Shipmate John Williams who has forward the article below on what the Club has been up to.....

On 12 March 2021 Len Davies from West Kirby Wirral was laid to rest. Len was a veteran of WW2 including landing as an Army medic on Sword Beach on D Day.

Tri service veterans attended as a guard of honour. Wallasey RNA was represented to honour this man and to reach out again to the wider Wirral Veteran community everyone was proud to have been there to honour this Veteran.

Also, the Wallasey RNA members have been involved in donating easter eggs which will be given to two of the local charities in the Wirral who will give them out to local children who are not fortunate to get an easter egg.

S/m Barry Davies (Hon Secretary) set a challenge to all the members to fill the snooker table with the easter eggs. So far there is £200 worth of eggs, so we are still collecting the cut-off date was 31 March 2021. Local people have passed money in to purchase easter eggs, which we have done, so Andy the challenge for you is to ask anyone at Central Office if they want to send easter eggs or any other RNA clubs who want to get involved.



This venture started just after the lockdown when the RNA Club at Wallasey donated a few sums of money to various charities on the Wirral. The club has agreed to sponsor a junior u11s football team which will be ongoing each year, they also donated, bought three benches for Newlands sheltered accommodation, which will be put together by ourselves and secured to their building, the club also donated £250.00 to Radio City cash for kids. They do a tremendous job supplying

kids with toys at Christmas all over Merseyside and North Wales, £250.00 was donated to Action for Children who do a lot of work for children who are unable to speak to someone, Mentoring, counselling, and other helpful projects they do a lot of work in one of our local schools it was stipulated by the RNA club that the money would be used in the local school.,.



Gary Pink who is the Wallasey branch treasurer is doing the Western Trek, 50 miles for the RBL on the late Bank Holiday in May 2021, he was an ex Chief and as a member of the RNA he is doing a fantastic job with Wallasey RNA Branch.

So what can we do next we got our dedicated team together and after a lot of discussion it was decided to put a smile on children's faces at Easter and do an Easter egg collection so as stated before we have 250 Easter eggs at this moment, these will be split between to local charities after the cut-off date 31 March 2021. Egremont Community who do a lot of work locally providing food at cost price and Charlotte Brightside who deliver meals to local people and also support local children with various activities and food.



So, after the Easter eggs are donated we set out on our next venture collecting toys, clothing, and dry foods for the local food banks to the two charities we have been dealing with and who knows there may be others we can help out.

I would like to mention the other RN Veterans who have worked tirelessly in bringing all this together Barry Davies, Secretary, Brian Antrobus, Club treasurer and Billy Simmons ex RN/RM

Oh and Dave Armstrong the Chairman who makes a fine cuppa of tea or coffee, so he tells us! and me S/M John Williams PRO ex RN.

(Photos top to Bottom - Barry Davies (Left) Secretary and Billy Simmons right. Middle photo-

Dave Armstrong (Left) Chairman and Brian Antrobus (right Treasurer club. Bottom - John Williams PRO

All ex RN

[Ken Knight](#)

[Janet Dalton](#)

[Desmond Hogben](#)

[Robin Hargrave](#)

[Tommy McFarland](#)

[Jack Millard](#)

Ken Knight – RNA Dorchester

Sadly, the Dorchester branch has to announce that Shipmate Ken Knight has ‘Crossed the Bar’.

Shipmate Ken served for 39 years and 4 months in the naval service. He was a founder member of the Dorchester branch and served as the NCM for Area 4.

When he was 15, Ken decided that he wanted to join the Royal Navy. His parents were not keen on the idea but they did not stand in his way. In June 1964, aged 15½ he joined the service at HMS Ganges as a JM(E)2. In July 1965 he joined HMS AURORA in the Portland Squadron. During his career, he served in the following ships: HMS ORION, HMS PUMA, HMS CENTAUR, HMS EAGLE, HMS JUPITER, HMS BERWICK, HMS CHARYBDIS, HMS NORFOLK, HMS BERWICK and HMS NIAID. He also served at HMS FISGARD as a Divisional Instructor, at HMS RALEIGH as a Part One Instructor and on a second occasion as a Leading Rate Leadership School Instructor, CPOMEM(M) Ken Knight’s last draft was to HMS ROYAL ARTHUR where he was a Leading Rate Leadership Course and Petty Officer Leadership Course Instructor, and the Assistant Barrack Master.

Ken left active service in September 1988 and joined the Naval Careers Service as a Careers Adviser, first at the Birmingham Office, then at the Worcester Office and then at the Birmingham and Coventry Office. He then moved to Stanley Barracks at Bovington where he helped to establish the Royal Naval School of Recruiting. By the time that he retired, the school had grown from a staff of two to a team of nine. Ken’s roles at the school were Careers Service Instructor, Training Design and Quality Control.

On retiring from the Royal Navy in 2003, Ken worked for a further 10 years in an Army civilian post at Bovington, where he was the sole administrator for all the training computers. He finally retired in 31 March 2014.

Shortly after leaving the Royal Navy, Ken was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy. Eventually, Ken had to use a mobility scooter, but this did not stop him being actively involved in running, or contributing to, the organisations that he was a member of.

Ken had been a member of the Caravanning and camping Christian Fellowship for many years. Some of the other organisations that he was involved with were Crossways library as a volunteer, the University of the Third Age (U3A) as a group leader, The Dorchester Disabled Club, Tincton Church as a churchwarden, The Dorset Division of the HMS Ganges Association and the RNA.

Ken had been the branch vice-chairman since our commissioning in 1999. He was also the National Council member for number 4 Area from June 2010 to June 2018 when he stood down because of his muscle condition. In recent years, one can only admire him for stoically

coping with his disability and for the contribution he continued to make to the running of the branch, the Area and the RNA.

Ken's passing has left a void in many lives. The Dorchester branch will miss his wise council and friendship.

Janet Dalton - RNA Torrevieja Branch

Very sadly Torrevieja Branch have to report that Shipmate Janet Ann Dalton crossed the bar on 14th February 2021, aged 76.

Our 'oppo', Janet Dalton, a former 'Jenny Wren' - Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) and shipmate of the Royal Naval Association (RNA) Torrevieja Branch sadly 'crossed the bar' before us and leaves a huge gap for her husband Bryan, their daughter Evonne and partner Tony in Christchurch, New Zealand; Granddaughter Jade, also a former 'Jenny Wren' in Taunton; their Son Michael, partner Becky and their children in Wellington - Somerset; her sister Pat and family in Maltby - Yorkshire and her sister Eileen and family in South Anston - Yorkshire, the members of her local religious group and not forgetting all her friends both locally in Spain and in France and UK; who are unfortunately too many to mention at this time.



It is with enormous regret by everyone, but especially Bryan, that although her passing was not due to COVID19 that the related restrictions imposed by the Santa Lucia hospital in Cartagena prevented anyone other than the medical staff from being at her side when she 'crossed the bar'.

Bryan is enormously grateful that the local COVID restriction was raised enough for there to be 15 people allowed to attend her Service of Remembrance at the local Tanatorio Dos Mares in El Alga on Thursday the 18th of February 2021 at 1200hrs., which was superbly conducted by her religious group. He is also immensely appreciative of the support that Janet's religious group provided both Janet and him during her time in hospital and the ongoing support he is receiving.



Janet had an interesting life from the time she was born in Maltby - Yorkshire as the eldest of four sisters, unfortunately one of her sisters Eunice pre-deceased Janet, then through her time in the 'Andrew' (Royal Navy) from where she joined as a 'Wren' on H.M.S. Dauntless on the 17th of September 1963, then through her Air Mechanic training on board H.M.S. Condor, where she became a Fleet Air Arm Wren (as an old term affectionately known 'Wrenlin') and then in service in Station Flight on board H.M.S. Fulmar, where she was first working on Search and Rescue (SAR) Helicopters and Visiting Aircraft, then with the 764 Squadron on Hunter T8 aircraft and then finally at the Engine Repair Section of the Aircraft Repair Workshops before 'de-mob' (leaving the Royal

Navy) in December 1965.

She met Bryan during her Expedition Training Weekend in Nov 1964, where Bryan as the Expedition Leader 'took her under his wing' and consequently things 'took flight' from there. They married in Oct 1965 and subsequently she left the RN to be with Bryan when he was posted to Lee-on-Solent for his mechanics course in December 1965 and qualified as a RELMN(A) in December 1967.

Subsequently from January 1968 Janet and her children moved around the country with Bryans draft's where the first was back to Lossiemouth, followed by a time with Bryan's draft to RAF Honington in 1972, then 'up sticks again' and a quick hop over to Yeovil in 1979 where they stayed after Bryan was 'de-mobbed' and became a civvy in February 1983, before finally ending up in Blackburn in 1988. Janet and Bryan then went on their International travels through France and Spain with their mobile camper van when Bryan took early retirement through redundancy in 2000.



She and Bryan settled in La Manga (Costa Calida, Spain) in 2005 and started to build a social community of local friends, and re-established her active involvement in a religious group, joined the Association of WRENS and the RNA in Torrevieja, while still pursuing their passion for travelling through Spain and France to meet up with friends.

Bryan is very appreciative for all those who were unable to attend Janet's service and who 'raise a glass' and 'toasted her' at some convenient point on the day of her service.

We all salute you Janet and you will be sadly missed by all of us
for all your wonderful attributes including,
in Bryan's own words "a wiz using the computer"

R.I.P.

Desmond Hogben – Isle of Wight Branch

IOW Branch are very sad to report that S/M Desmond Hogben has crossed the bar aged 87.

He was born in Ryde, in April 1933, one of four children to Anna and George Hobgen. He described his formative years as being poor but happy, and during the war, his two brothers joined the RAF. Desmond's father was too old to sign up, and instead joined the home guard, while his mother worked as a warden. Schooled in Ryde, he left at 14 to join Saro as an apprentice joiner and woodworking machinist.

At 18, he was called up for national service. He joined the Army Parachute regiment and spent a year in the UK and another in Cyprus, transported by the Royal Navy. It seemed to him a good life, and he transferred to the Royal Navy as a regular, signing up for 12 years.

Desmond became a veteran for his time in Korea, French Indo-china, Suez and Malaysia. He was also seconded with the Australian Navy, serving in Vietnam, and was at sea during the cold war.

Mr Hobgen married in the early 1950s and had a son, Bryan. He and his wife drifted apart due to long periods away and later divorced. Upon leaving the Royal Navy in 1980 after 30 years of service, he went to Saudi Arabia as an officer — to teach and train fire rescue personnel.

He spent five years in the country, and during this time, on leave, he met his future wife Maggie at Yelf's Hotel. The pair wrote to each other often, and their letters in and out of the country would be censored. They married in Florida, and the happy couple travelled around the world on holiday. After finishing his contract with Saudi Arabia, the couple spent time in Spain.

At home on the Isle of Wight, in Ryde, he went to work at the auction rooms in Shanklin. He enjoyed his time as an auctioneer and valuer. Sadly in 2010, he had a bad stroke and could not read, write or talk for a while. His wife Maggie helped him recover by going through the alphabet with him, teaching him to read and write again.

Calm Seas and fair winds Shipmate.

(Our gratitude to the IOW County Press for this obituary)

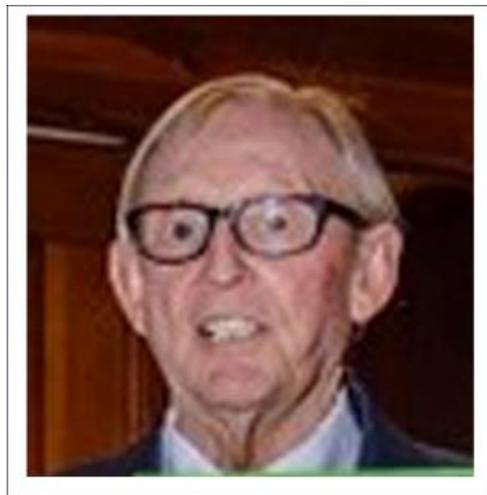
Robin Hargrave - Torrevieja Branch

Robin was born on 10/06/1942 in Bristol and also went by his mother's maiden name as a stage name of Bob Brailey, 'Crossed the Bar' in Santa Pola, Spain on 29th December 2020 after metaphorically speaking, "recently steered his ship through rough seas" medically.

His funeral took place at 0845 hrs on the 1st of January 2021 at Tanatorio Crematorio D'Elx in Alicante where standard bearers from the RNA Torrevieja branch, the RBL Gran Alacant & La Marina Branch and the RBL Spain District North were able to salute him on behalf of his family, friends and shipmates who were, regrettably due to the current COVID19 restrictions, prevented from attending.

His Eulogy was conducted by the RBL Gran Alacant & La Marina Branch Chairman, Paul Kane.

He will be sadly missed by his friends and shipmates but no more so than by his grieving family in UK which includes; his Sister Jacqueline Ryan (Nee Hargrave) and Brother-in-Law Paul Ryan, along with 2 Nieces: - Simone and Beth Ryan, 2 Nephews Damian and Mark Ryan. 3 Great Nephews: - Tom, Matthew and Alfie Ryan and 1 Great Niece: - Molly Ryan, who will all take comfort from the following extract from his eulogy at his funeral:



"Nothing can detract from the joy and closeness you shared with him; nothing can destroy Robin's love for you, nor your love for him. The past with all its meaning, remains sacred. It cannot be taken away!"

It's in the bank – safe and secure: Locked in your hearts. Be grateful that Robin was part of your lives and let his character, his influence, his warmth, his deeds live on". Paul Kane

It is impossible to give justice to his exciting and event packed life within a short exposé as it would have to encompass a variety of aspects which not only helped shape the UK Entertainment Industry, but also the RNA Torrevieja Branch where he had been a member since 06/10/2004 following his retirement and subsequently took up the mantle as the President from 2008 to 2012 after moving to Santa Pola, Spain in 2008.

His dedicated time to the RBL Gran Alacant & La Marina branch where he served as the Chairman, along with his support to the RBL Spain District North where he served as Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator from 2011 and where his fundamental nature to care and support others

contributed to the spectacular achievement in raising €169,622.40 for the 2018 appeal, when he then handed over to Esther Navarro.



As well as his time as a Sea Cadet prior to his contribution during his service in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) from when he joined on board HMS Flying Fox on 27/11/1958 and then through each year of his 17 days annual service which included taking part in several NATO exercises, in addition to all his performances at various entertainment events until his discharge on 17/11/1975.

Let alone from all the significant and versatile experiences of his career in showbiz through many roles within UK entertainment industry, right from when he was living in Leicester with his parent's and his first soiree at the Leicester Opera House with an involuntary appearance in a Christmas Panto and where he got 'hooked on the theatre', then through his 'tap dancing, banjulele playing reciter of monologues' as a member of a local church group when he moved back to Bristol with his family.

Followed by his time performing with the Mary Reynolds Juvenile Dance School and his first venture into the 'big time' at the age of 12 when the Juveniles appeared live on BBC TV during Saturday Prime Time on the Charlie Chester Show.

Then through his multitude of appearances where he was telling a few jokes, singing and performing magic tricks at numerous concert parties, local clubs and his first residency as the regular Sunday night compere at the Bristol Rovers Supporters club and through some successes in talent shows culminating in being invited to appear at the Lord Mayors Variety Command Performance, billed as Bristol's Teenage Comedian, then on through his time as a Redcoat Entertainer at Butlins following an audition for Wally Goodman, followed by a stint managing the TOP Rank bingo hall at Smethwick before returning to performing in the clubs in Bristol and all of this was only in his early years!

Including his time from 1971 when presenting a Bristol local television channel pub quiz programme with an element of darts, appearances in Dr Who and Northanger Abbey as well as presenting Radio shows for BBC Radio Bristol where his guests included local personalities and other celebrities including Tony Blackburn.

And especially the period from 1977 when he received a life changing phone call from Cunard who were looking for a DJ to join a world cruise within 3 days and in Robin's own word, "My feet didn't touch the ground as I wrapped up my affairs in Bristol and flew out to join the ship in Genoa" and on through his career to Senior Cruise Director and his retirement in 1991, during which time he had the fortune to work with celebrities such as Norman Collier, Max Bygraves, Hermione Gingold, Dame Alicia Markova, Reg Varney and Pearl Carr & Teddy Johnson where in his own words "with whom I spent many happy days in absolute hysterics."

Not forgetting to all the rich and rewarding times he spent with his family and friends.

Some of these incredible times can also be read about from his own words in an article in the Leader publication at the following link:

<https://www.theleader.info/2018/03/25/man-behind-rbl-district-appeal/>

Robin's family, friends and shipmates feel he can be best described by what
Winston Churchill once said

"You make a living by what you get; but you make a life by what you give".

We all salute you Robin as you sail off into the sunset and Cross the Bar.

Tommy McFarland – RNA Limavady Branch

Shipmate Tommy McFarland sadly crossed the bar on 21st March 2021, aged 100 .

Tommy served in the Royal Navy during WW2 from 1941 until 1946 as a Signaller, serving on Motor Minesweeper 43 and HMS Ceto, seeing active service in Atlantic and Arctic convoy duties.

After demob he returned to his home in Omagh, Co.Tyrone to his old job ,as a type setter for the local newspaper.

In 1953 Tommy was recalled to duty, and served in HMS Rooke & on the destroyer HMS Sluys, until stood down in 1954 to R.F.R status.

Calm seas and Fair winds Shipmate.

Jack Millard - St Neots Branch

National Chairman, Shipmate Keith Ridley writes.....

Last month I was pleased to inform you that 99 year old branch member, Jack, had been awarded an RNA National Certificate of Appreciation as a WW2 Veteran. It is with great sadness that Jack Crossed the Bar on 14th February, just 7 weeks short of attaining his 100th Birthday.

Having volunteered aged 21 in 1942, Jack joined the Navy as a Gunner and was discharged in 1946. During his service, he served on Atlantic & Russian convoys, for the latter being awarded the Arctic Star and the Russian Ushakov medals. Having joined at HMS Collingwood, he went on to serve in/on RNB Victory, Queen of Bermuda, Royalist, Excellent, Tallybont, St Angelo and finally RNB Victory when he was being paid 6s 10d (£0.34p) per day.



Jack was slipped over the side on 4th March at Cambridge Crematorium draped with the White Ensign he had been so proud to serve under. The family have thanked the Branch for providing the Guard of Honour and Parading the Branch

Standard. In true Branch tradition, his daughters participated with Shipmates in 'UP SPIRITS' which was much appreciated.



Jack is pictured receiving his Certificate of Appreciation. CO are seeking WW2 Veterans to acknowledge their Service to King & Country. One such veteran is our young 99 year old S/M Jack, who last year took up residence in a Nursing Home. Due to COVID restrictions, I requested the Home Manager to carry out the presentation on my behalf. Jack served on several gruelling Arctic Convoys before being transferred to the tropical heat of the Pacific and

Australia. Jack proudly wears his White Arctic Convoy beret, and among his medals, the Arctic Star and Medal of Ushakov awarded by Russia. Whenever I visited Jack at his home, he was always proud to show me his photos of the thick ice covering the deck and guns of his ship. BZ Jack, we salute you for your Service, and remember with great respect your Shipmates, who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Jack is pictured opposite, after being presented with the Arctic Star medal in 2013 by Derek Bristow, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, along with S/M Grove Dove from Huntingdon RNA

I will miss Jack as I enjoyed his Navy talk on my frequent visits to him, and his 'dits' on chipping the ice off the decks & guns. Duty done Jack, RIP Shipmate.

S/M Keith Ridley, National Chairman



UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

- Variety of special deals for both Groups and Individuals. 1% of turnover thorough CONA Holiday Service is returned to the RNA <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/offers/members-cona-holidays-service/>

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!.

Legal Services



Free 30 minute legal advice with Coffin Mew.
armedforces@coffinmew.co.uk 0800 827168

Breakdown Service



- RAC Breakdown and recovery service
asec@arno.org.uk or 0207 4025231



Organisers of Reunions should be aware the CONA Travel will match or better any other 'like for like' Reunion/Group Trips bookings so why not give them an opportunity to impress you.
0844 264 2122 conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk



- Discounts on a large range of new cars
- <https://www.forcescarsdirect.com/rna>

The 'Shortcast' Editors Note

Please forward any reunions for 2021 and I will publish them here

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 £2,700 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh, and by the way, their service is first class as well.

	Please check go to link for RN Shipmates.co.uk for a comprehensive list of further reunions. www.rnshipmates.co.uk	
2021		
13/15 Aug	The HMS Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association will hold their 42nd Annual Reunion & AGM at the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea from 13th to 15th August 2021. Please contact Secretary Denis Askham for more details. askhamd3@gmail.com	Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association
24 Sep	HMS Tiger Reunion – St Pierre Hotel Newmillerdam Yorkshire	
01 Oct	HMS Tartar Reunion – Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth	
08 Oct	HMS Carysfort Reunion – Royal Beach Hotel Southsea	
29 Oct	HMS Eagle/ Yarmouth/ Undaunted - Hallmark Hotel Derby	
2022		
07 May	HMS Nottingham (D91) – Liverpool	

Swinging the Lamp – April 2021

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	1853	First provision for lower-deck pensions, after twenty-two years' service.
2 nd	1945	VC: Cpl Thomas Peck Hunter, 43 Cdo, RM. Battle of Comacchio, Italy. 43 Cdo was advancing northwards up the coast road north of Ravenna between Lake Comacchio and the sea, heading towards Porto Garibaldi. Hunter, in charge of a bren-gun section, charged across

		open ground, firing a bren from the hip, and cleared a German position, allowing his troop to advance. He was killed soon afterwards. His award was gazetted 12 June 1945 and his VC presented to his parents at Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh, 26 September 1945. The only RM VC of the Second World War.
3rd	1982	Rear-Admiral J.F. Woodward sailed from Gibraltar, flag in Glamorgan, with Antrim, Arrow, Brilliant, Coventry, Glasgow, Plymouth and Sheffield with Appleleaf and Tidespring.
4 th	1581	Francis Drake knighted by Queen Elizabeth I on board Golden Hind at Deptford.
5 th	1957	Centurion commissioned at Haslemere as Central Drafting authority.
6 th	1776	<i>Glasgow</i> (20) fought off five American ships under Cdre Esek Hopkins (<i>Alfred</i>) 24 miles S.E. of Block Island.
7th	2011	3 Cdo Bde deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Herrick 14. Brig E.G.M. Davis took over command of Task Force Helmand from Brig James Chiswell, Commander 16 Air Assault Bde at Lashkar Gah on 9 April.
8th	1940	VC: Lt-Cdr Gerard Broadmead, Roope, (<i>Glowworm</i>). Posthumous. <i>Glowworm</i> sank after ramming the German cruiser <i>Admiral Hipper</i> off the coast of Norway. First naval VC won in Second World War but not first gazetted. Battle Honour: Norway 1940.
9th	1777	Horatio Nelson passed his examination for Lieutenant.
10th	1918	Light cruiser <i>Dauntless</i> launched at Palmers Yard on the Tyne. Served in the Baltic in 1919, in the Particular Service Squadron on the Empire cruise in 1923–4, in the Mediterranean and on the America and West Indies Station; wartime service on the China and East Indies Stations. Sold 1946. Battle Honour: Atlantic 1939.
11 th	1997	White Ensign hauled down at <i>Tamar</i> , Stonecutters' Island, 100 years to the day after the troopship <i>Tamar</i> arrived in Hong Kong waters as Receiving Ship. <i>Tamar</i> was Britain's last naval base east of Suez.
12th	1943	Lt-Cdr Robert Hichens, DSO and bar, DSC and two bars, RNVR, peacetime Cornish solicitor, killed in action in MGB 112 off the Dutch coast; the most highly decorated RNVR officer of WW2.
13 th	1945	Task Force 57 including <i>Indefatigable</i> attacked the airfields at Matsuyama and Shinchiku, Formosa. Operation Iceberg Oolong. FAA Sqns: Avenger: 820; Seafire: 887; Firefly: 1770.
14 th	1958	RN Supply School, which had moved from <i>Ceres</i> at Wetherby, opened at <i>Pembroke</i> , RN Barracks, Chatham.
15 th	1797	Mutiny began at Spithead in Bridport's flagship, <i>Queen Charlotte</i> . Ended 17 May.
16 th	2003	<i>Turbulent</i> returned to Devonport after ten months and having steamed 50,000 miles. Longest-ever deployment of a RN nuclear Submarine. Fired Tomahawk missiles against targets in Iraq. Operation Telic.
17th	1941	Portsmouth Dockyard bombed. 'We had a real blitz . . . a very big fellow . . . knocked poor old Admiralty House to pieces' recorded the C-in-C Portsmouth, Admiral Sir William James, who moved his office into Hardy's cabin in HMS <i>Victory</i> . Tactical School in the Old Naval Academy damaged.
18th	1905	Launch of A 13, first RN submarine with diesel engine.

19th	1956	Cdr (Special Branch) Lionel Kenneth Philip 'Buster' Crabb, OBE, GM, RNVR, clearance diver, disappeared at Portsmouth during the visit of Soviet leaders Krushchev and Bulganin in the Sverdlov-class cruiser <i>Ordzhonikidze</i> . Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden told the House of Commons that it would 'not be in the public interest' to disclose the circumstances of Cdr Crabb's death.
20th	1949	<i>Amethyst</i> , frigate, fired on by Communist PLA batteries in Yangtze River east of Nanking. Opening of the Yangtze Incident
21st	1941	German air raid seriously damaged Devonport Naval Base, including St Nicholas' Church
22 nd	1982	Wessex helicopter from destroyer <i>Antrim</i> retrieved SAS and FAA personnel from Fortuna Glacier, South Georgia in unusually bad weather. Operation Corporate.
23 rd	1856	Queen Victoria reviewed Fleet at Spithead; 240 ships, many having just returned from Baltic and Black Sea.
24 th	1916	Submarine E 22 conducted 'float-off' trials of two Sopwith Schneider seaplanes (Nos 3730, 3743). The purpose of this first submarine/aircraft trial was to achieve an up-threat interdiction of Zeppelins over the North Sea.
25 th	1953	The extension of the Portsmouth naval war memorial commemorating officers and men from Portsmouth-manned ships and ratings of the Portsmouth port division lost in the Second World War unveiled by HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.
26 th	2011	Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, First Sea Lord 1979–1982, died.
27 th	1937	The National Maritime Museum at Greenwich was opened by HM King George VI. His Majesty, with HM The Queen and HRH Princess Elizabeth, and the First Lord of the Admiralty, embarked at Westminster Pier in the launch of the C-in-C The Nore and, escorted by the destroyer <i>Wishart</i> and MTBs 3, 4, 5 and 6, went downriver and disembarked at the RN College, Greenwich. At the Museum 'the male staffs were all in morning dress, the hire of which they paid for themselves, the warders in their recently provided uniforms'. The Museum opened to the public on 29 April.
28 th	1972	Patrol vessels <i>Wasperton</i> , <i>Wolverton</i> and <i>Monkton</i> arrived at HMS <i>Tamar</i> to join the Sixth Patrol Craft Squadron in Hong Kong after a 16,461-mile voyage, having sailed from Britain on 12 January. They joined <i>Yarnton</i> and <i>Beachampton</i> which had arrived the previous September from service with the Ninth MCM Squadron in Bahrain.
29 th	1867	Canned meat added to ships' victualling stores.
30th	1943	The Man Who Never Was. Operation Mincemeat. A corpse given identity of Captain, Acting Major, William Martin, RM, put into the sea from the submarine <i>Seraph</i> off Huelva, Spain. He carried secret papers intended to deceive the enemy, through German agents in Spain, that Allies intended to invade Sardinia and not Sicily. The story was told by the intelligence officer who planned the operation, Lt-Cdr Ewen Montagu, RNVR, in his book <i>The Man Who Never Was</i> , and by former First Lord, Duff Cooper, in his novel <i>Operation Heartbreak</i> .

2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - BRANCH MOTIONS

Branch Motion

Proposed by Branch, Seconded byBranch

Proposed Motion (to begin; That the)

Explanation

Proposing Branch Contact details

S/M.....

.....

.....

.....

Postcode

E Mail

Telephone number

Please return completed form to Central Office for consideration by the NC and Governance Committee (SOC) by the **25th June 2021**.

NOMINATION FORM
ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND DEPUTY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
2021/2022 (Revised RNA Bye-Law 7)

For the attention of All Branch Secretaries in Areas. 2,6,7,8,9,11 and Scotland.

Each Branch may nominate **one full or life member** from any Branch within its own Area, as a Candidate for election to the National Council, and **one full or life member** for election as the Deputy National Council Member **subject to the approval of the Branch to which both persons belong.** (See Note Below)

Names of Nominees

NCM **DNCM**

Proposed by **Branch** **Area**

Address of Nominee NCM.....

..... **e mail**

DNCM.....

..... **e mail**

Brief history of nominees in the Association. (Continue on separate sheet if necessary)

NCM

DNCM

Chairman (signed)(dated).....

Secretary..... (signed)(dated).....

If the Candidate is **not** a member the proposing Branch, this section is to be completed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Candidate's **own** Branch.

Candidate's Branch

We are aware of the above nomination.

Signature of Chairman (Candidate's Branch)

Signature of Secretary (Candidate's Branch)

Candidate

I accept the nomination and promise to attend as many National Council Meetings as is possible and to sit on any Committees to which I may be elected.

Signature of Candidate Dated

The envelope containing this completed form should be marked **NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL** and must reach RNA HQ no later than **1600 1st June 2021.**