



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



Published 1st
Monday of
the Month

The Semaphore Circular

No 713

The Beating Heart of the RNA

September 2021



Change at the RNA Helm – New National President, Vice Admiral Duncan Potts CB, surrounded by Standard Bearer’s on his succession at National Conference in Nottingham.

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

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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) Sara Field, Kathryn Brindley, Nigel Huxtable, Lynda Pearson, Malcolm Little, Andy Christie, Julie Royston, Charlie Darlington and General Secretary Bill Oliphant. Missing on this occasion was Mike Gray.

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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/ Governance Committee

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RNA Website / Members Area / Downloads /
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Snail Mail – Postal Address

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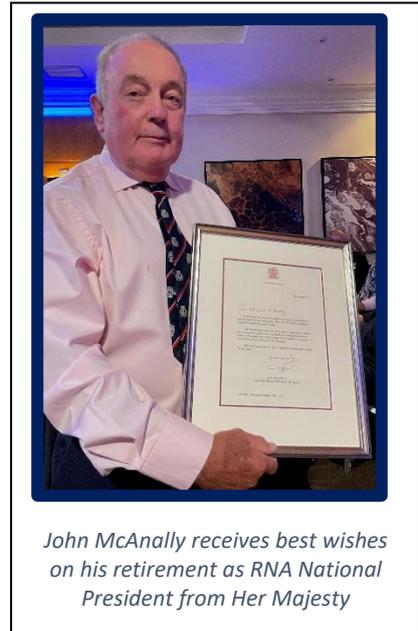
From the General Secretary

Dear Shipmates,

Well, what a fabulous AGM and Conference weekend that turned out to be! This edition comes to you slightly adrift, for which I apologise, but, I confess, there was an element of recovery post Conference. I was a tad worried that it might be a little difficult this year to encourage shipmates to crawl out from under their Covid shelters and come along to Conference but, I am delighted to say that my fears were unfounded. Of course, and rightly, I respect those amongst us who are taking more care as the Covid battle is still on and it's still taking casualties but those who joined us in Nottingham this weekend thank you all for coming and making it such a great weekend. Good to see elements of the Riders Branch roll into town on their machines along with Mike Burnham on his 4 wheeled mean machine!

The opportunity to meet again and see some old friends was a real tonic after the long winter of Covid hibernation. I think we all needed it!!

It was the occasion to bid farewell to our revered National President of over 20 years, Admiral John McAnally who still amuses us with both his light hearted conduct of business throughout the AGM but also his after dinner tales as he wanders around the tables. And, with Admiral Duncan Potts now at the helm, it would appear that the tradition of style, panache and good humour with our National President is set to continue. There's more about Conference later in this edition and some excellent photos too.



John McAnally receives best wishes on his retirement as RNA National President from Her Majesty



This brings me neatly onto Nigel Huxtable, who, as well as being an absolute rock as our Membership Secretary for over 13 years, also acts as our staff photographer often getting himself into strange nooks and crannies to find a good angle on something.

It's almost impossible to replace someone like Nigel as his depth of knowledge on veterans' affairs is truly encyclopaedic but, also, I don't think I've ever met anyone quite as selfless as Nigel and I constantly need to check myself that I am not taking advantage of his good

nature. Nigel, we will miss you in the office but I hope you will come back and take some more excellent photos for us please.

Please can I take this opportunity to thank shipmates for your extremely generous contributions to both John and Nigel's leaving gift; both were overwhelmed when they received an envelope

with a donation as a token of Shipmates appreciation from 'Project Ultra'. We are pleased to report that OP ULTRA was good with both recipients remaining completely in the dark until it was presented. I know that both John and Nigel were thrilled to receive the gift and want to say how grateful they are.

(From Andy - Very many thanks to Branches and individual Shipmates for donating to 'Op Ultra.' You'll be pleased to know that my Postman calls me Shipmate now!)



Nigel receiving his Life Membership



Jim Hammond NCM No 5 Area

One dampener on an otherwise thoroughly enjoyable weekend was the news which reached us on Sunday afternoon of the passing of S/m Jim Hammond, NCM No 5 Area and long-time servant of the RNA, who crossed the bar on Saturday after a brief illness. Jim was an absolute gentleman and worked hard in Counsel to improve the management and governance of the Association. RIP Jim.

Looking ahead to the forthcoming weekend, the Naval Associations Parade on Sunday at the Cenotaph will rightly be supported by the HMS COLLINGWOOD Band of the Royal Marines and we are honoured to host the Naval Secretary and Director People and Training, Rear Admiral Phil Hally, who will take the salute. We will

also take the opportunity to remember our shipmates like Jim who didn't make it through the pandemic, whether taken by Covid or not. I feel this is an acceptable minor amendment to tradition as, certainly during the early phases of the crisis during the restrictions, some were unable to enjoy the marks of respect that they might usually have expected at their funerals. Please gather in King Charles Street from 0900. See you there!

Finally, just to let you know that there is an order form at the rear of this issue for 2022 diaries.

Best wishes, Bill Oliphant

Chairman's chat

By the time this edition of Semaphore Circular hits the decks, this year's National Conference will be over.

Top of the hoist this month is we said farewell to Vice Admiral John McAnally at National Conference, who has been relieved as National President by Vice Admiral Duncan Potts. John, as he is affectionately known throughout the membership, has given outstanding service and commitment to the Association for just over 20 years. He has been an outstanding Ambassador for the Association with everyone he has come into contact with, and not just on the Golf Course! I thank him not only for the wise advice and guidance he has given to the National Council during his time in Office, but to myself, especially when he has complemented me with the phrase "I knew there was a use for Stokers!" We will never forget John for his never-ending catalogue of jokes when it came to his renown walk-about at Branch Dinners and Socials. John takes with him our warmest and sincere best wishes for a long and well-earned retirement.



The Association extends a warm welcome to John's relief our new National President Duncan Potts. Central Office Staff and I passed Duncan's Inspection when we had the pleasure of meeting him in October 2020 and again this year in July. From my personal 45 year's membership of the RNA, I can whole heartedly say that Duncan will enjoy the comradeship and hospitality of Shipmates as much as I have and will make many friends.

In advance of the National Conference weekend, I am very much looking forward to meeting in person the many Shipmates I have had the pleasure of getting to know over the past 17 months through the Saturday evenings Virtual Tot Nights and those who have attended the Monday night Fireside Chats. It looks to be a great weekend and RNA Nottingham Club will have been invaded at Sunday Lunch time and evening.

On 21 August my wife and I had the pleasure of attending RNA Salisbury Branch's Post Commissioning Event which had been delayed since last September due to Covid. An amazing evening with the opportunity to meet Shipmates in person rather than via Zoom. Thank you Salisbury for carrying off in true RNA style, a great evening.

It is pleasing that most Covid restrictions have been lifted, and that Branches are now beginning to hold physical meetings. However, we must respect those members who may feel it is too soon to be attending Branch meetings.

I read a comment on Facebook which read "Do our Navy Ships go to sea now" I am not sure where that person has been hiding, nor keeping up to date with Naval Shipping movements, Ship Commissions, and deployments. The answer is a definite yes, and with Sunday sailings! The fleet may be smaller, but our Fleet is out at sea, and worldwide.

New membership continues to increase and no doubt Bill Oliphant in his forward to this edition has mentioned the increasing success of new members since January, which has now reached some 1700 but please take Bill's total.

Membership Cards & the Database. Central Office is still experiencing delays by Branches who have not inputted their members details onto the new database. As a result, it is these Branches who complain to Central Office that they have not received their New Membership Cards! The new cards are issued based on the data submitted. If a Branch is experiencing a problem, please let your Area Secretary know who may be able to assist or draw on local assistance. The Branches concerned can expect a knock on the door very soon either by their National Council Member or Area Secretary.

Well Shipmates, time to sign off.

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.

Yours aye

Keith Ridley

nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com

1. ★ Naval Associations Biennial Parade in Whitehall - Essential information for Sunday 12 September 2021



The Naval Associations Biennial Parade will take place on Sunday 12 September 2021 and we would be delighted to see as many Veterans from the wider Naval family take part as possible to celebrate this unique Naval occasion. Many Naval Associations are taking part and there are no limits on numbers the more the merrier! Don't forget to eat a decent pre parade Fat Boys and Girls breakfast.

A Few Church Notices concerning the Parade.....

- **Essential – You carry with you photo ID and your Association Membership Card. A Met Police Officer and member of RNA staff will be at ingress points.**
- Rig - Blazer/Jacket Association Tie (RN will be in Number 1 Uniform)
- Standard Bearers – Room for changing/stowing kit available from 0900 at Civil Service Club, Great Scotland Yard (ten minute walk from King Charles Street)
- Standard Bearers muster in King Charles Street at 1010 for brief by Parade Commander
- Wreaths – Please feel free to bring a wreath they will be collected during the parade review and placed on the Cenotaph
- Shipmates should muster in King Charles Street by 1015 ready for Parade brief by the Parade Commander, Shipmate Bob Coburn at **1025**
- Parade steps off 1035 with the Band leading the way.
- Parade will travel at 'Matelot Bimble' speed for those worrying about pace of march.
- Disabled Shipmates who wish to take part please contact RNA Central Office on 02392 723747 or admin@royalnavalassoc.com
- Shipmates should be aware that toilet facilities are a 15-minute walk from King Charles Street/Cenotaph (So prior planning etc.....)
- RNA Staff will be easily recognizable and will be wearing High Vis Jackets on the day to assist Shipmates
- Staff will provide First Aid cover and a member of staff will carry a Defibrillator.
- Parking - Sunday morning in central London, those choosing to drive into Whitehall are



recommended to park on the Embankment and to check what parking regulations and zones for charging are operating on the day.

******Sadly, a BBC filming Unit has booked the parking spaces in the Mall..**

In true Naval tradition permission has been granted for you to go round the parade ground again!!
Only Kidding.....

Looking forward to seeing you on the day. If you are unsure about anything, please ring 02392 723747 or email Admin@royalnavalassoc.com

2. ★ Semaphore Circular Update

The Semaphore Circular will now be publishing on the first Monday of the month so coordinate with the Semaphore Short which is published each Monday. Please continue to forward any articles and branch news to andy@royalnavalassoc.com by the 23rd of each month for publication.

Apologies for the late distribution this month the Editor had a hectic featuring the Conference and Naval Associations' Parade so it was a tad busy!

For your information the Semaphore Circular October edition will not be published due to the Editor being on leave.

3. ★ 2021 Royal Naval Association Conference – Nottingham 4/5 September 2021

Change was a major theme at the 2021 National Conference in Nottingham – change, and the passing of time...

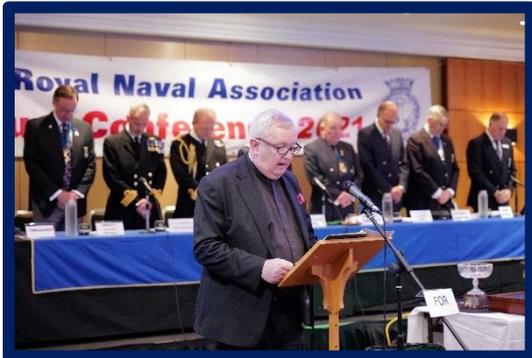
The main feature of this year's gathering at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in the city centre was a change of command ceremony. Vice Admiral John McAnally became National President two decades ago, taking over an organisation that was struggling to stem a steady fall in membership numbers as time took its inevitable toll. But, as was reported during the business part of proceedings on Saturday, he leaves an Association that has regained a measure of confidence, having adopted a radical plan that saw subscriptions ended in favour of donations.

That model – crucially underpinned by the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) which, in the immediate aftermath of the switch, has guaranteed the RNA would not suffer a shortfall in income – has seen new members join in their thousands, and with the country emerging from lockdowns, hopes are high that that upward trajectory can be maintained and even improved upon. Vice Admiral McAnally deemed it an appropriate time to hand over the



helm to a new man – Vice Admiral Duncan Potts, who retired from the Royal Navy in 2018, and officially took up his new role as National President in the closing stages of the Conference.

Another handover at the end of proceedings saw Central Office stalwart S/M Nigel Huxtable succeeded as Membership Support Manager by Sara Field, a former Chief Writer with 25 years' service in the Mob, who has been Nigel's deputy since the start of the year. Both Vice Admiral McAnally and S/M Nigel were given a rousing send-off at the excellent gala dinner that followed the AGM.



The business of the day was completed relatively quickly – there was just one National Council proposal to consider, a tweak to the Supplements Charter which allowed for valuable continuity in the roles of National Chairman and National Vice Chairman. The proposal was accepted unanimously by the 75 delegates (12 of whom 'attended' virtually by Zoom conference call).

The swift conclusion of business allowed members to enjoy a range of presentations about the Navy past and present, and a new initiative to help banish

loneliness in older Naval veterans.

Following a welcome from the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Cllr David Trimble, Cdre Rob Bellfield, Naval Regional Commander Eastern England, gave an honest and upbeat appraisal of the current disposition of the Royal Navy.

His assessment was supported later in the programme by a world premiere of the RN Presentation Team's latest blockbuster production – a powerful film overlaid with commentary from two young members of the Senior Service, steward AB Loren Jackson and Royal Marine L/Cpl Kai Baker, under the watchful eye of team leader Lt Ollie Johnson.



RNA Welfare Programme Manager Lynda Person organised a presentation about Sparko TV, in which Sparko CEO Orit Eyal-Fibeesh demonstrated to delegates the many benefits of this television-based Internet package that allows elderly Naval veterans to easily keep in touch with relatives and shipmates, access tailored content such as Naval films and video, and take part in virtual communal activities such as bingo, quizzes and special interest meetings.



The historical perspective was provided by S/M Ralph Dodd, who, at the request of RNA General Secretary S/M Bill Oliphant, delivered a fascinating 'Fireside Chat' about the Royal Navy in the build-up to World War 2 and the early months of the conflict. These Fireside Chats were introduced during the first pandemic lockdown as a means for members to meet online and learn about a wide range of



Naval topics, and the series, delivered by shipmates as well as some experts and specialists, has become a Monday evening staple.

There were some new names in the frame when the winners of the President's Awards for Recruiting and Gift Aid Returns were announced.

The Sword of Honour for the Area with the greatest increase in membership in 2020 went to Area 10; the Brigg's Dirk for larger branches was won by the City of Glasgow, the Brigg's Rose Bowl for branches of 30 members or fewer went to the City of Salisbury; the Certificate for larger overseas branches was won by Port Philip Bay in Australia, while the Certificate for smaller overseas branches was won by Japan. Area 9 took the Tasker Bowl for Gift Aid returns.

While this summary can only provide a snapshot of the weekend's activities – no room to mention the drumhead service on Sunday, nor the fire alarm in the small hours of Friday morning (!) – there seemed to be a general consensus that Nottingham was a very good Conference indeed, made all the better for shipmates being able to meet up in person for the first time in two years (the 2020 version was held online).



And now all eyes turn to Portsmouth 2022, and commemorations marking the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict that will be an integral part of the programme.

Our grateful thanks to Mike Gray for this report on Conference.

4. ★ November Remembrance Sunday Parade – Cenotaph Whitehall

Shipmates whilst we are on the parade theme can I advise you that the RNA has 100 tickets available for Shipmates to participate in the Cenotaph Remembrance Parade on Sunday 14 November.

For those of you who have not had an opportunity to march previously, the programme is as follows:

Arrive Horseguards 0900 – 0930 - RNA Platoon - Rig RNA No1 with medals. RNA Foul Weather Jacket may be worn. Make sure you are well wrapped up as the wind can make it chilly! (Don't forget your hip flask!)

Once fallen in on Horseguards platoons are marched out onto Whitehall and wait for formal service of remembrance to complete then march down Whitehall past the Cenotaph back round to Horseguards by the Guards Memorial. Once marching it takes 20 minutes and is conducted in front of hundreds of people.

Comment from Shipmate Andy Christie (RNA Ops Man) –

If you have never taken part before at this occasion, can I encourage you to come along and experience it. The feeling of camaraderie is just unique, the sense of belonging to this organised crowd of 10,000 servicemen and women makes you so proud you would probably sign on again if you could! More importantly this is the occasion to take time in my busy life and remember the 'Fallen', who never made it home and so the sore knees and aches caused by parade pail into insignificance with the sacrifice they have made.

So as in the famous words of Delia Smith..... "Let's be having you"



5. ★ Assistance Please

Central Office received the 'Officers Cap' shown in photo after the death of Mrs Eileen Boulden, who was the widow of late Mr Ronald Boulden. It was their wish that Ronald's Hat should be passed to the RNA.

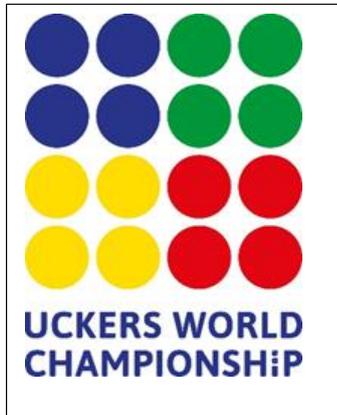
Would any Shipmate who recognises the Cap Badge please provide us with the answer as to who would have worn a 'Hat' like this?



6. ★ World Uckers Championships 2021 – Update

Shipmates should be aware that the Uckers World Championships will be held in the Victory Arena Portsmouth Naval Base on Saturday 23 October 2021.

Thank you to all those who have entered the competition we are looking forward to seeing you on the day. It was originally envisaged that a series of pre finals day knock out rounds would be played but it has been decided that this is not necessary.



Further specific details of the competitions Final Day arrangements will be separately published/promulgated in the next few weeks.

Finally, please see details of the World Uckers Prize Draw being run courtesy of RNRMC at the rear of this Circular.

Looking forward to seeing you all. Remember when practising don't use up all your Sixes!!!

7. ★ 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
Monday 06 Sep	Richard Jones	Maritime Disasters – Finding the Truth
Monday 13 Sep	Anthony Moth	K Class (Kalamity) Sinking of K13
Monday 20 Sep	Andrew Whitmarsh	D-Day through collections of the D Day story.
Monday 27 Sep	Richard Jones	History and Writing
Monday 04 Oct	David Griggs	Life in WW1 RN Submarines
Monday 11 Oct	Mike Milne	HMS Ark Royal (1937-41) - Her life, death and rediscovery

8. ★ RN Memories - Navy Days Portsmouth

For well over half a century, for a few days each year, the UK's great naval bases and air stations opened their doors to the public to show them what the Senior Service was all about.

The idea of organised showcase events first came to Admiral Sir Osmond de Brock, at that time Commander-in-Chief Portsmouth, when he suggested in 1927 that a handful of Portsmouth-based ships could be opened to the general public, primarily to raise funds for Naval charities – the legacy of the Great War was a great many disabled veterans, war widows and orphans who could do with extra support.

The concept was such a success that Chatham and Plymouth staged their own events the following year, and the whole idea snowballed.

Punters flocked in from all parts of the UK to the various events, with coach tours and special excursion trains helping make them accessible, and for just a shilling or so (sixpence for the nippers) Joe Public could rub shoulders with Jack and clamber all over mighty ships including battle cruiser HMS Hood and battleships HMS Rodney and Renown.

Navy Weeks came to an end in 1938, and with the Fleet still busy in the aftermath of World War 2 it was 1948 before Navy Days reappeared on the calendar.

As well as justifying the expenditure on the Navy, such events also acted as effective recruitment exercises, as potential matelots got the chance to talk to the genuine article and hear heart-stopping tales from the front line – no doubt, in some cases, embellished for effect, depending on the audience.

Navy Weeks, and latterly Navy Days, saw military and industrial complexes converted into maritime and aviation wonderlands, thrilling youngsters and supporters who were able to get close up to some awe-inspiring pieces of kit.

Using a combination of military displays, fairground-style attractions (the divers in a glass tank of water always proved very popular, especially with the chance to play noughts-and-crosses thrown in) and trade show stands, Navy Days gave the British public a very visible reminder of what their taxes were being used for, and a chance to “see the ships – meet the men”...

Indeed, by the 1960s the value for such events to the Navy was difficult to overstate.

The subject was raised in the House of Commons in May 1961 when the Civil Lord of the Admiralty, Ian Orr-Ewing, was asked what plans there were for Navy Days and Navy Air Days that summer.

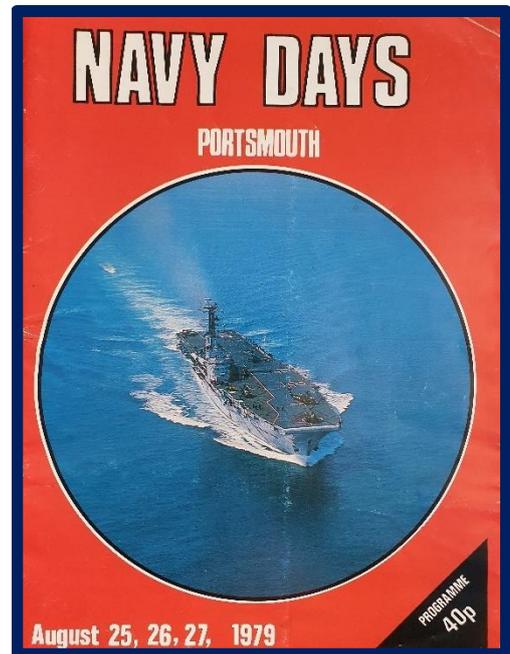
As reported in Hansard, the politician replied that “Two or three Navy Days will be held at each of the naval ports at Portsmouth, Devonport, Rosyth and Portland. One Air Day will be held at each of the seven air stations.”

When pressed on attendance figures, Mr Orr-Ewing said: “More than a quarter of a million people attended the open Navy Days and Air Days last year and the figure is increasing rather than decreasing.

“This is an excellent way of bringing the Navy into the eyes of the public, not just potential recruits, but parents, women and children who visit our ships. These are certainly a popular form of outing for many families.”

The Navy Air Days that summer were staged at HMS Ariel (Lee-on-Solent), RNAS Arbroath, RNAS Yeovilton, RNAS Abbotsinch, RNAS Culdrose, RNAS Brawdy and RNAS Lossiemouth.

In a mood of nostalgia, S/M Andy Christie dug out a Navy Days Portsmouth brochure from 1979, and thought it might be worth sharing with shipmates.



Held over the Bank Holiday weekend of August 25-27, the event attracted thousands of visitors to the naval base, with some travelling a considerable distance to be there.

The reward was a range of ships that were open to visitors, and many more that could be scrutinised from the jetties.

The two heavyweights that took top billing at the show were assault ship HMS Intrepid, at that stage a relatively youthful 12 years into her Service career and later part of the Falklands task group, and the older helicopter carrier HMS Bulwark, the Centaur-class vessel that was commissioned as a light aircraft carrier in 1954 and was converted to an anti-submarine helicopter carrier in 1979, the work being completed just months before Navy Days.

One ship listed to appear had less than three years left of her Naval career.

Type 42 destroyer HMS Coventry was billed in the programme as “one of the Royal Navy’s newest warships”, having been accepted into service earlier the same year.

The destroyer was part of the task force sent to recapture the Falklands in the spring of 1982, and was sunk by bombs dropped from Argentine aircraft on May 25, with the loss of 19 men.

Coventry’s sister ship HMS Newcastle was also slated to appear in the event, as well as older County-class guided missile destroyer HMS Kent, a popular feature of previous Navy Days.

Among the other vessels selected for public display were three frigates – Leander-class ships HMS Diomedes and Scylla and Rothesay-class ship HMS Lowestoft – submarine HMS Onyx (another vessel which would go on to play a role in the Falklands), survey ships HMS Bulldog and Beagle and tanker RFA Tidepool, which joined the Falklands campaign in 1982.

Apart from the ships, visitors to the Naval Base in 1979 could enjoy trips around the harbour, courtesy of the RN Auxiliary Service and their inshore minesweepers (40p per adult).

It was not just about the ships in 1979, of course – there were helicopter flying displays, unarmed combat demonstrations, concerts by the Royal Marines Band, the Sheffield Sea Cadets Band, the band of the Royal Anglian TAVR and that of the Nautical Training Corps, and a multitude of stands, exhibitions and displays featuring, inter alia, RN Comms, the School of Maritime Ops, RN engineering, the Career Service, MOD Police, SSAFA, the Automobile Association, St John’s Ambulance Brigade, NatWest Bank, the RNLI, RN divers and the Senior Service medical and dental teams.

(Pictured is the cover of the Portsmouth Navy Days brochure for 1979.)

9. ★ Falklands Campaign 40th Anniversary Commemorations

Next year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands Campaign and thought you would appreciate an early ‘Heads Up’ of events that have been scheduled so far;

Sunday 29 May 22 – Falklands Veterans Foundation 40th Anniversary Memorial Service – Falklands Gardens Gosport followed by Freedom of the Borough Parade and Reception.

Sunday 12 Jun 22 – SAMA Annual Falklands Memorial Service – Pangbourne

Tuesday 14 Jun 22 – RBL Falklands Commemoration Event – details to be confirmed, however Attendance 10,000 including spouses. National Memorial Arboretum. The aim being to ensure those who were involved receive some form of acknowledgement and that correct marks of respect are made to Naval organisations who contributed to the Campaign. (STUFT Ships etc)

Friday 17 Jun 22 – Start of RNA hosted Falklands 40 (F40) commemoration and National Conference weekend in Portsmouth, to ‘reunite, relive, and remember’. Special Interest Groups and other shipmates will reunite for an evening reception and function.

Saturday 18 June 22 – Following a shorter AGM than usual, we will sensitively relive the Conflict with a Portsmouth Cathedral based ‘symposium’, hosted by an academic and well known celebrity, plus 3 or 4 accounts from participants and others. An evening event will be planned too.

Sunday 19 Jun 22 – RNA/Naval Associations Parade – Old Portsmouth. Those related to the Naval Service are invited to march with their Shipmates with the RNA National, Area and Branch Standards for a 1100 start, Service of Remembrance at the Falklands monument, followed by the City of Portsmouth unveiling a new memorial, and presenting the RNA and RMA with Freedom of the City scrolls. F40 commemorations are then likely to conclude with a late morning short service, and refreshments, back in Portsmouth’s ‘Cathedral of the Sea’.

The photo above shows HMS Hermes coming alongside after her return from the Falklands on what was then Middle Slip Jetty, now Princess Royal Jetty. (Photo courtesy Crown Copyright IWM (FKD 684)

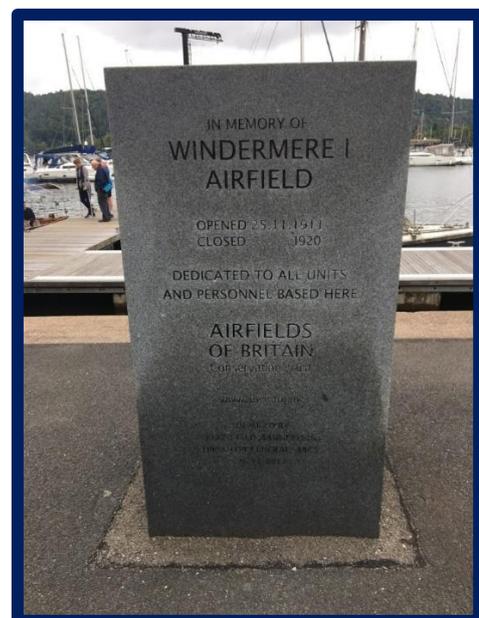


10. Guess Where.....

Shipmates don't have to try very hard to work out this one out but what was it's RNAS name? got you.....

Even the 'Guess Where' 'Ninja', Vice Admiral David Steel will be challenged with this one.

Answer at rear of this Circular on Page 25



11. ★ Shameless Shipmate Shep Woolley's Shanty Crew.

Shameless Shep Woolley and the Shanty Crew will be making their annual appearance in

'Trafalgar in a Pickle' at the Square Tower, Old Portsmouth on Thursday 21 October

The show features *Sea Songs – Jigs & reels – Sailors Supper and Nelsons Blood*

Tickets Cost £20 (Cheap as Chips)



For further information

Shantynights@gmail.com 02392 754559

12. ★ RNA 'SPARKO' TV Project

Comradeship is one of the core values of the RNA, and the Association works hard to ensure that older shipmates who cannot get out and about very easily do not feel isolated.

The Internet and social media make it easy connecting people around the world – so long as you can use the technology. Some people just find it tricky to get their heads around the finer points of Skype, Zoom, FaceTime, Youtube and the like – logging in can be a faff, establishing connections, updating software and the like are not always straightforward, and people can feel vulnerable with regards to online security. But there is now a way to make video calls, join online classes or talks and enjoy entertainment tailored for the senior community, all through a simple, dedicated system that plugs in to your television set. Essentially, Sparko is a simplified version of the Internet which can be accessed from the comfort of your sofa/armchair, through your TV. And thanks to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC), that option is available for free to shipmates in the RNA.

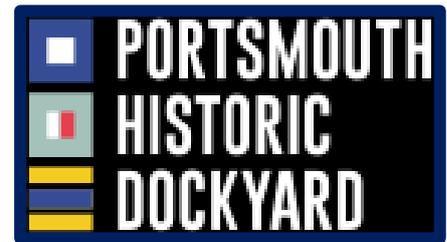
The kit and service is provided by Sparko, a British 'virtual retirement community' which operates through interactive TV equipment. The Sparko TV kit is a small box which plugs in to a standard TV and comes with a small camera and a very simple remote control. The whole package comes with help and technical support if you need it.

Sparko brings people together using simple digital technology – your nearest and dearest can access the system using a free smartphone app. Once setup, Sparko enables you to make video calls to family and friends, watch specially-chosen films from an extensive library (including some of the old classics), learn new skills, pick up a new hobby, or take part in games. The system was trialled with the help of branches of Age UK, who welcomed Sparko with enthusiasm.

The Sparko tool does not interrupt or interfere with your normal TV programmes – the camera is only activated if a person is on a video call or taking part in a live/class activity, and will show a small light when it is in operation. A privacy slider for the camera is included to cover the lens when it is not in use to ensure peace of mind. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from joining Sparko, they need to complete an Expression of Interest form which is available online at <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/sparkotv/>

13. ★ RNA Discounted Tickets - Historic Dockyard Portsmouth

Shipmates planning a visit to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard during the summer months should be aware that Central Office have renegotiated discounted entry to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard please see the below for details;



Annual Ultimate Explorer ticket offer:

Save 30% off the annual Ultimate Explorer tickets at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

Tickets are valid for the year allowing you to return again and again. The Ultimate Explorer tickets give you access to:

- The Mary Rose
- HMS Victory
- HMS Warrior
- HMS Alliance at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum
- Harbour Tour
- Plus more

Offer is valid on one family Ultimate Explorer ticket or up to four adult, senior or child Ultimate Explorer Tickets.

To get this discount, simply show your Royal Naval Association Membership card in the Visitor Centre, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Tickets can also be purchased online at <https://www.historicdockyard.co.uk/tickets-and-offers> and entering code DEFNMRN01 at the checkout. When purchasing tickets online, your Royal Naval Association Membership card will need to be shown when collecting the ticket in our Visitor Centre.

Tickets are currently priced at - Adult (age 16-64) £39, Senior (65+) £38, Child (age 4-15) £29, Family 1 (1 Adult & up to 3 Children) £95, Family 2 (2 Adults & up to 3 Children) £120

Day Ticket Offer

Veteran Day Tickets are now available to purchase in our Visitor Centre for £20.

These tickets give you access to all the amazing attractions in the dockyard for the day.

To purchase this ticket, please show your valid Royal Naval Association in the Visitor Centre. These tickets cannot be purchased online. Offer valid on up to four tickets.

14. 100 Club - Shipmate John Goodman (HQ Roll)

There was a very special surprise for John Goodman, who celebrated his 100th birthday at Tegfield House care home in Winchester on Thursday 12th August.

To recognise his distinguished service in the Royal Navy during World War 2, the Royal Naval Association presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. Stewart Maclean, Parade Marshall of the Association's Area 3, accompanied by Standard Bearer Richard Shenton, made the presentation. As well as the Certificate, National Chairman, Keith Ridley wrote John a personal

letter on behalf of the National Council to thank him for his service and convey their best wishes on his special birthday.



John's birthday was celebrated at Tegfield House in Chilbolton Avenue, Winchester, where he was joined by his family members, residents, and staff for the presentation, followed by tea and the cutting of a 100th birthday cake. Born at Wotter in Dartmoor, Devon, John and his family moved to Plymouth when he was 11 where he attended Devonport High School. Having passed his A-levels, John was due to go to university to study English and French. However, with the outbreak of World War 2 in 1939, he joined the Royal Navy instead.

He served as an officer in many ships including HMS *Gambia*, *King George VI* (which sunk the *Bismarck*) and HMS *Fiji* (which was torpedoed). John sailed the world with the Royal Navy including as part of the Arctic Convoys. His overseas postings included Singapore, Malta, Gibraltar, Hong Kong and South Africa. Leaving the Royal Navy in 1971, John was Bursar of St Swithun's School, Winchester, until his retirement. John also voluntarily taught chess to children in a local primary school.

John married his wife, June, during WWII and they were together for 65 years, until June passed away. Together, they have four children, Rosemary, Peter, Fiona and Lucy. He also has 13 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

John was for 10 years a resident (Brother) of the St Cross Almshouse and made Brother Emeritus when he moved to Tegfield House in June. A lover of jazz music and Frank Sinatra, John's other hobbies include supporting Plymouth Argyle Football Club and hockey. He was a hockey player and umpire and attends Winchester Hockey Club games every Saturday with his daughters. For his long-standing support, the Club made him an Honorary Vice-President.

John's other celebrations included a birthday tea at the Hotel du Vin, Winchester with his family, and attending Matins at the Church of St Cross before enjoying birthday coffee and cake with The Brothers.

Jo Aitken, Manager of Tegfield House, says: "It is such a pleasure to have John and his family as part of our Tegfield family. It was a real delight to make his day even more special with the Royal Naval Association and his family coming to join us. It is a day none of us will forget for a long time."

Tegfield House is run by the Basingstoke-based Hartford Care Group Limited. The family-owned business was established in 1908 and runs 16 residential nursing homes located across southern England. The company is governed by its core principles of care, comfort and companionship in an environment that is safe and happy for all. (*Article and Photo Courtesy of Hartford Care*)

(GS Note - STOP PRESS.... NC has approved that shipmate's celebrating their 100th Birthday will receive a gift of a bottle of Pussers delivered by the nearest Branch/Club.)

(Editors Note only another 37 years for me!!)

15. ★ HMS Ark Royal RO9 1980 - Historical Photo

The photo below may have been the last taken of TV star HMS Ark Royal RO9 of South West Wales on her way to the breakers yard on the 24th September 1980.

The photo was taken by a Crab-Air Hunter aircraft from 79 Squadron, RAF Brawdy 20 miles of Strumble Head.



16. ★ The Submariner Memorial Appeal – Breaking Ground

The National Standard Bearer, Shipmate David Corrigan, on behalf of the RNA, attended a 'ground breaking' ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on Monday 5 September has taken place ahead of a new sculpture being placed in the naval area of the Arboretum.



The Submariner Memorial Appeal was launched in 2018 to raise £440,000 to fund the sculpture and, for many families, it will be the only dedication they have for their loved ones - who were given no formal grave.

The memorial will commemorate the sacrifices of 5,349 submariners who lost their lives.

The photo shows Mrs Diana Mayes the widow of the CO of a submarine lost in 1943, 100 years old this year and an AB Cook from HMS VANGUARD with RNA National Standard Bearer S/M David in the background.

17. ★ WW2 Memorabilia - HMS Devonshire

Central Office received the email below from and Ex Guards NCO, Steve Cain.

Subject: WW2 Memorabilia

I'm an ex-Guards NCO and have a piece of memorabilia from a ship called HMS DEVONSHIRE. Was wondering if any retired sailors would be interested.

Contact Steve Cain on pnb110cain@btinternet.com



18. ★ Lisbon Maru Memorial – National Arboretum 03 October 2021

A couple of 'Church Notices' for those Shipmates attending the memorial Dedication service on 03 October at the National Arboretum.

- For those travelling by car, you may wish to know that you are now able to book your car parking. To do so, follow this link: <https://www.maximcloud.co.uk/NationalMemorialArboretum/EventsList/> Booking a parking space is ESSENTIAL for those attending.
- If you take photographs of the service and would like to offer them for use by the press, please will you send them IMMEDIATELY after the service to Chris Rowland, who is the PR advisor for the National Memorial Arboretum and will be issuing a press release shortly after the service. Please only send a small number of high quality photos. It is likely that only one or two will actually be published. The address to send them to is: chris.rowland@teamtala.com and please also send me a copy at: bfinch1941@gmail.com

Many thanks in advance for your help.

19. ★ HMS Belfast – Black Tot Day 31 July 2021

Thanks to Shipmate Dave Parry reports from HMS Belfast on the 51st Anniversary of Black Tot Day!



Shipmates and friends travelled far and wide to attend 51st anniversary of the final issue of a tot of rum, and removal of spirit issue in the Royal Navy. S/M Peter Bowen had just come out of quarantine after travelling all the way back from Dubai. S/M Bryan Dalton from Torre Vieja Spain RNA had driven through Spain and France to be onboard with us. Even the Mayor of Lincoln Jackie Kirk made it with S/M Mike Williams. Also in attendance was Shep Wooley with his banjo who was on a day trip from Pompey.

There being no financial support available from our Purley RNA Branch towards holding this event onboard HMS Belfast. RNAHQ was contacted along with other local branches for help, which not only provided a £250 event grant from HQ but also assistance with locating insurance, VAT invoice payment etc:

Location onboard for our Black Tot event was held on the 'Jubilee Deck' Starboard midships adjacent to the after stack. This being a high level sheltered area with great views of Original

Billingsgate Fish Market, Old Customs House, Tower of London, and Tower Bridge which opened allowing a Thames Barge through. Our camera's were all at 'Action Stations'.

Pussers Rum provided and supplied our gunpowder proof tot's onboard complements of their representative Steve Dingley who was most helpful in measuring out our correct 1/2 Gill measure to each glass.

HMS Belfast was dressed overall with additional White Ensigns hoisted & signal flags displaying "Up Spirits" on her starboard outer halyard of the main mast, an amazing site! A pipe was made by S/M Jacko Jack, Chairman RNA Purley on a bosun's call. 'Up Spirits stand fast the 'holy ghost' Ceremony started 'for our TOT issue' Rum Boatswain issued a full 1/2 gill measure given out to each member attending plus following toasts were made.

"The Queen God Bless Her"

"The Royal Navy and all those that have served and are serving"

"To all the partners, families and loved ones of those at sea"

"To wives & sweetheart's, may the two never meet"

"To Vice Admiral Edward Vernon for introducing the TOT in 1740"

"To the Death of Being Issued the TOT – Long live the TOT"

"Sandy Bottoms"

Queens, (remainder of rum in the fanny) was equally distributed amongst those attending by our Rum Bosun for the day.

Steve from Pussers Rum gave a short presentation concerning Pussers Rum and agreed to support our Black Tot Day event for next year planned to be held onboard HQS Wellington alongside Cleopatra's Needle, Westminster.

On dispersal we moved on to the Union Jack Club, Waterloo for Lunch etc, and many a good yarn was told and drink drank. Along with watching second test match South Africa V Lions. A good time was had by all, and look forward to meeting up again next July.

We missed a few who could not attend due to being covid pinged etc; After covering all expenses onboard HMS Belfast, transportation of Shep's rum tub etc: a donation of £110 has been made to RNRM Charity. Thanks to all those attending. S/M Dave Parry.

20. ★ Non Partisan and Politically Correct Joke!

While walking down the street one day a "Member of Parliament" is tragically hit by a truck and dies.

His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance. 'Welcome to heaven,' says St. Peter. 'Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, you see, so we're not sure what to do with you.'

'No problem, just let me in,' says the man. 'Well, I'd like to, but I have orders from higher up. What we'll do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity.'

'Really, I've made up my mind. I want to be in heaven,' says the MP. 'I'm sorry, but we have our

rules.' And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell. The doors open and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a clubhouse and standing in front of it are all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him.

Everyone is very happy and in evening dress. They run to greet him, shake his hand, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of the people. They play a friendly game of golf and then dine on lobster, caviar and champagne. Also present is the devil, who really is a very friendly & nice guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are having such a good time that before he realises it, it is time to go.

Everyone gives him a hearty farewell and waves while the elevator rises.... The elevator goes up, up, up and the door reopens on heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him. 'Now it's time to visit heaven.'

So, 24 hours pass with the MP joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before he realizes it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns. 'Well, then, you've spent a day in hell and another in heaven. Now choose your eternity.'

The MP reflects for a minute, then he answers: 'Well, I would never have said it before, I mean heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in hell.' So St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell.

Now the doors of the elevator open and he's in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage. He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash falls from above.

The devil comes over to him and puts his arm around his shoulder. 'I don't understand,' stammers the MP. 'Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and clubhouse, and we ate lobster and caviar, drank champagne, and danced and had a great time. Now there's just a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable. What happened?'

The devil looks at him, smiles and says, 'Yesterday we were campaigning.....

Today you voted.....

21. ★ Jack Speak - Scranbag Origins

The term 'SCRAN' was used as slang for food originated in the Royal Navy who used to supplement sailor's diets with Sultanas, Currants, Raisins and Nuts, SCRAN.

The sacks they came in were labelled, hence SCRAN bags, a term still used today to refer to bags of old clothes ScranBag....Never knew that, interesting.

Is this a myth or fact..... as others claim it's an 18th century Scottish word meaning scraps of food, but is/was used in other contexts too.

(Acknowledgement and thanks to Peterborough Branch Newsletter)

22. ★ Keep Smiling..... Dead Hamster

A man was found sitting at the side of the road crying his eyes out, his dead hamster in his hands.

A fairy godmother asked him what the matter was.

He said “I loved my pet hamster and it just died”.

The fairy godmother said “Well I can’t bring it back to life, but I can suggest that you can make some good of the situation”.

The man asked “How do I do that ?”

The fairy godmother replied “Go home, put the hamster in a pan and add a bag of sugar. Heat the pan up stirring well and simmer for an hour. Allow to cool, pour it onto your garden and see what happens”.

The man did exactly as she suggested. The next day, he went into the garden and there were masses of daffodils everywhere! He ran back to the road where he’d seen the fairy godmother and she reappeared and asked how he’d got on.

He said “It’s fantastic, there are daffodils everywhere!”

The fairy godmother replied: wait for it.....

“That’s really strange, you normally get tulips from hamster jam!” Boom Boom!

(Editor’s Note - I know that is really bad but I’ll bet it made you smile.....)

23. ★ Dazzle Paint – HMS Severn

HMS Severn has set sail from Falmouth – boasting her brand new 'Western Approaches' paint job. The Royal Navy offshore patrol vessel has returned to the service – four years after she was decommissioned.



Although her exterior may look similar to that of dazzle ships, Severn is in fact coloured in the 'Western Approaches' paint scheme – a nod to history and a mark of respect to the sailors who fought and died in the Battle of the Atlantic. As a development of earlier Royal Navy camouflages, the scheme was first used on World War Two destroyer HMS Broke. It was then replicated for other destroyers

and small ships engaged in anti-submarine operations, designed to "hide" the vessels, according to Severn's Commanding Officer, Commander Phil Harper

24. ★ Assistance in Uruguay Please

Central Office received an email from Alvaro Cuenca in Uruguay asking for assistance please see below

Dear Sir,

I am a Uruguayan historian, currently researching the British Legion Uruguayan Branch. During the 1960's the HMS Protector used to call on Montevideo and was entertained by our legionnaires. Would you have any picture on your archives (or on those of the HMS Protector Association, or its members), of those activities in Montevideo? Ironically, I cannot find them here.

Kind regards from Montevideo

Alvaro Cuenca

Alvaro can be contacted on email at acuenca66@gmail.com

25. ★ Number Plates Info – All lot of people don't this!



The Department for Transport shared designs showing an updated number plate without the distinctive blue band on the left-hand side:

New registration plates without the EU flag have been issued from 1 January 2021. Although existing versions will still be valid, the new designs will be used when renewing a licence or printing a new plate.

Although current lockdown rules prevent most UK drivers from leaving the country, motorists won't need to display a GB sticker in most EU countries if their number plate has GB or GB with a Union Flag on it.

A spokesman for the Department for Transport said: "UK number plates (and driving licences) have been given a makeover to signify the beginning of a new chapter for the UK.

"The new designs coincide with the beginning of a number of agreements recently made between the UK and member states for British drivers, making it easier for Britons to drive in the EU when existing restrictions end."

However, there is an alternative to the new approved designs, but don't expect it to become road-legal in the UK (or Europe) anytime soon!



26. ★ Joke for the Road

A married couple from RAF Coningsby are on holiday in Wales, and they stop for lunch at the famous town and, the birthplace of the National Stoker, of

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch.

The husband calls over to the person sitting opposite, who happens to be the National Stoker visiting Cymru as well and asks, "I was wondering if you could settle an argument, how exactly do you pronounce this place?"

The very proud Welsh man, Shipmate Keith looks at him and says.....

"Burger King."

(Acknowledgement and thanks to Peterborough Branch Newsletter)

******* Answer to Guess Where *******

Our thanks to former General Secretary Paul Quinn for forwarding this 'Guess Where'.

Paul came across this on Windermere the site of the old RNAS Windermere or RNAS Hill of Oaks where flying boats started and the RN trained their first seaplane pilots.

For further details please see the link below

Reference here. <https://www.abct.org.uk/airfields/airfield-finder/windermere-i-hill-of-oaks/>

Gin Lovers.....

GIN LOVERS!

Warm summer days are here and you can now venture into your own garden!

We gave you the opportunity to buy your warming "1921 Reserve" Gin in April which many of you did and it proved very popular, but now it is time to top up your drinks cabinet (or garden bar) with the refreshing summer "1921 Reserve" Gin.

You may have spotted that this is just a marketing ploy - it is of course, the same Gin but we are sure you have run out and your visitors would appreciate the special qualities that go to make this a Gin to remember as well as a very useful Birthday present for any upcoming birthdays.

Now on sale at £35 plus £4.50 P&P but if you buy 2 or more, the Postage is free! What an incentive! Please also remember that 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 when you are on the gin website.

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



Branch Insurance

Now that Lockdown has eased, and Clubs and Branches are starting to meet again now might be the right time for Shipmates to review their Club/Branch Insurance.

Military and Mutual Insurance are offering Basic PLI (Public Liability Insurance for £105, which includes;

- £5,000,000 Public and Products Liability
- **£10,000,000** Employers Liability
- **£1,000** Money
- Member to Member Liability
- Excess- £250 (Property Damage and Money)

Or PLI Plus

- **£5,000,000** Public & Products Liability
- **£10,000,000** Employers Liability
- **£1,000** Money
- **£250,000** Trustees Liability (Committee Member)
- Member to Member Liability

For details contact business@military-mutual.co.uk or 0204 526 8672



Pussers

Calling all 'Rum Rats'

Shipmates may wish to know that 'Pussers' is now available from the very new online 'Navy Shop' with all profits from Rum going back to the charity.

Please follow the link <https://royalnavyshop.co.uk/collections/rum>

www.pussersrum.com



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.



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- UK nationwide, Covid-safe delivery
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- 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.

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



RNA Longcast

2021

12 Sep	Naval Associations Biennial Parade - Whitehall
03 Oct	Lisbon Maru Dedication – NMA Alrewas
23 Oct	World Uckers Championships Finals - Portsmouth
05 Nov	Budget Meeting
11 Nov	Field of Remembrance
12 Nov	FAC
14 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
13 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
30 Apr	Navy v Army Rugby Match – Twickenham
May	National Standard Bearers' Competition (Collingwood)
May	AMC/FAC (Collingwood)
20 May	Central Office - Open Day
Jun TBC	HMS Collingwood Field Gun Day
17 Jun	NC meetings
18 Jun	AG/National Conference
19 Jun	Falklands 40 th Anniversary Parade
08 Jul	Central Office - Open Day
Jul – tbc	Covid Commemoration Service - NMA
29 Jul	AMC / FAC – Zoom
12 Aug	Central Office - Open Day
01-04 Sep	Bournemouth Air Days (Christchurch Branch)
10 Sep	National Council Meeting
30 Sep	Central Office - Open Day
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 Christchurch](#)

[RNA Salisbury](#)

[RNA Chard](#)

[RNA Anglesey](#)

[RNA St Neots](#)

[RNA Market Harborough](#)

[RNA Torbay](#)

RNA Christchurch Branch

Led by Shipmate Rick Squibb Christchurch Branch members were on a charm offensive showing off the RNA at the Bournemouth Air Show recently.

The Air show attracted over 800,000 visitors over the four day show. Their 'Gazeebo' was situated in the 'Navy' village alongside the royal Marines and RN affiliated organisations, The branch even featured in the official programme!!



RNA Salisbury Branch

Salisbury RNA was re-commissioned last September and was the first to be Commissioned by Zoom reports Shipmate Ritchie Farman.



Saturday 21st August saw their long-awaited Re-Commissioning Party which was held at the Salisbury Rugby Club. Entertainment was provided by Sainsbury's very own Shanty group "The Navy Larks" and it also included a Traditional Royal Navy Tot Time

Also in attendance was the Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Dr P Harding, The National President of the Royal Naval Association, Vice Admiral John McAnally, They Mayors of Amesbury and Salisbury as well as delegations from 9 other Royal Naval Associations up and down the country from as far as Mansfield, Wrexham, and Southend amongst others

Proceeds from the event are being donated to the RNLI (the Navy Larks Chosen Charity) and the Salisbury Sea Cadets.

RNA Salisbury Branch meets on the first Monday of each month at the Market Inn, in Salisbury (upstairs Room) at 1900 for a 1930 start. If you are a serving or veteran of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Fleet Auxiliary or have a general interest in the Royal Navy please come along and join our ever-increasing crew.

More details from salisburyrna@gmail.com



RNA Chard Branch

Thanks to our Chard Branch roving reporter S/M Dick Moon we learn about a fantastic event in far off Somerset.....



It is with great pleasure after the past near two years of Covid disruption that the branch has some GOOD news to share with all Shipmates especially Area 4.

Chard Branch and long serving shipmate Treasurer Mike KIRLKAND wed his shipmate fiancé Sue FISHER on Sunday 22nd August 2021 at Hornsbury Mill Chard. The event was well attended by family, friends and later by their shipmates from the branch.

The event had a surprise in store for the bride as Mike had planned to have a tour around the lanes of Chard in a horse and carriage which went down well with Sue and the congregation especially as the Sun shone for the ride out.

Congratulations to the couple may they have a long happy and memory filled life together.

(Hear, Hear Congratulations from all at Central Office)

(Photo by S/M Dick Moon)

RNA Huntingdon Branch

Shipmate and Mayor Karl Webb has very kindly found the time to let us know what is going on the Huntingdon Branch.....

It's great to be back! On Wednesday 4th August 2021, Huntingdon and District branch members gathered at the Montagu Club for their first face-to-face meeting since the lockdown last year. With restrictions lifted, we also took part in the annual Huntingdon Carnival where shipmates promoted the RNA and life in the Royal Navy. Following his election for a second term of office as Mayor of Huntingdon, S/M Karl Webb led the carnival procession and officially opened the days events.



On the 15th and 26th August, S/M Karl Webb, in a dual-hatted role, represented Huntingdon Town and the RNA by laying a wreath to mark VJ Day, and by holding a charity stall at RAF Wyton's annual Families Day event.



Finally, to end the month, shipmates gathered at the home of our Vice President and committee member, S/Ms Catherine and Mark Fearon, for a BBQ and pool party.

Sadly, no revealing pictures of the pool party.....RNA Budgie Snugglers perhaps.....

RNA Anglesey Branch

Hon Secretary, S/M Gareth Bean has forward details of the Anglesey Branch visit to RAF Valley's Friends and Families Day.....

On Thursday the 12th of August members of the Anglesey Branch attended the RAF Valley Friends and Families Day to carry out a recruitment drive.

During the day we were able to either sign up or expressed an interest in joining, hopefully ten new members , Full and Associate to the Branch, including Lt Cdr Lockett RN the Senior Royal Navy pilot at RAF Valley who has volunteered to become our new Branch President.



BZ to Nigel and the team at Central Office for their prompt actions in processing our applications.

Enclosed is a photograph of our Chairman Shipmate John Edwards and other members present on the day with the Station Commander, Group Captain Andrew Turk.

(From The General Secretary - BZ Anglesey Branch, Great example to other branches)

RNA St Neots Branch

Shipmate Ian Cameron PRO at St Neots branch reports from darkest Cambridgeshire.....

S/Ms at the St Neots branch hosted the St Neots Mayor to their "Death of the Tot" evening in July as they felt that he needed to be properly educated about this important annual event. The evening was a sociable fun one and the St Neots Mayor Councillor Stephan Ferguson and his assistant Councillor Delphine Johnson soon got into the spirit of this years "mourning". Apart from meeting local RNA members, the Mayor, along with RNA members, toasted the Queen with a traditional tot of Navy Rum.



S/M Geoff Patterson regaled the group with a history of the Tot and the evening was also attended by RNA Chairman S/M Keith Ridley

Seen here with branch RNA membership and behind the branch's Ships Bell are from Left-Councillor Delphine Johnson, Councillor and Mayor Stephen Ferguson and RNA St Neots Chairman Geoff Patterson.

Also.....

St Neots S/Ms hosted S/Ms from the Wrexham, Southend, Peterborough and Royston branches during July.

The visiting S/Ms were entertained over an evening function and the next day were treated to a Ploughman's Lunch. The lunch was organised and served by S/Ms Geoff Patterson, Maureen Ridley, Helen Patterson and Jayne Miller.

Old sea stories were exchanged, and it was good to meet S/Ms who we had only met via zoom on the Monday Fireside chats. St Neots S/Ms Mike Milne and Ian Cameron were also recognised from their presentations on the Fireside chats. To reciprocate our guests from Wrexham presented the St Neots branch with a Welsh flag and Welsh Rock for the ladies.

S/M Jeff Hughes RVM was unable to attend and sent a very welcome bottle of Rum as proxy. S/M Mike Milne was also presented with a crest from the destroyer HMS Milne.

RNA Torbay Branch

RNA Torbay President Shipmate Norrie Millen reports on happenings in deepest darkest Devon.....

RNA Torbay met for the first time in over 14 months on Thursday July 29th the shape of their AGM, which is normally held in the January of each year.

Only 15 of our 26 shipmates attended, other having personal and medical problems which prevented them attending. We sat for our annual Branch photograph taken by a new prospective member. Sadly, our Patron Captain Wreford-Brown was unable to attend.



in

At this meeting Shipmate Terry Mernbery was elected as the new Branch Chairman and Shipmate Norrie Millen was elected as the new Branch President.

At the end of this meeting Shipmate Mike Readdy (Ex CPO Stoker Submariner, Rabbit Boson 1st Class...) presented the Branch with a handsome oak cabinet to house our newly created Memorial Book dedicated to past shipmates of the Branch.



Shipmate Mick relates the story on how the cabinet arrived shortly after we decided to create a book of remembrances some two years ago or so.

I was speaking to Shipmate John Soanes (RIP) and said I thought it would be quite nice to acquire a Display Cabinet as a permanent home for the book and once a month at the meetings, we turn a page and display those two persons for that month in their honour, John agreed and asked me to sort it out.

I then set about trying to get a price for something decent but going through hundreds of web sites found they were extremely expensive and in the

main not really suitable; so after many a night worrying about it, I decided that I might have a go at making one myself and then donating it to the Branch, through John thus keeping my promise to him,. Never thinking that he might be one of the first to go in it following the Covid 19 lock down delays.

Anyway, I then worked out the detail of what I wanted as a 'Design the Look' and what materials I would need. So off I went around the Bazaars to test the responses from a few companies, as to whether they would be able to help me in my plight. My luck was in when I managed to acquire some



planks of oak (thinking of all those Jack me Ticklers Hearts of Oak being appropriate) from New World Timber in Exeter.

Having acquired the timber, of course I had no way to plane it down to the thickness I required, not having an industrial bench plane. Therefore once again thought I'd put my skills in bumming off people (Ex submarine Chief Stokers are good at that) with cap in hand I found a company M.J.N Timber Solutions in Bovey Tracy who were more than helpful in doing it for me as a 'Free Bee' job.

I was all set and went about making the Cabinet using the dining table as my bench. During this time My shipmate Peter Roberts helped out with transport and donations, getting bits and pieces to help with the cost, Very much appreciated by me and worth of a 'Well done Shipmate'. Now of course you know the rest of the story. I made the donation last Thursday (July 29th AGM) and was grateful that I was able to keep my promise to Shipmate John and that it was well received by the other Shipmates who all expressed their thanks and gratitude admiring my handiwork.

RNA Market Harbourough



Branch Hon Sec Shipmate Pat Middleton attended the Market Harbourough VJ Day celebrations on 15 August 2021.

She was joined by with Geoff Moth (RAFA) and Stewart Harrison from TRBL.

CROSSING THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

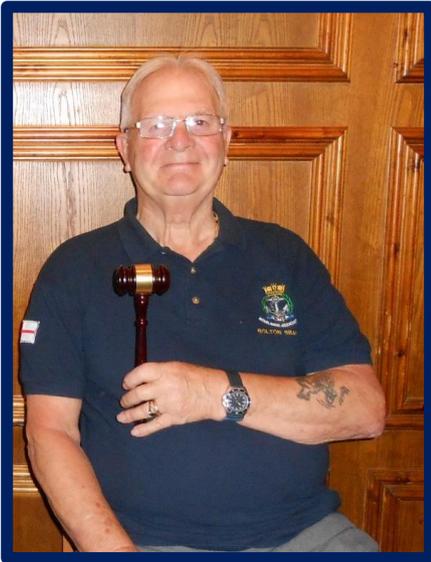
[Bob Houghton](#)

[Kevin J Morris](#)

[Anne Sheppard](#)

[Peter Burnett](#)

Bob Houghton - Bolton Branch



Bolton Branch regret to announce that their Chairman Shipmate Bob Houghton very sadly Crossed the Bar recently.

Bob served in the Royal Navy from 1957 until 1965 leaving as an LM(E).. He did his training at HMS Ganges and served in HMS Tiger, HMS Malcolm, HMS Ausonia, HMS Troubridge, and in the shore bases Drake, St. Angelo and Nelson.

He served in a number of roles within Bolton Branch including: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and also Standard Bearer. He was a true gentleman and will be missed by all who knew him.

May he find fair winds and calm waters Bob.

(Thanks to S/M Tony Smith Hon Sec Bolton Branch)

Kevin Morris - Bognor Regis Branch

The Chairman of the Bognor Regis Branch S/M Ron Hargest is deeply saddened to announce the passing over the bar of a well-respected and popular branch member.

S/M Kevin Morris was a long-standing member of Bognor Regis Branch and had only recently taken up the post as treasurer.

Kevin served in the Royal Australian Navy Supply & Secretariat Branch, leaving the service as a L/Writer. Serving from January 1962 until January 1971. Serving on HMAS Derwent and HMAS Vampire. Derwent had the honour of being the first Australian ship to fire Sea Cat missiles in May 1964, it was also involved in the Malaysian Campaign. Vampire was involved in the Vietnam Conflict acting as escort to the troop transporter HMAS Sydney, making six trips in total. Campaign Medals included AASM 1945-75 & Clasps "Malaysia" & Vietnam. General Service Medal & Clasp, Vietnam, L & SM, Australian Service



Medal 1945- 75 & Clasp, Far Eastern Strategic Reserve, Australian Defence Medal, Pingat Jasa Malaysian Medal. Having left the Navy, he came to the UK, working as a publican in the Bognor Regis area.

His absence at future meetings of the branch will be sorely missed.

May he find safe anchorage.

Anne Sheppard – Chard Branch

It is with great sadness that Chard branch are notifying the association of the the sorrowful news of the crossing of the bar of our shipmate and wife of Shipmate Bill, Anne Sheppard after a short illness.



Anne came to our Branch with her husband Bill, at the closing down of the Axminster Branch. Although not a member of the RN or WRNS she did serve in the WRAC in the Signals Regiment, 16/16'ers who served in the Rhine in Germany and later in Singapore and are now back in Hereford. She left the Service as a Corporal on marriage.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to our Shipmate Bill.

RIP Anne, stand down, your duty is done.

(Write up by S/M Chair Paula Moon and Photo by S/m Dick Moon)

Peter (Smiley) Burnett – South Bristol Branch

South Bristol Branch RNA report with great sadness that Shipmate Peter (Smiley) Burnett 'Crossed the Bar' on 15th July 2021, aged 86 years. Peter was a Full Member of South Bristol Branch RNA, Life Member of Bath Branch Submariners Association and Member of HMS St. Vincent Association.

Peter joined the Royal Navy (RN) as a boy seaman at HMS St. Vincent, Anson 87 Class, in 1950. He went on to become a submariner in 1953 and after an initial training period at Submarine Training School HMS Dolphin, served on HM Submarines; Seascout, Alliance, Artful and Totem from 1953 to 1958.



He left regular Naval service in 1963 and then joined the Royal Naval Reserve (RNR) and continued to serve until 1990. During the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, Peter was assigned the duty of 'Queen's Messenger'. During his time with the RNR, Peter rose to the rank of Chief Petty Officer and the last shore establishment served on was HMS Flying Fox in Bristol.

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The 'Shortcast' Editors Note

Please forward any reunions for 2021/22 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	
24 Sep	HMS Tiger Reunion – St Pierre Hotel Newmillerdam Yorkshire
01 Oct	HMS Tartar Reunion – Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth
8/10 Oct	HMS Llandaff Reunion – Please contact Slinger Wood at kevin.wood@blueyonder.co.uk or 07961124459 or Web site www.hmsllandaff.co.uk The reunion packages to include Gala Dinner Saturday and Tots with wine reception and all entertainment and Half board accommodation with breakfast and evening meal <i>3 nights £ 160 per person 2 nights £ 120 Per person 1 Night (Sat) £80 inc Gala Dinner</i> Great value for a great weekend and if covid restrictions are lifted our usual now world famous Llandaff Sods Opera on the Sunday Afternoon watch produced and directed by our very own Entertainments Officer - Ex Leading Seaman John 'Tomo' Thompson.
8/10 Oct	HMS Troubridge Final Commission Association Reunion to be held at Royal Beach Southsea 8/10 Oct. Conatct Bryan Pace at Romft1@gmail.com or website HMS Trourbridge.com
08 Oct	HMS Carysfort Reunion – Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
08/11 Oct	South West ex RN Social Group – Inaugural Autumn Reunion. Livermead House Hotel Torquay. Ex Serving, Serving, Partners and Friends are most welcome. Dinner Bed and Breakfast .

	<p>3 nights £204, 2 Nights £136 Saturday evening ; Black Tie or best 'Bib and Tucker' Excellent Cuisine</p> <p>For further Details contact Sue at chikuai2920@gmail.com</p>	
29 Oct	HMS Eagle/ Yarmouth/ Undaunted - Hallmark Hotel Derby	
5/7 Nov	HMS Cleopatra Old Shipmates Association Reunion – For details contact Honorary Secretary Warwick Franklin at Warwick_franklin@outlook.com or call 10752 366611	
2022		
11/13 Mar	R.N. Communications Association - AGM/Dinner Dance Royal Beach Hotel Southsea - For further details contact C Beeson07807347509 or noseeb@sky.com	
07 May	HMS Nottingham (D91) – Liverpool	

Swinging the Lamp – September 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	September
1st	1836	Rum withdrawn from accompanying women and children who became entitled to tea and sugar in lieu.	
2nd	1950	Lt-Cdr HRH The Duke of Edinburgh RN took command of the sloop Magpie in the Second Frigate Squadron based at Malta. The ship had served in Walker's Second escort Group in the Battle of the Atlantic.	
3rd	1942	Having safely delivered the damaged battleship Queen Elizabeth to the eastern seaboard of the USA, the destroyers Pathfinder, Quentin and Vimy were attacked by, and sank, U-162 off Trinidad. The German CO, Fregattenkapitan Jurgen Wattenburg, had been an officer in Graf Spee. He escaped internment in Argentina, returned to Germany and trained as a submariner. As a POW in Arizona, he again escaped for thirty-six days.	
4th	1964	Frigate Lowestoft, Cdr M.W.G. Fawcett RN, part of a RN squadron assembled for the opening that day of the Forth Road Bridge, collided with the anchored cruiser Lion, Home Fleet flagship, near the bridge while moving downstream in poor visibility. No reprimanded at Portsmouth court martial on Trafalgar Day.	
5th	1972	Second Cod War. First use of the Icelandic Coastguard's warp cutter, when Aegir cut the nets of the Hull trawler Peter Scott.	
6th	1776	Turtle (first American submarine) attacked Howe's flagship (Eagle) in New York harbour: perhaps the first recorded submarine attack.	
7th	1939	The Price of Admiralty. 'Deaths at sea. Administrative arrangements may not provide for any large number of bodies brought into port for burial. For that reason, Captains of HM ships are recommended, when time permits, to arrange for the bodies of officers and men killed in action or dying at sea as a result of wounds to be buried at sea, unless the ship is very close to the port to which she is proceeding.' – AFO 2516a/39.	
8th	1656	Speaker and two consorts captured six out of eight Spanish ships of the Plate fleet off Cadiz.	
9th	1935	First landing of a Service rotary-wing aircraft on one of HM ships: a Cierva C30A autogyro, K4230, on Furious by Wg-Cdr Brie.	
10th	1990	Revd Caroline Eglin (nee Pullman) commissioned. The first female Chaplain to enter the RN.	
11th	1793	Nelson (Agamemnon) first met Lady Hamilton, at Naples.	
12th	1944	Furious and Trumpeter, escorted by Devonshire and six destroyers of 26th DF, laid mines in Aramsund Channel: one German escort vessel sunk. Operation Begonia. FAA Sqns: 801, 808, 827, 830 (Furious – Seafire, Barracuda); 846, 852 (Trumpeter – Avenger). The last Home Fleet operation in which Furious took part before reducing to reserve.	
13th	1914	E 9, Lt-Cdr Max Horton, sank German cruiser Hela S.W. of Heligoland. DSO. First RN submarine commander to sink an enemy warship.	

		Returned to Harwich flying Jolly Roger and so established traditional signal for a successful patrol.
14 th	1805	Vice-Admiral Viscount Nelson embarked in Victory at Portsmouth for the last time, having by his own reckoning been absent from her for only twenty-five days 'from dinner to dinner' since 18 March 1803. The ship sailed next morning
15 th	2007	Maj-Gen. Sir Jeremy Moore, Commander Land Forces in the Falklands War in 1982, died aged 79. Major-General Commando Forces RM 1979–82. Third generation of his family to win MC.
16 th	1971	HRH The Prince of Wales joined Britannia RN College, Dartmouth, under the Graduate Entry Scheme as an acting sub-lieutenant.
17 th	2001	Attempt by RM Cpls- Dom Mee and Tim Welford to row across the Pacific Ocean ended after their boat, Pacific Odyssey, was sunk by a fishing boat after 5,000 miles of rowing.
18 th	1951	Submarines Acheron and Auriga visited London for ten days to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the RN Submarine Service.
19 th	1810	Captains who had missed flag rank through becoming Commissioners of the Navy, Victualling or Transport Boards allowed to wear the undress uniform of a rear-admiral with plain epaulettes and the buttons of their Board.
20 th	1873	Boats of Thalia and Midge destroyed three pirate junks and a fort in the Larut River, Perak.
21 st	1944	10th Submarine Flotilla disbanded. White Ensign hauled down at HMS Talbot, Malta.
22 nd	2001	Operations against Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Two Royal Navy SSNs fired TLAMs against shore targets. Support for land forces provided by Illustrious, Cornwall and Southampton. Operation Veritas.
23 rd	1941	GC: Henry Herbert Reed, Gunner, DEMS, in SS Cormount.
24 th	1850	Rum ration halved by withdrawal of evening issue.
25 th	1953	First Type 14 Frigate Dundas launched by J. Samuel White at Cowes. First of the Blackwood-class to be completed was Hardy by Yarrows, Scotstoun, on 15 December 1955.
26 th	1776	Horatio Nelson appointed acting lieutenant in the Worcester.
27 th	1941	Submarine Trident sank the German Uj-1201 in Soroyasund, Norway.
28 th	1956	Three inshore minesweepers, Broadley, Bisham and Edlingham, lying in reserve off Hornet in Haslar Creek damaged beyond repair by fire which broke out in cocoon material in Broadley.
29 th	1953	Destroyer Diamond, Capt R.I.A. Sarell RN, collided with the light cruiser Swiftsure, Capt T.L. Bratt RN, wearing the flag of Rear-Admiral J.W. Cuthbert, Flag Officer Flotillas, Home Fleet, during exercises 30 miles S. of Iceland. Fire in the cruiser and thirty-two casualties. Capt Sarell was reprimanded at Chatham Court Martial 5 November for hazarding his ship but he was not the last Captain to do so.
30 th	1944	Terrible, only British carrier built in a Royal Dockyard, launched at Devonport by Mrs Duncan Sandys, daughter of Mr Winston Churchill. Commissioned 16 Dec

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