



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



The Semaphore Circular

No 678

The Beating Heart of the RNA

April 2018



The view from RNA Central Office as the 'Beast from the East' hits Portsmouth. In the background you can see HMS Queen Elizabeth, testing her evacuation slides (similar to aircraft slides – but with added liferafts!)

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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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
DGS	Deputy General Secretary
AGS	Assistant General Secretary
CONA	Conference of Naval Associations

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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Find Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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Portsmouth
Hants PO1 3LT

Dear Shipmates,

Welcome to the April Circular, I hope you have survived the Beast from the East and that you are enjoying some warmer weather. Lots going on in your modern go-ahead RNA.

Firstly, next week the National President and National Chair and their deputies are interviewing for my relief. They will be seeing 4 candidates, so hopefully some good news soon. The candidates will also have a 'Fireside chat' with CO staff and 4 Shipmates – S/M Rita Lock (NWA), S/M David Wright (10 Area), S/M Soapy Watson (3 Area) and S/M Arthur Gutteridge (4 Area) – to check the quality of dit spinning! Hopefully the new GS will be at the Dublin Conference if one of the candidates is appointed. **All the more reason to come to Dublin.**

The number of delegates is improving – so fill in your delegate form. Don't forget that your branch can now be represented by someone from another branch – and therefore take advantage of the £100 (or more) subsidy. Our Guest of Honour at the Conference and Gala Dinner is the Chief of the Irish Defence Forces – so we need to have a good turn out – so not to let the RNA down.

I'll be sending a hard-copy posting to all branches in the next week or two – it will have the Annual trustee report, Accounts for FY17 the Conference Agenda. So please may I ask that:

- Branches review the Trustee Report and Accounts any questions please raise with me and I'll endeavor to answer them. I'd rather you had a proper answer and not a 'off the top of the head' job at Conference. So, ask away, no subject off the card.
- The Agenda has the proposed motions for Conference. The branch may want to take a view. We try hard to get the hard copy to you, so you have 2 meetings to chat them over. If you are not sending a delegate, then you won't have a voice. Only comments made at Conference count – there is no point in sending an email saying you don't like the outcome. I've had complaints about Central Office staging a Conference in Dublin – when we only organise it with the Area/Branch – Conference decides where Conference meets – **not the National Council or Central Office.**
- The envelope will have the Raffle tickets for the Annual Central Charities Fund, so please support this very worthy cause. RNA is great at raising money – send some to your own fund!

You will see that the National Council are looking to support an advisor for Branch recruiting. We have many vibrant and successful branches and it would be great to spread good practice and enthuse branches who struggle to find new members. If you are interested – this could be a great role to make a big difference to the RNA – particularly if you have been successful. Expenses covered and the BRRA will have their own budget – and a big voice in how the RNA markets itself. Simple email application please.

You will be delighted to hear that the LIBOR buses are now busy with the first overseas deployment to 1WW battlefield planned for the summer. A BZ to Warren Belfitt in 4 Area for organising the West Bus, which is doing great business.

Some gentle remainders and business please:

- Encourage members to come along to the novice standard bearers' competition. Help with travel and some good training. We hope to do a training video at the comp.
- End of Year reports should be coming in along with 2018 membership subscriptions.
- Our Open Days are filling fast with only places on the October date now available.

- Do try and come to the Welfare Seminar, we have an excellent programme of speakers – and it's a cheap weekend rate close to the National Memorial Arboretum. Over 50 delegates so a good social as well. I'll be there on Friday night for a chest-poking opportunity!

It was great to welcome Runcorn Branch for their own open Day and visit to the Historic Dockyard. A fun branch who had a great few days. Bravo Zulu for the ever-energetic Dave Wright for organising the trip.

Finally, we hope the Semaphore Tower lift will be working again by the end of April – only 2 years to repair/replace. We're going to have a lift party.

Best wishes from the Central Office team

Paul



1. Vacancy for New Branch Recruitment and Retention Advisor

The National Council has created a new position of Branch Recruitment and Retention Advisor (BRRRA) who will be responsible for advising the National Council through the Association Management Committee (AMC) on a range of branch level recruitment and retention issues. The BRRRA's job spec and responsibilities are below;

Recruitment and Retention Advisor (RRA)

Job Spec –

1. Identify Members in Areas and Branches suitable to act as Recruiting and Retention Officers.
2. Organise and assist Area and Branch Recruiting and Retention Activities
3. Assist the Areas and NCMs identify Branches at risk of closing and provide help.
4. Assist Areas in identifying possible new Branches and special interest groups.
5. Share best practise - encouraging local activity
6. Develop an understanding of why people leave the RNA to develop retention strategies
7. Report to AMC as advisor
8. Advise the AMC on proposed Recruiting Activities
9. Develop cross over with marketing ideas for annual budget with GS
10. Manage devolved budget from GS.

The BRRRA will be required to travel to Portsmouth three times a year for a Saturday meeting and once to Conference to update the AMC on progress (expenses provided). BRRRA has been allocated a small travel budget to enable the BRRRA to get started.

The BRRRA position is open to Full and Associate members and anyone interested in applying for the position should forward their details to Central Office together with a short statement explaining why they believe they are the right person for the job.

The National Council will make an appointment at their meeting in June. If you require any further specific information please contact Central Office on 02392 23747

2. ★ Veterans Gateway and Preserved Pensions

Shipmates may not be aware that the [Veterans' Gateway](#) is the one-stop shop for veterans who are seeking help. It is supported by a consortium of Armed Forces Charities, notably the Royal British Legion, SSAFA and Combat Stress.

The Forces Pension Society also plays its part, helping with pension enquiries of which we have fielded 750 to date and now running at a rate of over 100 a month. Many of these come from those who have lost their way and have no idea of whether they have a pension entitlement or what it is.



There have been some notable recent successes for some of those who have approached us through the Gateway. Rob left in the early 90s after 11 years' service and is now in receipt of £5K pension and £15K tax free lump sum.

Jack left in the mid 90s after 9 years and has now discovered that he will receive a pension of £3.5K in a couple of years' time at age 60 - and a lump sum of £10.5K

Pete left in 1984 after 9 years' service, now receives £3,300 pa and has trousered a lump sum of £10K

Mog left in 1980 with 6 years' service, and receives over £2K pa and a lump sum of just over £6K.

These stories are all true. Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent. If you know someone who served from 1975 onwards they might be entitled to a preserved pension. Tell them to get in touch.

3. Welfare Seminar – 21 April North Stafford Hotel -Stoke

Shipmates are requested to disseminate the information below concerning the details of the Welfare Seminar which will be held on Saturday 21st April 2018 at the North Stafford Hotel Stoke on Trent SR4 2AE.

Please note that Seminar is open to **all** who wish to attend so if your wife/partner/oppo wishes to come along then the more the merrier from any Branch. One subsidy claim per branch for travellers can be submitted. For information, the hotel offer is open to all RNA members even if you are not attending the seminar and wanted a reasonably priced weekend. It is a 30-minute drive to the National Memorial Arboretum which is home to Naval Service Memorial and well worth a visit.



The Agenda is as follows;

0930 - Guest Speakers;

*Miles Cowley - **SAIL** (Sailors Advise and Information Line)*

*Phil Shuttleworth - Beneficiary Support Co-ordinator for **Royal Naval Benevolent Trust***

*Craig Mclellan - **Veterans with Dogs** (with a dog)*

*Capt P Quinn OBE & Mrs S Clewes - **RNA Project Semaphore** (Providing iPads and training to digitally isolated Naval Veterans)*

*Dr N Murdoch - **Veterans in Prisons***

*Michelle Manville - **Blind Veterans***

***1 Hour lunch break** – (Commencement dependant on Speakers)*

***National Memorial Arboretum** - Home to the Naval Service Memorial founded by the RNA.*

Prostate Cancer -
Bereavement/Benefits
Church notices

- For those Shipmates attending the Seminar **it is essential that they complete a booking form**, which can be found at rear of Circular, even if it is just for lunch on the day. This request will enable us to provide dining numbers to the hotel. (Luncheon tickets will be issued when you register on the day.)
- Please note that Shipmates will be able to claim travelling expenses but not accommodation. Michelle Bainbridge will be available at the Seminar to provide travel expense forms and advice.
- Please note Shipmates attending the Seminar must annotate their vehicle registration on a special pad/board at reception to ensure you do not incur parking fees.

North Area Support Officer Shipmate Alan Magrath will attend and is driving down the North Libor Bus from Blackburn. If any Area 10 Shipmate would like a lift to the Seminar please contact S/M Alan directly at belfastblues_812@icloud.com or by phone 07964 721849.

The other buses are available and 'borrowing' details can be found in a separate article in this edition of the Circular.

Finally, any contributions of prizes for the Friday and Saturday raffles would be gratefully received. If you require any further information or specific details, please contact the National Welfare Advisor ritalock@sky.com or 02392 723747

4. Standing Order Committee Vacancies

Applications are invited from **Full or Life members or Associate members who have been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation** to become a member of the Standing Orders Committee. The Committee meets three times a year and review Conference motions and manages delivery of Conference procedures on the day. All expenses are covered when attending meetings.

Annually two places on the Standing Orders Committee become vacant, any Full Member, including the incumbents, resident in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland can submit their name for election at this year's Conference. The National Council co-opt a Member in accordance with Rule 18 (c) and Byelaw 6 (g).

Applicants should apply on the form at rear of Circular with a brief statement of their relevant experience within the RNA; to Central Office. The deadline for applications is 21st April 2018.

5. 2018 Dublin Conference – Accommodation

*******Conference Count Down - 2 Months and counting*******

As Shipmates can see above it is only just 2 months until the next Conference so if you are thinking of attending as a Delegate or an individual member you need to consider booking your accommodation in the next couple of months.

So.....

Dublin Conference Subsidy;

The National Council has decided that to encourage an improved attendance at the 2018 Conference in Dublin that each 'Voting Delegate' will be able to claim **at least** £100 towards the cost of travel/accommodation **in addition to the normal travel claim under pooled fares**. This includes delegates who are voting on behalf of another branch. The sum may increase depending on uptake. The subsidy can be used for accommodation etc, will be paid at a flat rate with the pooled fares claim, no receipt required for the subsidy (just attendance as a delegate).



Finally.....

Branch Secretaries are gently reminded that **it is essential they complete a 'Delegate Application form'** if they intend sending a delegate to Conference. This applies to all branches, even those who responded in the affirmative to the survey undertaken before Christmas asking for your intentions to send a Delegate to Conference or not. Failure not to comply will result in disappointment as the delegate will not be allowed a vote. **Form at the back of the Circ.**

6. ★ RNVC Series – AB William Alfred Savage VC

William Savage was born in Smethwick Staffordshire on the 30 October 1912 and joined the Royal Navy in 1939 at the start of WW2.

On 28 March 1942 during the attack on St. Nazaire, France, Able Seaman Savage was a gun-layer of a pom-pom serving in Motor Gun Boat MGB 314. The boat was engaging enemy positions ashore, shooting with great accuracy. Although AB Savage had no gun-shield and was in a most exposed position, he continued firing with great coolness until at last he was killed at his gun. For his courage under fire he was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously.

His Citation read as follows;

Able Seaman William Alfred Savage, C/JX 173910

For great gallantry, skill and devotion to duty as gunlayer of the pom-pom a motor gunboat in the St Nazaire raid. Completely exposed, and under heavy fire he engaged positions ashore with cool and steady accuracy. On the way out of the harbour he kept up the same vigorous and accurate fire against the attacking ship until he was killed at his gun.



This Victoria Cross is awarded in recognition not only of the gallantry and devotion to duty of Able Seaman Williams, but also to the valour shown by many others, unnamed in Motor Launches, Motor Gun Boats and Motor Torpedo Boats, who gallantly carried

out their duty in entirely exposed positions against enemy fire at very close range.

He was buried in the Town Cemetery in Falmouth Cornwall and his VC and other medals are on display in the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich.

7. ★ RNBT – Assistance with Care Home Fees



The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust

Supporting The RNBT Family

Shipmates may not be aware that the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT) can provide assistance with care home fees.

RNBT can also contribute towards the cost of domiciliary care. If you know someone who is an **ex-RN or RM rating, including reservists, or their widows**, then ask them to get in touch with SSAFA who will arrange a home visit and make a recommendation for funding to RNBT.

RNBT also runs its own care home for older members of the Royal Naval family at Pembroke House which is located in Gillingham. More details at: <http://www.rnbt.org.uk/pembroke-house/>

8. ★ Charity Donations

Central Charities

RNA – Bodmin	£100.00
RNA – Isle of Man Ramsey	£50.00
JM Steven	£25.00
CC Herman	£36.00
F Wills	£20.00
A Burgess	£26.00
Hospital Medical Care	£21.07
Muchloved Charity	£12.05
Charities Trust	£ 4.44

In memory of the late

Roy Addison	£25.00
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Other Donations

SJ Marvin	£21.00
DG Holden	£36.00

9. ★ Finance Corner

Dear Shipmates,

Year End Returns 2014

They are still 3 Branches who have not submitted their accounts to Central Office for 2014.

Can I please ask for a copy to be returned to Central Office **ASAP**. I have informed your Area NCM that you have still not submitted your accounts, so they might offer what assistance is required or you can ring Rita or me.

They are:

Area 6 - RNA High Wycombe,
Area 8 - RNA B'ham Cotteridge
Area 11 – RNA Redcar



Year End Returns 2015

Central Office still has 10 Branches that have not submitted their Year End Returns.

Can I please ask for a copy to be returned to Central Office **ASAP**.

They are:

Area 1 – RNA Carshalton, RNA Greenford

Area 2 – RNA Reigate, RNA Sidcup

Area 6 – RNA High Wycombe

Area 8 – RNA B'ham Cotteridge

Area 9 – RNA Bourne, RNA Sheffield

Area 11 – RNA Redcar

Area 13 – RNA Sutherland

Above Branches, please note –

Consequences of failure to comply action may be taken under rule B30 (c) refer

Therefore, I am please asking the above Branches to submit their copies to Central Office and Area secretary.

Regards

Michelle

10.★ Naval Recruiting

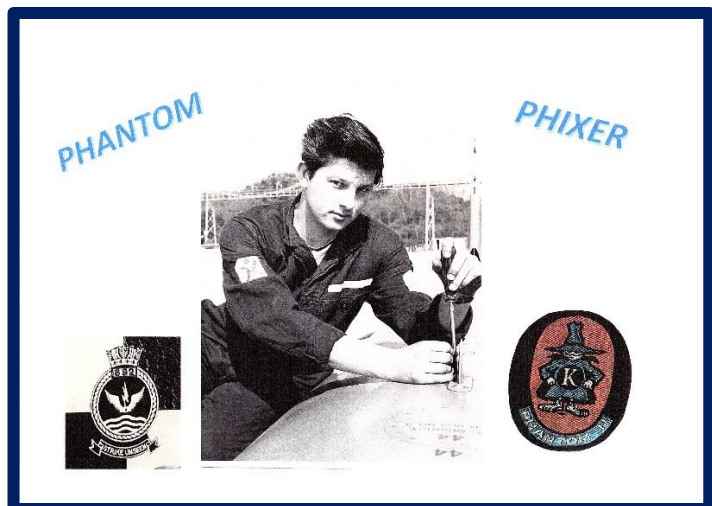
As the sunset goes down on a glittering RNA career as Hon Treasurer for over 30 years Shipmate Ray 'The Phantom' Barraclough has taken on another challenge in raising the RN recruiting levels.

Rays New Slogan (as per the new RN TV recruiting advert) is -

- Born in Southampton
- Made in the Royal Navy
- Pickled in the RNA

What do think Ladies????

(Editors Serious Note; A huge BZ to Shipmate Ray for his contribution to the RNA in his role of Hon Treasurer and all at Central Office wish him the very best in his retirement from the role)



11. ★ RNRM Widows' Association

Sarah Clewes the Project Semaphore Manager has just taken over the role of Chair main of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Widows' Association and has written a letter advertising her appointment, which can be seen below;

I am delighted to have taken on the role of Chairman of the Royal Navy Royal Marines Widows' Association (RNRMWA). I have been involved with the Association since 2010, most of this time spent as a committee member. My husband died of cancer, aged 31, and I have enjoyed the invaluable support of a fellow Widow (and Widower) who understands the nuances of naval life, has endured loss and is happy to give their time over a cup of tea (or glass of wine!) to help me through challenges and dark days. Friendship and support is fundamental to this group, that we never asked to join.



My role is to ensure that we are represented alongside the Army and RAF Widows, to engage with the RN Welfare team who invite us to relevant meetings and events and to provide the Visiting Officers with credible, real life experiences to enhance their professional training.

The Association has been dormant for some time, however together with the support of the committee, we will provide our Members with a Newsletter, refresh the website and share information, inspirational stories, offers and events both on the RNRMWA Facebook page (and secret group) and by post for our Members not online.

Please add my contact details to any meetings or events you hold, where our views and experiences add value to the work you do. The old RNRMWA email account and phone number, you may hold on record, have been deleted. Please amend your records using our new contact details:

Postal address - Sarah Clewes, Conference of Naval Associations (CONA), Room 209, Semaphore Tower (PP70), HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 3LT

Email - sarah@rnrmwidows.org Phone – 07462 376850. I look forward to meeting you.

Regards

Sarah Clewes

12. News Flash Brexit solved

News Flash.....Just released!

Detailed government plans from the government for the Irish border post-Brexit

(Plaque on gate says "Please Close Gate")



13. National Standard Bearers and Novice Standard Bearers Competition - Heads up

Shipmates may wish to make a note in their diaries for the upcoming Standard Bearer extravaganza at HMS Collingwood. The excitement is brewing as 2018 could be the year that S/M Bob 'the Tartan Trojan' Coburn loses his National Standard Bearer crown to Ben 'I was there' Cartwright, or Marie 'Two Comp' Taylor BEM or Dave '8 Bit' Corrigan..... Tickets are selling fast and it could be a capacity sell out.

On a serious note The National Standard Bearers and **new Novice Standard Bearers competition** along with the Association of WRNS competition will take place at HMS Collingwood on Saturday 12 May 2018 and will be the same format as recent competitions commencing at 1000 and on completion will be followed by a presentation ceremony.



The National Ceremonial Officer, Shipmate Mick Kieran, is very keen to encourage Novice Standard Bearers to come along and experience the ceremony, camaraderie and fun in taking part in this competition. It is hoped they will then move onto to enter the main competition and one day become National Standard Bearer which is a prestigious role within the RNA appearing at Conference, Biennial Parade in Whitehall and representing the RNA at national and overseas events such as Remembrance Festival in the Royal Albert Hall and other national commemorative events.

The Warrant Officers and Senior Rates Mess **have very kindly offered 12 cabins** worth of accommodation to those competitors and guests who wish to stay in HMS Collingwood on Friday, which will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Alternative accommodation is available in the Royal Maritime Club for the RNA rate which includes Dinner, Bed and Breakfast for £58, please ensure you quote the RNA membership number **7398** for these prices. Full details of the competition will be announced in the April edition of the Semaphore Arms. Closing dates for entries will be **Friday 6 April 2018**.

14. ★ Joke – Two Brooms

Two brooms were hanging in the closet and after a while they got to know each other so well, they decided to get married.

One broom was, of course, the bride broom, the other the groom broom. The bride broom looked very beautiful in her white dress. The groom broom was handsome and suave in his tuxedo.

The wedding was lovely. After the wedding, at the wedding dinner, the bride-broom leaned over and said to the groom-broom,

'I think I am going to have a little broom!' 'IMPOSSIBLE !' said the groom broom.

Wait for it.....

'WE HAVEN'T EVEN SWEEPED TOGETHER!'

15. ★ RNA Cycling Team

The RNA Cycling Team made its debut before being closed after one race due to too many injuries! As you can see below Shipmate Whisky Walker from a Northern Branch explains what happened.....

“I went to Town on Tuesday afternoon on my bicycle, bought a bottle of 'Woods Navy Rum', and put it in the bicycle basket.

As I was about to leave, I thought to myself that if I fell off the bicycle, the bottle would break. So I drank all the 'Woods Rum' before I cycled home.

It turned out to be a very good decision because I fell off my bicycle seven times on the way home.



16. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment

This month can you name this establishment? This is exceptionally tricky. Remember no hovering or looking on Google or Wiki!!..... Good Luck this is very difficult ...

The answer will be in next month's edition.

And so, to the March 'Guess the Establishment'..... RMB Chivenor near Barnstaple on the north Devon coast.

Well done to Shipmate Bill Gibson for getting it right. Bill was based there 2009 – 2012 as a RM trained vehicle mechanic Killick Stoker for Op Herrick 14. Good times! He says.



17. ★ The Riders Branch of the Royal Naval Association

Roslyn Hastie-Murray the Special Interest Group / Riders Branch Secretary has forwarded a report to update Shipmates on how things are progressing.

Interest in the new Special Interest Group / Branch is steadily increasing from within the existing RNA members as well as new people who have heard about us. The Facebook group now has just over 100 members.



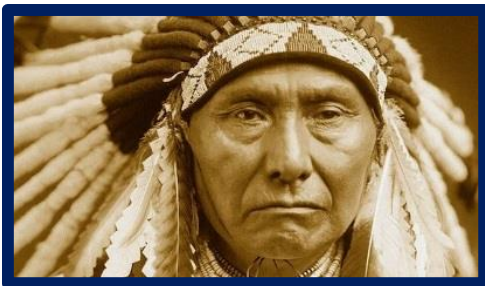
Due to the bad weather in early March, the Scottish MCN Bike Show (Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh) was rearranged to the weekend of 7-8 April 2018 so there is still a chance for you to come to the Show and visit our Stand to find out more about us!

The Inaugural Commissioning Meeting of the Branch will take place the following Saturday, 14th April 2018 and this will be hosted by RNA Tyne Branch in Newcastle upon Tyne. More details about this meeting will be soon available from our Hon. Secretary, Roslyn Hastie-Murray (sec.ridersrna@yahoo.com) or see our FaceBook page - Royal Naval Association Riders. Branch for more information.

For more information email our Chairman, Bernie McPhillips (bmcphillips@btinternet.com) or our Hon. Secretary, Roslyn Hastie-Murray (sec.ridersrna@yahoo.com) or see our FaceBook page - Royal Naval Association Riders Branch.

18. ★ Joke - Indian Memory Man

Steven from Liverpool, England was touring the United States Of America on holiday and stopped in a remote bar in the Mojave desert of California. He was chatting to the bartender when he spied an old Native American man sitting in the corner. He had tribal gear on, long white plaits and a wrinkled face.



“Who’s he?” Steven from Liverpool asked. “That’s the Indian Memory Man” said the bartender. “He knows everything, remembers everything. He can remember every face he’s ever seen. He can remember any fact he hears or reads. Go and try him out.”

So, Steven goes over, and thinking he won’t know about English football. Steven asks; “Who won the 1965 FA Cup Final?”

Indian Memory Man; “Liverpool” replies the Memory Man. Steven; “Who did they beat?” Indian Memory Man; “Leeds United” was the instant reply.

Steven; “And the score?” Indian Memory Man; “2-1.” Steven; “Who scored the winning goal?”

Indian Memory Man; “Ian St. John” said the old man, without a hint of hesitation.

The man from Liverpool was knocked out by this and told everyone back home about the ancient Indian Memory Man when he got back. Six years later he went back to the USA and tried to find the impressive Memory Man. Eventually he found the bar and sitting in the same seat was the old Native American, only this time he was older and even more wrinkled.

The Liverpudlian came close to him with the greeting “How”.

The Memory man looked at Steven and said, “Diving header in the six-yard box.”

19. RNRMC - Twickenham 100

The **Royal Naval & Royal Marines Charity** holds its annual fundraising initiative that takes place in the run up to the Army v Navy rugby match raising money for the RNRMC, which is the RNA chosen charity partner. The Twickenham 100 fundraising effort commences 100 days prior to the match which will take place at Twickenham on 05 May 2018.



What did the RNA do last year to help

A number of RNA Branches kindly donated £100.00 from Branch funds others donated in some uniquely RNA ways;

RNA Margate – raised £100 by drinking 100 tots of rum!

RNA Weymouth - raised £100 by using a 100 square board for a raffle (provided by RNRMC)

RNA Bude - held a quiz on 100th day of the year raising £850

What could you do to?

Starting on the 25th January and lasting 100 days the RNRMC are asking Areas/Branches/Clubs to come up with creative challenges to raise money for the RNRMC. It could be anything from cycling 100 miles, bake and sell 100 cakes/buns, give up swearing! have 100 stand easy's at 31 a go. Alternatively you could save yourself all the hassle and donate £100. No matter how big or small your contribution will help support serving personnel, veterans and their families.

If you require any further information please contact Hilary Jukes the Twickenham 100 Campaign Manager at hilary.jukes@rnrmc.org.uk

20. ★ Victory Charity Walk

Shipmates may recall that to celebrate her retirement Lt Cdr Jane Allen RNR (Rtd) decided to walk round the UK coastline to raise funds for the WRNS BT and RNRMC. She will walk over 5,000 miles and will take a full year to complete this marathon challenge! She departed from HMS Victory on 21 October 2017. If you would like to sponsor Jane just follow this link; <https://www.facebook.com/VictoryWalk1718>.

Below is Janes second report on her progress through the Beast from the East and its baby brother/Sister the Mini version!.....

POISED FOR 1,000 MILES

My second 500 miles began in the small village of Hullbridge, Essex. Amongst the modern houses several ancient dwellings still survive and a tiny, higgledy-piggledy pink cottage, built in 1738 caught my eye. Set on its wall was a plaque, not the historical blue plaque of today, but a much older one. It read: 'On this Site Sep 5 1782 – nothing Happened'.



At Tollesbury where the weather was dreadful, I observed an incredible sight up in the deep purple storm skies, made even more stunning by the backdrop of a rainbow. Thousands of white sea birds performed a 'murmuration-like' display of shape-shifting flight against the stormy backdrop. As they swooped, soared and turned they seemed connected as one body. Their display was even more impressive than the Red Arrows!

As a county, Essex was incredibly generous. Marinas helped us with overnight stops, donations flowed and boat transfers were offered

where winter ferries were not running. I'd have been thrilled to be transported by private pilot launch from Harwich to Felixstowe, but felt it wasn't 'cricket'. Instead, I walked the extra 52 miles, much in wind, rain and mud. I completed my tramp through Essex, feeling huge elation when I finally stepped into Suffolk.

Whenever possible we continue to visit and talk to Sea Cadet units, where questions flow thick and fast about the Victory Walk and living in a motorhome. They range from "How does the toilet work?" "Does she snore?" to "Do you carry a mascot?" Attempting to get the cadets to think about one essential of life that everyone needs (water), we asked, "What is it none of us can live without for very long?" Quick as a flash, one little lad's hand shot up and back came the answer, "The Internet!"

The journey through Suffolk was much shorter than that of Essex, but people were equally hospitable. It was interesting seeing places such as Shotley, Felixstowe, Southwold and Lowestoft, all of which previously had strong naval connections. The sad sight of a decaying and ramshackled former HMS Ganges was extremely depressing, but it was good to see how Felixstowe, formerly HMS Beehive, has transformed itself into the UK's largest container port.

Apart from setting foot on the most easterly point of the British Isles at Ness Point, my lasting memory of Suffolk will be of the artistic centre at Aldeburgh, also famed for its fish and chips. Here I came across a queue of people, at least 25 long, patiently waiting outside the chippie – it was more akin to a WWII ration queue.

Crossing into Norfolk I noticed a distinct change. Unlike Suffolk which uses its sandy soil for agriculture, Norfolk is full of sand dunes providing coastal protection and seaside fun. On approaching Great Yarmouth I first became aware of how the county is proud of its links with its famous naval hero, Admiral Lord Nelson. I spied a lofty monument, known as the Nelson

Memorial. Just feet shorter than Nelson's Column in London, Norfolk defiantly constructed its monument ahead of London's in a select area of the town. Sadly, it now presides over an industrial estate, close to the brightly lit 'Pleasure Beach and Golden Mile'.



Not far out of Kings Lynn, I joined Lincolnshire in the remotest part of the Wash – miles from anywhere, with only thousands of sea birds for company. Being the second largest county in England, bordered by eight neighbouring counties, Lincolnshire's size is very apparent. So too is its flat terrain, punctuated by countless drainage channels and pumping stations sited on the grassy sea banks.

From that Lincolnshire crossing point I looked due north at a ribbon of land disappearing beyond my vision. Momentarily, I felt sick when it dawned on me I had all this to walk, and much more besides. Since that heart-stopping moment I've completed the coastline of the Wash and walked through Skegness. By the time RNA members read this I'll have walked my first thousand miles and started on my second!

Skegness RNA branch has recently provided practical assistance and Reigate branch has kindly sent a donation to the Victory Walk (thank you). If your branch wishes to sponsor Commander Jane Allen, the Victory Walker, please go to www.Virginmoneygiving.com/victorywalk17-18

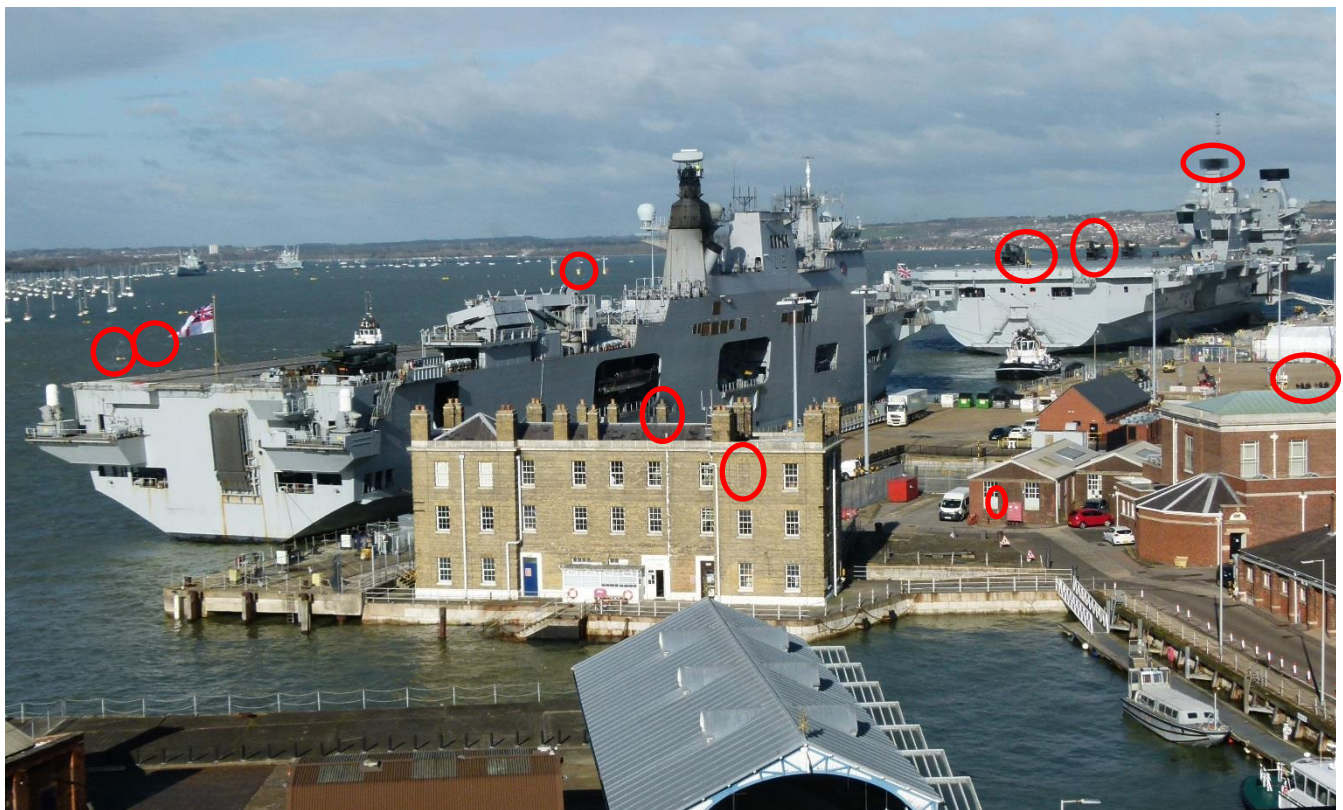
21. ★ Spot the Difference Competition Results.....

The first Shipmate to contact Central Office by e-mail that can spot the 10 differences can claim a bottle of Pussers from Nigel or Andy. Good luck



- Radar Display
- New marker pole
- Ensign – Gone from pole
- Extra Helicopter
- Police launch removed
- Yellow can Buoy added
- Extra Chimney
- Missing window
- Extra three Workers in Group
- Missing red box beside pink box

The winner with 9 items is Shipmate Gary Daisley from RNA Rayleigh - Well done Shipmate you have won a bottle of Pussers, don't drink it all at once it is for savouring!



RNA Longcast

2018	
28/29 Mar	GS position interview days – Central Office
13 Apr	Open Day
20-22 Apr	Welfare Seminar – Stoke on Trent
23 Apr	WW1 - 1918 - Zeebrugge Raid Anniversary
05 May	Area 5 Quarterly – Harwich
12 May	Area 4 Meeting - Christchurch
12 May	National Standard Bearer Competition – HMS Collingwood
18/19/20 May	Londonderry Branch Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration 2018
18 May	Open Day
08 Jun	NC/AMC/FAC/SOC Meetings
8/9/10 June	RNA Conference - Dublin
29 Jun	Open Day
30 June	Armed Forces Day – Llandudno (North Wales)
04 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly – Harwich
10 Aug	Open Day
17 Aug	FAC
18 Aug	AMC
07 Sept	CONA 'Clear Lower Deck' - Annual Conference event, Royal Maritime Club
08 Sep	National Council Meeting
10 Sep	General Secretary – Hand Over
15 Sep	Area 4 Meeting - Dorchester
05 Oct	Open Day
21 Oct	Trafalgar Day
03 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly – Rayleigh
08 Nov	Field of Remembrance – Westminster Abbey – Sunday rehearsal
11 Nov	Remembrance Sunday – NCh to lay wreath DGS as wreath bearer 100th anniversary of the Armistice for 1WW Battles Over commemorations nationally – many RNA taking part
16 Nov	FAC
17 Nov	AMC
23 Nov	IMC Executive Council Portsmouth and WW1 commemoration
08 Dec	National Council Meeting
13 Dec	Battle of the River Plate Day
2019	
02 Feb	Area 5 AGM & Quarterly - Harwich
04 May	Area 5 Quarterly - Norwich
7-9 Jun	Conference – Wyboston Lakes (Area 6)
03 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly - Rayleigh
02 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Market Harborough](#)

[RNA City of Sheffield Branch](#)

[RNA Cheltenham](#)

[RNA Chatham](#)

[RNA Londonderry](#)

[RNA Tyne](#)

[RNA Rayleigh](#)

[RNA Aldershot](#)

[RNA City of Glasgow](#)

[RNA Runcorn](#)

RNA Market Harborough Branch

Shipmate Pat Middleton (Hon. Secretary)
Market Harborough Branch visited Market
Harborough Sea Cadet HQ - TS Fernie on 9th
March 2018.

S/M Pat, who is also President of the unit was
presenting certificates for the Duke of
Edinburgh Award to the Sea Cadets of T.S.



RNA City Of Sheffield Branch



There will be a Remembrance Service at the Sheffield
Cathedral on Sunday 6th May to remember the 20 lives that
were lost when HMS Sheffield was attacked during the
Falklands War.

Standard Bearers, Sea Cadets and anyone wishing to
parade should muster on the Cathedral forecourt at
13.30hrs. There will be a short service at the HMS Sheffield
memorial in the Cathedral grounds followed by the main
service in the Cathedral at 14.00hrs.

Everyone is welcome. If you have any queries, please contact Dave Wild on 01246 569351 or by
email at davewild52@gmail.com

RNA Cheltenham Branch

Shipmate Bob Wheatley last Secretary of Cheltenham Royal Naval Association very kindly sent a final report concerning the de-commissioning of RNA Cheltenham and laying up of the Standard.

Sunday 25th February 2018 was a very sad day as Cheltenham Branch laid up their Standard and officially de-commissioned as a Branch. Regrettably age of the remaining few shipmates and lack of new members reluctantly forced the decision to be made.

Between the two World Wars a group of Ex-Royal Navy Servicemen got together to form an association that became known as 'The Cheltenham Royal Navy Old Comrade's Association'. When, after the Second World War in 1947, the Old Comrades became The Royal Naval Association with over one hundred Members, the Old Comrades Standard was laid up in a local church.

A new Royal Naval Association Standard was blessed and remained in use until 1983 when it too was laid up in the same local church. Luckily two years ago the branch managed to obtain both the original RNOCA Standard and 1983 laid up RNA Branch Standard for safekeeping when the church informed all Associations that any standards in the church would be disposed if not collected.

A second new Royal Naval Association Standard was commissioned in 1983, and was in use until the 25th of January 2018, when the Cheltenham Branch de-commissioned after 70 years of activity at all military events in and around Cheltenham.



On Sunday 25th of February 2018 at TS Legion home of Cheltenham Sea Cadets a decommissioning service was held. The current Standard was laid up and entrusted to TS Legion along with the RNOCA and 1983 Branch Standard.

This is believed to be the first time that a Royal Naval Association Standard has been decommissioned into the care of a Sea Cadet Unit. T/S Legion takes its name from the World War Two Destroyer HMS Legion purchased in 1941 by the Town Folk of Cheltenham with their War Bonds and public donations. HMS Legion lay alongside the

sinking Carrier HMS Ark Royal rescuing many of her crew. Very sadly HMS Legion was lost to German bombing on 26th March 1942 in Grand Harbour Malta. In Cheltenham Town Hall is a plaque to remember the 11 crew who died that day. T/S Legion Cadets hold a Service of Remembrance each year on the Saturday nearest to March the 26th. Cheltenham R.N.A and S.C.C Unit have always had a close relationship.

The photo above shows the last four members standing;

S/M's Doug Hughes, Ted Goodhall, Alan Joiner and Bob Wheatley the youngest at 79.

Missing are Shipmate Martin Schuck who is on the sick list and is 94 year old Lt Cdr Derek Henman. R.N & R.N.R, who is seen the top photo in the white jumper.

RNA Chatham

Chatham branch of the RNA, held its AGM on the 7th February 2018 and reported encouraging news on membership, accounts, last year's events which included the parade to commemorate the drill shed tragedy of 1917, and a full crew attending the meeting. Furthermore a successful application was celebrated by a shipmate who was in receipt of compensation, towards his skin cancer on his head, which he contracted after serving in Loch Class Frigates in the 50's which exposed him to extreme temperatures from the suns.

Also a few changes on the top table were carried out, with Shipmate Tim Stopford taking on the Chairman's Role as regrettably Tug Wilson, had to step down due to an unfortunate spell of ill health. The Branch wish Tug a much better 2018, and thanked him for his commitment to the branch, he was a very popular Chairman. The branch also took time to wish Tim a successful term in office.



President Jack Harris had also decided to step down citing that he has been not in good health and felt that now is the time to take a back seat. The Branch would like to thank Jack for all his years of service and total commitment spanning over 30 years,BZ.

Area 2 NCM and Committee member, Shipmate Victor (Darby) Allen was made a Life member serving the branch for so many years the branch offered its congratulations to Darby as the award of Life membership was thoroughly deserved.

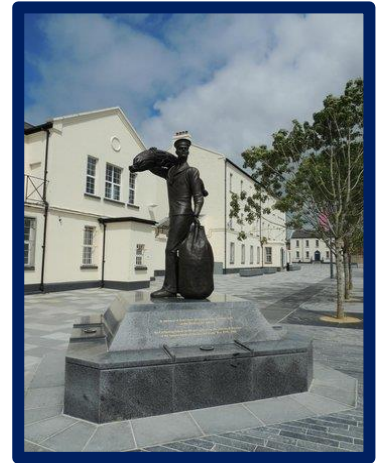
Finally, last but not least Social events co-ordinator Shipmate Valerie Ide was awarded the 'Shipmate of the Year' trophy in recognition of the hard work she undertakes organising the raffles, some trips, and helping with the lunches that are held every month.,



RNA Londonderry Branch

Shipmates may be aware that the annual Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration is a major event planned and hosted by Londonderry Branch RNA. It follows the successful commissioning and unveiling of the International Sailor Statue, which stands proudly in what was HMS Sea Eagle. The Statue mirrors the Sailor Statue standing in Downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia, where the Convoys set off from.

The 2018 project completes the "Triangle Run" which will see Convoy Bells placed in Halifax NS and Londonderry NI, joined by the third bell, which will be placed in St John's Newfoundland. The First Convoy Bell was transported from Canada and dedicated in St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry and then returned to Halifax, Nova Scotia and placed on Canada's Naval Memorial ship HMCS Sackville. HMCS Sackville is the last remaining Corvette and was a frequent visitor to Derry during the war. The Second Convoy Bell was commissioned and dedicated in St John's Newfoundland and transported here. It is on permanent display in the Tower Museum in Londonderry. The current project will see a Third ships bell, commissioned and dedicated in Londonderry and presented to St Johns Newfoundland, in recognition of the contribution made by the Newfoundland Escort Force, in protecting the Merchant Ships as the Convoys made their way through the U boat Wolf packs to get much needed supplies to the UK.



**The Program for the Royal Naval Association Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration 2018
to be held in Londonderry 17th to 20th May 2018**

Thursday 17th May 2018:

19.00 Meet and greet the visitors: Waterside Royal British Legion, Hosted by the RNA.

Friday 18th May 2018:

Times to be confirmed. ***Venue in Co Donegal, Southern Ireland***

HMS Laurentic WW1 Commemoration and unveiling of Memorial: Hosted by Ulster Canada Initiative, supported by RNA.

Saturday 19th May 2018:

10.00 to 16.00 WW2 Exhibition by Museum Services in Londonderry's Guildhall and Guildhall Place.

15.00 Wreath Casting Ceremony on River Foyle. P2000 TBC.

18.00 Mayors pre-dinner Reception in Tower Museum.

19.00 Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration Dinner, City Hotel Derry. (£30)

Sunday 20th May 2018:

10.00 Muster for Parade to St Columb's Cathedral. (Society St)

11.00 Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration Service and Dedication of the Bell.

12.00 March Past and Wreath laying at the War Memorial in the Diamond.

13.30 Lunch: Waterside Royal British Legion, Hosted by the RNA.

'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM'



*******Shipmates will find a personal invitation from RNA Londonderry at the rear of this Semaphore Circular containing details of costs and rig******

RNA Tyne Branch

The Tyne Branch 70th Anniversary celebrations were somewhat disrupted by a sudden onset of winter at the beginning of March however, it meant they had two weekends of celebration instead of one!

On Saturday 3rd March the branch held their Anniversary Dinner at HMS Calliope in Gateshead on the River Tyne. Despite a number of guests being snowed in and having to cancel, our guest of honour, Commodore Phil Waterhouse ADC Royal Navy was able to join in the splendid meal and speak to the branch about his role as Naval Regional Commander Northern England and Isle of Man.



Musical entertainment was provided by the Northern Area RAF Cadet Band (national champions) which included a special "drum-off" between their leader, Sgt Darren Taylor and our own ex-Royal Marine Bandy Shipmate Ian Proud. The two raffles raised more than £650 with just under £260 for the bottle of House of Commons whisky (signed by John Bercow, Speaker of the House) and donated by Mr Alan Campbell MP for Tynemouth.

The second event was to host the Area 11 AGM for 2018, rearranged to Saturday 17th March. The meeting was chaired by S/M Ian McQueen (Area Chairman and NCM) and shipmates were honoured to have the National Chairman, S/M 'Stoker' Keith Ridley in attendance.

S/M Keith presented a Certificate of Jubilee Greetings to commemorate the 70 years during which Tyne Branch has been in commission to S/M George Laverick, Branch President and S/M Keith Scholefield who accepted on behalf of the Branch.

There was a very good turnout of Tyne branch Shipmates who contributed much support and merriment to the proceedings of the afternoon!



RNA Rayleigh Report

Another busy week down in deepest Essex has resulted in an invite to Shipmates who are visiting Scotland between 14-17 May to visit HMY Britannia. Andy Fletcher an ex L/RO (G) 1969-78 and member of the Association of Royal Yachtsmen has informed the Branch that;

"We are visiting Britannia in Leith Scotland for our Annual Working Party between 14-17 May 2018 (Yottie Week). If any Shipmates are in the Area on these dates it would be a pleasure to welcome them (16 May at 16:00) on the Royal Deck. A visit could be arranged at around 14:00".

Shipmates can contact your Area Secretary for further details (contact details from your Branch Secretary). If interested this must be done by 30 April 2018.

Next up – Darts One Hundred and Eighty I hear you say.....

RNA Dates are now confirmed for the 2018 pub darts matches against our old (friendly) rivals, Royal British Legion, Rayleigh.

Former rival Team Captains S/M Dave Bishop and S/M Dave Harding will be looking for match-fit 'arrow flingers' to fill up the team-sheet at the RBL on Friday 4 May and Friday 4 October this year.

Doubtless the RBL team will be looking for revenge in May, as last October's victory by the RNA boys was their first win since the challenge trophy began five years ago!

The light hearted and good humoured matches are followed by fun (silly) games of the darts variety which usually results in a landslide victory for the RNA. The ladies of the RBL support team always lay on something scrummy for us to nibble on during the evening. There's also a charity collection during the evening that adds a sense of purpose to the whole event.

Volunteers names (good or bad, young or old) to the two Daves please, as soon as possible. Hopefully we'll see some of the RNA ladies joining us again this year. Games start at 8pm (all welcome).

Finally, two awards first up - A thoroughly deserved award to the No 5 Area's 'John Newsome' award for a branch member who has gone 'above and beyond' for the benefit of his branch and advancement of RNA was won this year by a member from Rayleigh Branch. The award was presented by Area Chairman S/M Tim Jarvis and handed to NCM S/M Jim Hammond for safe delivery to the winning recipient at the Rayleigh Branch AGM.



John Newsome was a S/M in an RNA branch decommissioned many years ago. He subsequently gave the Trophy to be competed for annually in Area 5. Little else is known about John or the Trophy, but the first inscription dates back to 2005.

Secondly, This year's Shipmate of the Year winner is S/M Gary Daisley. Gary was presented the coveted shield and medallion at this year's AGM for his outstanding service to the branch.

In particular for his leadership and participation in the Project Semaphore initiative to equip 'digitally isolated' shipmates with iPads, providing training and accommodating the needs of other branches throughout No.5 Area including providing trainer training and technical support.



Aldershot Branch are holding several events this year at the Aldershot Conservative Club, Little Wellington Street Aldershot GU11 1PE for which they would very much like to invite shipmates from other Branches to attend;

The Death of the Tot - Friday 27 July 2018

- Doors Open 1900 – Cadet Band 2000- Ceremony 2030 – Bar until 2359 - Free Entry & Free TOT

The 2018 Banyan Party - Friday 31 August 2018

- BBQ, Entertainment and a free TOT – Bring your loudest shirt, shorts and Flip Flops Tickets £6
- Top of the Bill is the Unashamedly brilliant Shep Woolley (Still sounds good for 80!)

Flight Deck – Horse Racing Night - Friday 23 November 2018

- Doors Open 1900 First Race 2030 - Free Entry & Free TOT, Disoc and Bar open until 2359

For further details of any of the above events please contact Eddie Toyne 07986 691060 or Mick Mills on 07956 078671

RNA City of Glasgow Branch

S/M John Aiken (Officer Steward) along with Eric Robertson (Army) and Kenneth Wilson (Army) recently received the Legion D'Honneur from the French Consular General Emmanuel Cocher for their part in the D Day landings 6 June 1945.

John served onboard HMS Enterprise which led the American forces too Omaha beach. He also served on HMS Stine and Manxman and in the far east. All the recipients are members of the RBLS at Knightswood, Glasgow.



RNA Runcorn Branch

Shipmates from Runcorn Branch visited Portsmouth recently and enjoyed a lovely day at Central Office which included a boat trip round the Harbour.

Somehow Central Office even managed to provide some beautiful Hampshire sunshine in between the Beasts from the East!

Here is the photo to prove it



CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Gilbert \(Gilly\) Cromwell](#)

[Jack Bevis](#)

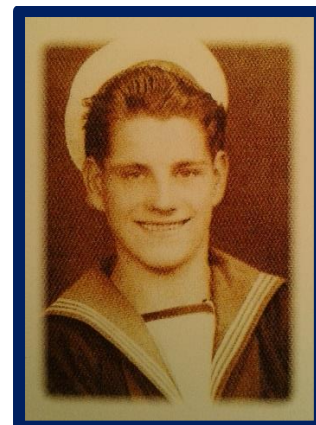
[Gordon McIntyre](#)

[John Connelly](#)

Gilly Cromwell – Gloucester Branch

Gilly Cromwell who was a staunch member of the Gloucester RNA Branch and Club sadly crossed the bar on 21 January after a long illness.

Gilly joined the RN in July 1947 and served until September 1954 as a Stoker Mechanic. During his time in the Andrew he served at; HMS Raleigh, HMS Sea Eagle, HMS Drake. Drafted to the 'Far Flung' in 1950 he served at sea in HMS Magicienne an Algerine Class Minesweeper patrolling the coast and islands of Malaya and assisting the Army in their hunt for terrorists.



On returning to the UK he took part in Her Majesty the Queen's Coronation Spithead Review in HMS Alunma as a member of the Ships Company. Although employed as a stoker mechanic working below deck his secondary duties were far more exciting in his role as a Ships Clearance Diver.



In 1954 at the time of his de-mob there was no Royal Naval Reserves locally, so Shipmate Gilly joined the TA where he served with 5th Battalion, The Gloucester Regiment in the rank of Colour Sergeant, the Wessex Yeomanry, the Royal Signals as a Corporal and the Royal Corps of Transport as a Driver. Finishing his stint with the TA in 1974, a total of 27 years loyal service. During his time with the 5th Battalion he was 'on Parade' at the Queens opening of the old Severn Bridge in 1966 and was a member of the Honour Guard at the disbandment parade of the Battalion.

Shipmate John was always up for a laugh and a bit of banter and like most Shipmates he always enjoyed his tot. He will be much missed by Gloucester Branch. Absent ships Shipmate.

Jack Bevis – Chard Branch

It is with great sadness that Chard Branch is reporting the Crossing of the Bar of Jack Bevis 93yrs old who was a former Royal Marine and one of the last survivors of the D Day landings for which he received the French Legion de Honneur in 2017. He was one of the longest serving members of the Chard branch along with his wife Gwendoline who unfortunately passed away about two years ago.

Although in later life he kept himself to himself, whenever any other member visited him it was always Tot Time and he was always willing to attend any great social event although less after the passing of Gwen.

He spent a short time with an illness in Musgrove Park Hospital from where he crossed the bar on 2nd March 2018, he leaves a son Keith, having lost his daughter and wife previously.

Although Jack wished for a quiet funeral, the son Keith thanked the branch for all the help given to Jack and requested the Branch standard be presented and Union Flag to be draped over the coffin, this was carried out with Sm Malcolm Day baring the standard in respect to Jack a further four members of the branch attended the ceremony.

Gordon McIntyre - Rosyth and West Fife Branch

It is with great sadness we need to report that our shipmate and great friend, Gordon McIntyre crossed the bar on 28th February aged 71.

Shipmate Gordon joined the Royal Navy at HMS Raleigh on 11th May 1965 and was discharged on 10th May 1987, having served for 22 years. His Official Number was D090383U. He was a Writer and his rank on discharge was Petty Officer with his character on discharge being Exemplary.

He served in HMS Ashanti, HMS Fearless and HMS Herald and was shore based in Hong Kong, Prestwick Naval Air Station, Cochrane, Culdrose and Pitreavie.

Gordon joined the RNA at Rosyth about a year ago when his wife Sheena enquired if someone was available to visit him at home due to illness. He managed to go to a few meetings, but ill health took over.



John Connelly – Rockingham & District Branch



Rockingham and District, Western Australia Branch sadly report the Crossing the Bar of S/M John Connelly on 1st March 2018 aged 70yrs.

John had been a Member for several years since coming to WA to join his Daughter Angela.

Joined the RN in 1966 as an M.E. and served in HMS Raleigh, Ulster, Albion, Sultan, Falmouth, Nelson, Porton Down, Fawn. He was Medical discharged in 1974.

He will be much missed by his family and Rockingham Shipmates

RNA Members Benefits

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. <http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/news/323/members-holidays-service>

Coleman/Ansvar Insurance

- Discounted Branch and House hold Insurance - 01323 744149
<http://bit.ly/RNACona>

Funeral Service

- Significant discount form Co-op Funeral Service – contact Central Offic.

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 www.motorfinity.uk/rna

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 £2,400 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh and by the way their service is first class as well.

HMS Ganges Association - 13-16 April 2018

The AGM and Reunion will take place at Mill Rythe Holiday Village, Hayling Island on the weekend of 13th to 16th April 2018. For more information contact IOW Tours, 3 New Road, Lake, Sandown, IOW, PO36 9JN. Email: enquiries@iowtours.com or Tel: 01983 405116. For details of membership of the Association please contact Ken Bushnell, Membership Secretary, 7 Rivers Street, Yew Gardens, Waterlooville, PO7 5FR. Tel: 02392 252812 or Email: gangesmemsec@gmail.com

HMS Loch Fada F390 Association 12-16 April 2018

HMS Loch Fada Association F390 will hold their 21st Reunion & AGM @ the Radisson Park Inn, Cardiff City Centre, Mary Ann Street, CF10 2JH from 12th to 16th April 2018.

This will be our 1st Foreign reunion our second 4 dayer after the great success of our 1st in 2017.
Thursday - Meet up & venture ashore to meet the Locals
Friday - Mystery Coach Tour into the Valley's
Saturday - 1030 AGM & 1830 Reunion Dinner
Sunday - Coach outing to St. Fagan's National Museum of History
Booking & Arrangements are being made through IOW Tours email iowtours.com or Tel 01983 405116 or F390.sec11@virginmedia.com or Tel 01252 310767 or F390 Sec @ 91 Ayling Lane, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3ND

Diesel Submarine Reunion - 21 April 2018

Ralph Keenan has contacted RNA Central Office to inform all 'diesel submariner' members of a reunion at the Leicester Senior Service club on the 21st of April, 2018. 11am to 11pm.

849 Naval Air Squadron Gannets - 26-29 April 2018

849 Gannets are holding a reunion at the Hotel Mariners, Haverfordwest Dyfed SA61 2DU between 26 and 29 April 2018.

For further details please contact John Rawling at jsrawl@aol.com

Lascaris Malta Association – September 2018

Lascaris Malta Association visited SS. Great Britain during their annual reunion visit to Bristol in September. If you would like more details of this association contact Pat Middleton at patriciamiddleton@hotmail.com



Semaphore Circular is extremely grateful to Mike Crowe of RN Shipmates who has forwarded the RN Shipmates 'Reunions' section from their website <http://www.rnshipmates.co.uk/reunions.php> where you will find specific contact details.

Royal Naval Writers Association – 12 October 2018

131st Reunion Dinner will be held at The Royal Beach Hotel Southsea on Friday 12th October 2018; see www.rnwa.co.uk. All serving and ex-serving 'Scribes' (member of the RNWA or not) together with 'oppos & guests' welcome. For further information or details contact the RNWA Secretary, Les Heyhoe, email: les@heyhoe.com / Mob: 07950 934888 or 023 9235 7181



Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB ADC
First Sea Lord & Chief of Naval Staff
with Les Heyhoe RNWA Secretary & Membership
RNWA Reunion Dinner 13/10/2017 UJC London

GOH for 2017 was 1SL – 2018 GOH TBA.

Type 21 Club Reunion – 12/13 October 2018

The Type 21 Club reunion will be held over the weekend 12/13 October 2018. Friday night meet and greet - Saturday at the Royal British Legion Crownhill PL6 5DH. Cost £22 subject to final confirmation.

Full Details will be confirmed in due course or on the web site at www.type21club.org or Contact Paul Gower PRO Type 21 Club, email type21clubpro@gmail.com

Survey Ships Association – 26-29 October 2018

The Survey Ships Association will be holding its twenty-fourth reunion at the Holiday Inn, Hull Marina on the w/e of 26th to 29th October. For information on membership and reunion please send a SAE to: The Secretary SSA, 17 Eliza Mackenzie Court, Lindisfarne Close, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 2SB, e-mail: secretary@surveyships.org.uk, or telephone 023 9232 4795.

HMS Mohawk Association – 2 November 2018

HMS Mohawk Association will be holding a reunion in Plymouth on the weekend of 2nd November. Please contact IOW tours for information. We would also welcome anyone who served on any Tribal Class Frigate.

HMS Relentless Association – 2-5 November 2018

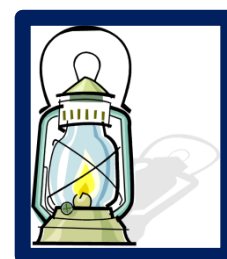
The annual Reunion of the HMS Relentless Association will take place over the weekend of Friday 2nd – Monday 5th November 2018 at the (Britannia) Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. All ex-Rusty Rs welcome. To book, or for further information, please contact IOW Tours (info@iowtours.com - Tel: 01983 405 116). Alternatively, contact the Association Secretary (Secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk - Tel 02392 599 640).

April 5th	H.M.S. Hermes Association	enquiries@iowtours.com	Park Inn Cardiff
April 6th - 9th	Fleet Air Arm Association	enquiries@iowtours.com	Shire Hotel Kettering
April 12th	HMS Loch Fada Association	F390.sec11@virginmedia.com	Raddison Park Cardiff
April 13th - 15th	H.M.S. Cossack Association	SecretaryHMSCossack@outlook.com	Royal Beach Southsea
April 13th - 16th	RN Engineerroom Association	rstyants@btinternet.com	Royal Beach Southsea
April 13th - 16th	H.M.S. Hermes Cooks 1968 - 1970	scouseenright@hotmail.co.uk	Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth
April 13th - 16th	R.N. Colony Class Cruisers.	enquiries@iowtours.com	Aztec Hotel Bristol
April 13th - 16th	H.M.S. Ganges Association	tony.willders@btinternet.com	Mill Rythe Hayling
April 14th	H.M.S. Dunkirk Association	jcarroll@jandecarroll.plus.com	UJC London
April 14th	AIRCREWMAANS Association	webmaster@aircrewman.org.uk	Rembrandt Hotel Weymouth
April 20th - 22nd	H.M.S. Courageous Association	stevecrowley34@gmail.com	Mickleover Court Hotel Derby
April 20th - 23rd	H.M.S. Decoy Association	dobbo.exrn@btinternet.com	Park House Hotel Blackpool
April 26th - 29th	849 Naval Air Squadron Gannets	jsrawl@aol.com	Hotel Mariners Haverfordwest
April 27th - 30th	Loch Class Frigate Association	Andrew.nunn@blueyonder.co.uk	Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth
April 27th - 30th	H.M.S. Dido Association	secretary@hms-dido.com	Book Hotel Norwich
April 27th - 30th	H.M.S. Aisne 1966 - 1968	enquiries@iowtours.com	Tillington Hall Hotel Staffs
May 4th - 7th	H.M.S. Saintes Association	Ron Miles 01404 43177	Royal Beach Southsea
May 11th - 14th	H.M.S. Solebay Association	enquiries@iowtours.com	Aztec Hotel Bristol
May 11th - 14th	Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association	dnsaskhm@aol.com	Duke of Cornwall Guz
May 18th - 20th	H.M.S. Broadsword Association	Stevie.bullock@blueyonder.co.uk	Mercure Hotel Bristol
May 18th - 21st	County Class Destroyers Association	charland4@hotmail.co.uk	Cavendish Hotel Torquay
May 18th - 21st	H.M.S. Tenby Association	krhysjones@blueyonder.co.uk	Collingwood Hotel Bournemouth
May 18th - 21st	H.M.S. Cavalier Association	kendavies131@yahoo.co.uk	Sittingbourne
May 19th	RNEBS	artificer150@yahoo.co.uk	Guildhall London
May 26th	H.M.S Ardent Association	rasntas@gmail.com	HMS Drake Devonport
June 1st - 4th	H.M.S. Londonderry Association	enquiries@iowtours.com	The Country Hotel Basingstoke
June 6th	Fleet Air Arm Buccaneer Association	robinH49@btinternet.com	Royal Court Hotel Coventry
June 9th	H.M.S. Liverpool Association	info@hmsliverpoolassociation.org.uk	GI's Club Whale Island
June 9th	2 nd HMS Manchester Association	iantids@ntlworld.com	Senior Rates Mess HMS Nelson

June 9th	HMS Ark Royal Association	https://www.hmsarkroyalassociation.org/	Still and West Old Portsmouth
July 14th	H.M.S. Daring Association (Fifth & Final Commission)	hmsdaring_d05@yahoo.co.uk	The Bell Hose Hotel Chippenham
August 17th	WRNS 1966	barbaracotton46@btinternet.com	RMC Portsmouth
August 31st - Sept 3rd	H.M.S. Diana Association	kendavies131@yahoo.co.uk	Grantham
September 8th	The Fisgard Association	https://www.thefisgardassociation.org/	Royal Beach Southsea
September 15th	HMS Ark Royal Association	https://www.hmsarkroyalassociation.org/	Still and West Old Portsmouth
September 21st - 23rd	H.M.S. Protector Association	Dougatspindrift@aol.com	Hadleigh Hotel Eastbourne
Sept, 21st - 24th	H.M.S. Ulster Association	ulster@candoo.com	Hallmark Midlands Hotel Derby
September 21st	RNCCA	honsec@mcca.com	Rob Roy Hotel Aberfoyle
September 21st	H.M.S. Tiger association	turbine52@gmail.com	Tillington Hall Hotel Staffs
Sept 28th - Oct 1st	R.N.E.W.E.B. Association	enquiries@iowtours.com	Hallmark Hotel Preston
Sept 28th / 29th	H.M.S Caprice 1968 Association World Cruise	gl@hmscaprice1968.org.uk	RMC Portsmouth
September 29th	Royal Navy Stewards Past and Present	shugstero1@yahoo.co.uk	Plymouth
September 29th	BRNC Dartmouth September 1978 Entry	brncclassof78@gmail.com	BRNC Dartmouth
October 5th	H.M.S. Lowestoft Association	ian@hmslowestoft.co.uk	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 5th	H.M.S. Troubridge Final Commission	Romft1@gmail.com	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 6th	Royal Naval Patrol Service Association	hq@rnpsa.co.uk	Lowestoft
October 8th	Bay Class Frigates Association	Doug Turk	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 12th - 15th	Royal Naval Writers' Association (RNWA)	les@heyhoe.com	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 12th - 15th	Royal Navy Photographers Association	http://www.rnpa.org.uk/	Plymouth
October 13th	Type 21 Club Association	davidwoollard813@btinternet.com	Crownhill RBL Plymouth
October 14th	H.M.S. Neptune Association	www.hmsneptune.com	National Arboretum Alrewas
October 20th	H.M.S Nubian	robertholland54@btinternet.com	Caledonian Hotel Rosyth
October 26th - 29th	HMS Eagle / HMS Yarmouth / HMS Undaunted but open to all	alan666@blueyonder.co.uk	Tillington Hall Hotel Staffs
November 9th	H.M.S. Intrepid Association	andywalmsley_uk@yahoo.co.uk	Liverpool
October or November	H.M.S. Endurance Association First Commission 1968 - 69	jansbolt@btinternet.com	TBA

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2019			
April 26th - 28th	Royal Navy Safety Equipment & Survival Association	gordon.parkes7@btinternet.com	Aztec Hotel Bristol
Sept. 7th - 10th 2019	847 NAS H.M.S. Simbang 69 -71	cliff.jones1948@gmail.com	Aztec Hotel Bristol
December 2019.	H.M.S. Ajax & River Plate Veterans	malcolm.collis@gmail.com	Trip to South America

Swinging the Lamp – April 2018



Date	Year	Entry
1st	1791	George Vancouver sailed from Falmouth in the sloop <i>Discovery</i> , with <i>Chatham</i> , in command of an expedition to survey the north-west coast of North America. Vancouver, who had sailed in Cook's second and third voyages, sighted Californian coast 18 April 1792. Determined the insularity of Vancouver Island. Returned to the Thames in October 1795.
2nd	1797	At 4pm 'Commodore Nelson hoisted his flag on board the <i>Captain</i> [off Cadiz] on his Promotion to the Rank of Rear-Admiral of the Blue, and saluted with 13 guns, returned 11 guns'. Nelson's promotion was dated 20 February 1797.
3rd	1919	Admiral Sir John Jellicoe and Admiral Sir David Beatty, consecutively C-in-C Grand Fleet in the First World War, both promoted Admiral of the Fleet.
4th	1982	RMAS salvage tug <i>Typhoon</i> , Capt J.N. Morris, sailed from Portland for the South Atlantic, the first surface ship to deploy from Britain for Operation Corporate and one of the last to return.
5th	1939	Fleet carrier <i>Illustrious</i> , Yard No. 732, launched by Lady Henderson, wife of the late Third Sea Lord and Controller of the Navy, at Vickers Armstrong, the first carrier and the biggest ship built at Barrow. She worked up at Bermuda and was the biggest warship to visit the island. <i>Illustrious</i> became the first carrier to be fitted with radar
6th	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	1932	Destroyers <i>Defender</i> and <i>Diamond</i> both named by Lady Eyres-Monsell, wife of the First Lord of the Admiralty, at Vickers Armstrong, Barrow. <i>Defender</i> launched that day but <i>Diamond</i> delayed by bad weather for twenty-four hours. <i>Daring</i> launched at Thornycroft, Woolston, on 7 April. The D-class destroyers of 1932 had a sad history: five units of the eight ship flotilla were lost in the first thirteen months of the Second World War (<i>Daring</i> was the first RN destroyer lost); <i>Defender</i> was sunk in July 1941, leaving only <i>Decoy</i> and <i>Diana</i> .
8th	1930	Explosion of a depth charge gun cotton primer in the destroyer <i>Sepoy</i> , Lt-Cdr H.E. Reid RCN, during exercises off Hong Kong with the Eighth Destroyer Flotilla, caused minor damage to the ship but killed six men. The King sent word of his distress and 'heartfelt condolences'

9th	1777	Horatio Nelson passed his examination for Lieutenant.
10th	1781	Nelson's 'favourite ship', third Rate <i>Agamemnon</i> (64), launched by Henry Adams at Buckler's Hard.
11 th	1866	<i>Bellerophon</i> completed. Served a record fourteen years as flagship on the West Indies station.
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 the Second World War. His portrait by Lt-Cdr Peter Scott hangs in the Naval Club, Hill Street.
191513 th	1956	In conformity with the elimination of 'Boy' from the titles of naval ratings, the RM titles 'Boy Bugler' and 'Boy Musician' will be changed to 'Junior Bugler' and 'Junior Musician'.
14 th	1915	Cruiser <i>Hyacinth</i> destroyed German <i>Kronburg</i> off East Africa, preventing her from supplying light cruiser <i>Königsberg</i> .
15 th	1918	Raid by British light forces in the Kattegat. Ships: Force A: <i>Cardiff</i> , <i>Cassandra</i> , <i>Ceres</i> , <i>Vanoc</i> , <i>Vega</i> , <i>Vehement</i> , <i>Vimiera</i> , <i>Violent</i> . Force B: <i>Calypso</i> , <i>Caradoc</i> , <i>Vendetta</i> , <i>Verulam</i> , <i>Wakeful</i> , <i>Winchelsea</i> . Force C: <i>Angora</i> , <i>Princess Margaret</i> , <i>Urchin</i> , <i>Venetia</i> , <i>Vesper</i> , <i>Viceroy</i> . Force D: <i>Caledon</i> , <i>Champion</i> , <i>Courageous</i> , <i>Gabriel</i> , <i>Galatea</i> , <i>Inconstant</i> , <i>Lion</i> , <i>Nerissa</i> , <i>Oriana</i> , <i>Penn</i> , <i>Phaeton</i> , <i>Royalist</i> , <i>Renown</i> , <i>Repulse</i> , <i>Tiger</i> , <i>Tower</i> , <i>Tristram</i> , <i>Ulster</i> , <i>Ursa</i> , <i>Ursula</i> . Cover: 5th BS: <i>Barham</i> , <i>Malaya</i> , <i>Valiant</i> and destroyers.
16 th	1921	Allowance for milk for the Admiralty cat increased from 1 s to 1 s 6d a week.
17th	1940	Naval force including 700 seamen and Royal Marines from <i>Hood</i> , <i>Nelson</i> and <i>Barham</i> landed at Andalsnes, Norway. Operation Primrose. <i>Suffolk</i> damaged by German aircraft after bombarding Stavanger airfield. Operation Duck
18th	1797	Boats of <i>Dido</i> and <i>Terpsichore</i> cut out the Spanish <i>Principe Fernando</i> at Santa Cruz, Tenerife.
19th	1900	New first-class cruiser <i>Argonaut</i> , Capt George Henry Cherry RN, commissioned at Chatham for the China Station. The Captain was a rigid disciplinarian, 'as smart as paint and as taut as an iron bar', who consistently awarded the maximum punishments set-out in KR&AI. She was ordered home on 9 May 1903 and, on being paid off, the famous Cherry Medal was struck as a memento of the commission by the five surviving officers, the rest all having been court-martialled or otherwise removed.
20th	1949	<i>Amethyst</i> , frigate, fired on by Communist PLA batteries in Yangtze River east of Nanking. Opening of the Yangtze Incident.
21st	2006	The frigate <i>Kent</i> , at anchor in the Hamoaze, fired a 21-gun salute to mark the 80th birthday of HM The Queen. The ship's company of the carrier <i>Illustrious</i> , on passage south through the Red Sea, fell in on the flight deck to spell out 'Happy 80th'.
22 nd	1847	Detachment of North American and West Indies squadron – <i>Alarm</i> , <i>Daring</i> , <i>Hermes</i> , <i>Vesuvius</i> and <i>Persian</i> – protected British interests in Gulf of Mexico during American– Mexico War.
23 rd	1786	A Flag Captain 'is never his own master' – Capt Nelson, HMS <i>Boreas</i> , Carlisle Bay, Barbados, to his future wife, Frances Nisbet, at Nevis.

24 th	1771	Horatio Nelson ('Horace Nelson, Midshipman') joined his first ship, the <i>Raisonnable</i> (64), commanded by his uncle, Capt Maurice Suckling RN, at The Nore
25 th	1796	Boats of <i>Agamemnon</i> , <i>Diadem</i> , <i>Meleager</i> and <i>Peterel</i> captured four French storeships at Loana, Italian Riviera.
26 th	1876	<i>Vernon</i> , established in 1872 as torpedo instruction ship in Fountain Lake, and as tender to <i>Excellent</i> , became an independent command under Capt William Arthur RN with Cdr A.K. Wilson as Commander.
27 th	1951	Ammunition ship RFA <i>Bedenham</i> , unloading depth charges into a lighter at Gun Wharf in Gibraltar, caught fire and exploded killing thirteen men and causing extensive damage ashore. The ship had been abandoned except for her Master and the Naval Armament Supply Officer who were blown into the water. Fatalities included Gibraltar Chief Fire Officer Andrew Indoe, Fire Service Sub-Officer George Henderson (posthumous GC), nine dockyard staff, two traders and a taxi driver. Awards included nine GMs.
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	1941	Operation Demon, the evacuation of Imperial troops from Greece, completed. The operation was commanded by Vice-Admiral H.D. Pridham-Wippell (flag in the cruiser <i>Orion</i>). Battle Honour: Greece 1941.
30 th	1968	Phantom trials squadron, 700P, commissioned at Yeovilton with three aircraft that had arrived from the USA the day before.

Delegate to Annual Conference 2018 Dublin

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

- (a) **Each Branch which has complied with Rule 16(c)**, (*No Branch shall be permitted to send a delegate to the Conference unless it has observed the regulations of the Association in regard to the return of balance sheets, the payment of subscriptions and the formation of Branches. This provision has no application to the right of, and expectation for, ships and establishments to send a delegate to the Conference.*) but subject to Rule 10(c), (*Associate members are eligible to act as a Branch Delegate at Area meetings and Conferences, provided that they have completed three years continuous membership of the Association immediately prior to election as Delegate*) and has been in commission for at least three months by the date of a Conference shall be entitled to nominate one eligible Association Member as its Delegate to attend a Conference.
- (a) Each Branch nominating a Delegate shall send details to the Council **to arrive not less than one week before the date of Conference**. A Branch may change its nominated Delegate provided the Council is notified not less than twenty four hours before the Conference.

Branch		Area	
Name of Delegate			
Car registration		Passenger Name	
Delegate's Address			
	Telephone No	Post Code	
e-mail			
Number of Observers			
Name of Branch Hon Secretary			
Contact telephone No: (if not branch Hon Sec)			
Contact e-mail address			
Name and Address for correspondence (if not branch Hon Sec)			

NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2017 and Annual Subscriptions for Branch Members for 2018 have been received in RNA Central Office (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received in CO, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.

A letter confirming a delegate's attendance will be sent prior to Conference. This letter should be brought to Conference to confirm eligibility to be a Delegate. There will be NO additions to the delegate list on the day.

If you have not received confirmation one month before Conference please contact Nigel on 023 9272 3747

Nominations for Standing Orders Committee 2018

For the attention of All Branch Secretaries

Two members of the standing Orders Committee need to be elected/re-elected at Conference 2018. Those standing down are eligible to be re-elected.

Each Branch may nominate **one Full or Life member or an Associate (who have been awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation)** as a candidate for election to the Standing Orders Committee, **subject to the approval of the Branch to which the candidate belongs**. A nil return is not required.

NAME OF NOMINEE

PROPOSED BY BRANCH

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE

.....

.....

E mail Post code

Brief history of nominee in the Association. Continue on separate sheet if necessary.

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

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

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

Candidate's Branch

We support this Nomination.

Signature of Chairman (Candidate's Branch)

Signature of Secretary (Candidate's Branch)

Candidate - I accept this nomination and undertake to attend as many Standing Orders Committee Meetings as is possible.

Signature of Candidate

This form should be despatched to be received at the Central Office no later than **21 April 2018** Nominations received after this date cannot be included in the Ballot.

“Once Navy, Always Navy”

President: - S/m W. Slater.
Chairman: - S/m R.J. Buchanan.
Vice Chairman: - S/m E. Mitchell
Treasurer: - S/m E. Lavery
Chaplain: - Canon J.C.D. Mayes



Hon Secretary: - S/m F.J. Brown
4 Myrtlefield Road,
Kilfennan,
Londonderry
BT47 5PG
Tel: - 028 7129 1795
E-Mail: - frankjf22brown@gmail.com

Royal Naval Association

Londonderry Branch

Reg. Charity No. 26698

BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC 2018

To all Shipmates,

**The Battle of The Atlantic Commemorations will be held over the weekend
17th, 18th, 19th & 20th May 2018.**

Please find enclosed the programme for the weekends' events

Should any Shipmate wish to attend the Dinner the cost will be **£30.00 per head** the cut-off date for same will be **14th April 2017**.

Please forward a cheque to cover the cost of relevant No. of S/mates attending.

Dress for all Functions:-RNA Rig.

Should any changes to the above programme arise Branches will be informed soonest.

Yours Aye

F. J. Brown
Hon.Secretary,Londonderry RNA.

