



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



The Semaphore Circular

No 677

The Beating Heart of the RNA

March 2018



HMS Ocean, The Fleet Flagship, visits Portsmouth for the last time and met up with a future Fleet Flagship HMS Queen Elizabeth, who was just about to depart on further sea trials.

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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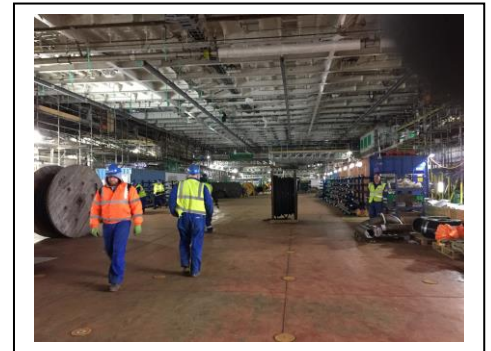
Dear Shipmates,

Welcome to the March Circular, I hope you enjoy the picture of HMS OCEAN and HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH together, a unique event with the OCEAN on her final trip before entering Plymouth to decommission. A great picture by Nigel from the roof of Semaphore Tower. The QE sailed shortly afterwards on flying trials and embarked two Chinook helicopters alongside, with Merlins and a wildcat joining later.

I had the great privilege of representing the RNA at the Centenary commemoration of the Battle of May Island. This service was planned and managed by the Scottish Area on the request of the Second Sea Lord. There was a wonderful turn out by RNA and Vice Admiral Sir Jonathan Woodcock and Lady Woodcock were very touched by the care and organisation of the event. A particular BZ to S/M Karen Elliott for her meticulous planning and best wishes for recovery after an unpleasant car accident.



I was able to visit the HMS Prince of Wales at Rosyth dockyard thanks to the EWO, WO1 Nicholson. I was taken round the Ship by a Seaman Spec Leading Hand and after 3 and a half hours of long and steep ladders my knees were wrecked. The ship is well advanced in build with the fit-out phase now starting. The bottom picture shows the hangar, which is vast and can be divided into 3 separate areas by rapidly deployable curtains.



Some gentle reminders please:

- End of Year reports should be coming in along with 2018 membership subscriptions.
- Don't forget to register your Conference Delegate and book accommodation with CONA travel. The National Council has agreed a £100 subsidy per voting delegate to help with expenses, this might be more depending on the uptake. Remember that the Conference decides on where Conference is and not the National Council or Central Office staff!!
- Do please book up for Open Days, we have vacancies on all our dates.
- We have updated the website so that is now user-friendly for mobiles and tablets.
- 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.
- I hope all Branch Sec have read Nigel's brief on protecting data.
- The LIBOR buses are there to be used and can be booked for longer periods by Areas or branches. Only cost is fuel and a car licence to drive. Give it a go.

Finally, The April Circ will be the hard copy post out of the annual report and accounts, Conference Agenda, raffle tickets etc.

Best wishes from the Central Office team

Paul

1. Welfare Seminar

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

2. ★ 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.

3. 2018 Dublin Conference – Accommodation

*****Conference Count Down - 3 Months and counting*****

The 2018 Conference will be held in Dun Laoghaire near Dublin (pronounced Dun Leary) in the Republic of Ireland. The Conference and Gala dinner will be held in the Royal Marine Hotel, which is a 4-star hotel.

As Shipmates can see above it is only just 3 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.....



Shipmates are invited to familiarise themselves with the extremely comprehensive brief on travel to, and from Conference and the wide range of accommodation available which has been prepared by CONA Holidays UK.

It is attached at the rear of this edition. The brief also features a welcome to Ireland with stacks of ideas and what to do and where to go. The brief also contains the booking form and costs for accommodation and details of alternative hotels, Bed and breakfast options that cover a huge range of requirements. They even provide comprehensive insurance for a premium of £35 per person

4. ★ RNVC Series - Lieutenant Commander Jeffrey White VC Royal Navy

Jeffrey White was educated at Bradfield College, Reading. he was in September 1902 appointed a naval cadet on the Cruiser HMS Aboukir, serving on the Mediterranean Station.

During the WWI Lt Cdr White, aged 31, was in Command of HMS E14 in the Dardanelles, where his submarine was involved in an action with the Turkish Battlecruiser Yavuz Sultan Selim which resulted in the award of a Victoria Cross, posthumously.



On completion of the Battle of Imbros HMS E14 on the 27 January 1918 was despatched from Mudros to find and attack the Yavuz Sultan Selim which was badly damaged during the battle. Unable to locate the Battlecruiser E14 attacked a merchant ship as she withdrew from the Dardanelles. Firing two torpedoes, one prematurely exploded damaging the submarine. She was forced to surface because of flooding but then came under coastal battery fire off Kum Kale. Despite the attack from the Forts E14 successfully dived whilst trying to make her escape. Unfortunately, due to lack of air supply she was forced to surface, and Lt Cdr Jeffrey tried to beach the boat safely so that his crew could escape. Sadly, during this evolution White was killed by shellfire. E14 sank, but nine of her crew survived and were taken prisoner.

His VC medal is owned by his family and is on display in the Imperial War Museum. Incredibly HMS E14 was involved in another action in April 1915 which resulted in the Commanding Officer receiving a VC, two other Officers with DSCs and all the ratings a DSM.

5. Important Message For Delegates Attending Conference 20188

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. ★ Joke Time – A Glass of Vino at Night!

A new Wine for Seniors has been produced that will allow Shipmates to drink a glass or two of vino at night and could mean a peaceful, uninterrupted night's sleep.

Clare Valley vintners in South Australia, which primarily produce Pinot Blanc, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Grigio wines, have developed a new hybrid grape that acts as an anti-diuretic.

Consequently, it is expected to reduce the number of trips older people must make to the bathroom during the night.



The new wine will be marketed as **wait for it.....**



'PINO MORE'

I HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE!!

7. ★ 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 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.

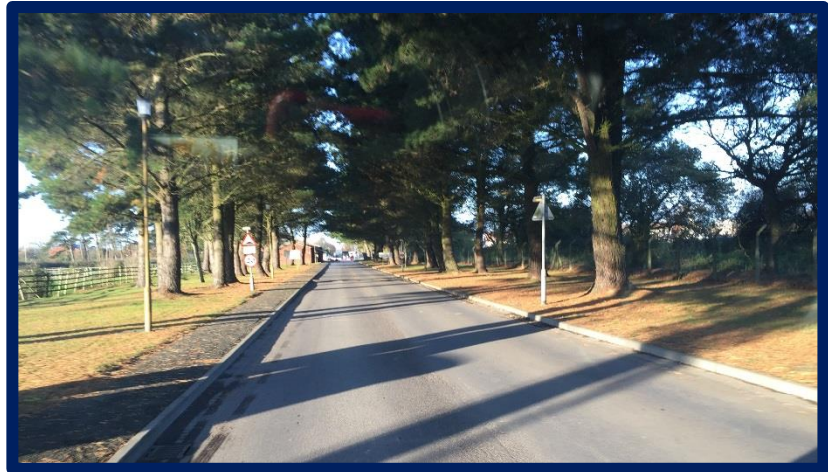
The Warrant Officers and Senior Rates Mess **have very kindly offered 12 cabins** worth of accommodation to those competitors and guests who wish to stay in HMS Collingwood on Friday, which will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Alternative accommodation is available in the Royal Maritime 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**.

8. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment

This month can you name this establishment? 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 February 'Guess the Establishment'.....



It was RNAS Anthorn in Cumbria, which was commissioned as HMS Nuthatch on 07 September 1944. It had three tarmac runways and was the base of No. 1 Aircraft Receipt and Despatch Unit (No. 1 ARDU), which had the job of receiving aircraft fresh from manufacturers, modifying them to Service standards and despatching them to operational squadrons, with the unit specialising in the Vought F4U Corsair, Supermarine Seafire, Fairey Firefly, Barracuda. No. 1 ARDU continued to operate from Anthorn following the end of the Second World War, while a number of Fleet Air Arm Squadrons were also based at the airfield in the immediate post war years. It was decommissioned in March 1958. It is now operated by Babcock International as a NATO wireless facility.

(Well done to Shipmate Edwin Atkinson for informing the editorial team that he didn't google or wiki but just 'hovered' and found out that this was Anthorn.)

9. ★ The Riders Branch of the Royal Naval Association

Shipmates will I am sure be interested to hear about the newly formed Branch of the RNA - the Riders Branch and is going to be formally commissioned in March 2018. Please see below the article from the Riders Branch Hon Sec, S/M Roslyn Hastie-Murray providing details of how to join or obtain further specific information.

Dear Shipmates,

Our members are brought together by our passion for and interest in motorcycling as well as our desire to support the aims and objectives of the charity and the core values of Unity, Loyalty, Patriotism and Comradeship.



We will attend appropriate events throughout the year to raise awareness and fundraise for the charity and its support of serving and ex-service Navy personnel, building on the core value of Comradeship - "Friends in fun, fellowship and need".

Full membership is available to those who have an interest in motorcycling as well as a maritime background in the Armed Services e.g Royal Navy, Royal Marines and associate membership for those who have not served but who wish to support. We aim to be diverse in our membership with all ages and genders included and to encourage all members to play an active role within the Branch nationally and as the membership increases into areas, forming local

groups to meet.

For many people this will be a second membership of the Association itself so that we can continue our support for our current branches in the UK and other parts of the world.

We currently have 81 members of our Facebook page who we hope will make applications to join the Branch itself.

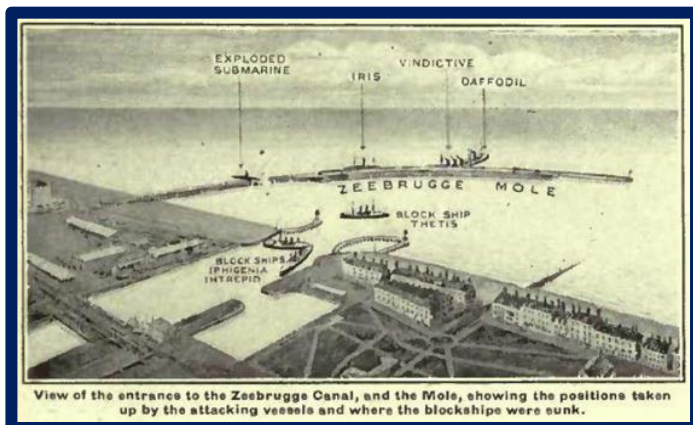
Our Commissioning Inaugural Meeting will take place on Saturday 14 April 2018 at the Royal British Legion Club in Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne which is the base location for RNA Tyne Branch.

Our first public appearance will be at the MCN Scottish Motorcycle Show on 3-4 March 2018 at the Royal Highland Centre in Edinburgh - come and visit our Stand to find out more about us!

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.

10. ★ WW1- Zeebrugge Raid 23 April 1918 Anniversary

Shipmate Peter Down has very kindly forwarded an article of interest highlighting the anniversary of the Zeebrugge raid which took place during WW1 on the 23 April 1918. He reports that several RNA branches including Stowmarket and Beccles will be marking this Centenary with an illustrated talk, by S/M Peter and a tot to the memory of the largely volunteer assault force.



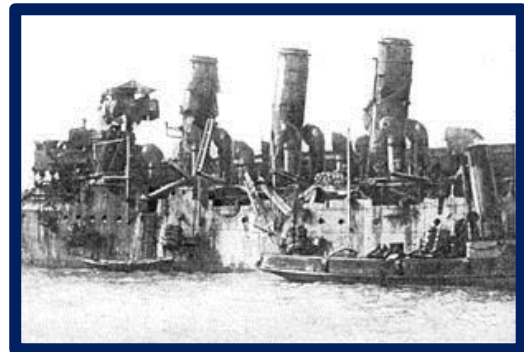
“ Let’s give the Dragon’s Tail a damn good twist ” - Vice Admiral Sir Roger Keyes, C in C Dover, April 1918

At 00.01 on 23rd April 1918, St George’s Day, a force of 1700 Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel, operating from a flotilla of 75 craft, ranging from four obsolete cruisers (VINDICTIVE as HQ ship, THETIS, IPHIGENIA and INTREPID as blockships), two Mersey ferries, screening destroyers and many motor launches and coastal

motor boats to lay smoke screens and rescue survivors, attacked the mole and lock gates at Zeebrugge. Their objective was to block the seaward end of the canal and prevent the German Navy from continuing to use the port to send torpedo boats and U-boats into the Channel. The raid was a qualified success in that two of the three blockships were placed as intended but the Germans were able to by-pass the blockage and resume use of the port within a few days.

A simultaneous parallel operation was to be carried at Ostend but, unknown to the British planners, a key navigational buoy had been moved; the blockships overshot the harbour and went aground, so the operation had to be called off and repeated on 10th May with greater success. VINDICTIVE was used at the blockship and her bows are preserved in Ostend as a memorial.

11 Victoria Crosses, plus many other decorations for gallantry, were awarded for the two actions. British casualties were 244 killed & missing, 442 wounded.



The photos show –

- (Top Left) - VINDICTIVE at the mole, Zeebrugge (by Charles De Lacey © BRNC Dartmouth)
- (Top Right) - Gangways for the landing parties rigged on VINDICTIVE's port side.
- (Bottom Left) - 7.2 inch Howitzers, Mortars and Lewis guns replaced much of VINDICTIVE's former armament.
- (Bottom Right) - Damage to VINDICTIVE, showing the mast head Lewis gun position where Sgt Finch RMA won his VC for continuing to fire after two crews had been killed on the howitzer.

11. Data Protection Act – Important Information for Area/Branch Secretaries

Central Office fully appreciate that your eyes are already glazing over at the thought of this article concerning the Data Protection Act (DPA) but as the Branch Secretary you need to be fully compliant with the new regulations commencing in May 2018. Nigel Huxtable has been appointed as the RNA DPA 'Guru' and has put together the article below detailing the main areas that require your attention;

- Anyone collecting and storing lists of Members' names and addresses needs to ensure that those giving you their name and address give you permission to store and share it. This is implicit in being a Member of a Branch to which you belong.
- However if you produce a Branch membership list which is shared you need to make explicit that the details on the list are only to be shared amongst those on the list. NOT for sharing with another Branch or organisation without everyone's express permission. You can make this proviso explicit when everyone 'signs up' to having their name on your Membership list with a tick box asking for their permission to share, and who you may share it with.
- If you hold your Membership list on computer you must ensure that your Branch Membership list is not able to be shared accidentally. You should never cc recipients as everyone can see the list and it is too easy for that list to be accessed when out of your control. Always BCC recipients lists.

Whilst on this subject could we gently remind you that it is a good practise **to never pass on emails from sources that you do not recognise and trust.**

In short, we in Central Office and you in Branches ONLY collect people's names and addresses and contact details. That data is kept securely in a ledger or on a computer which no one outside the Association can access, is **only** used for RNA business and will never be shared with commercial enterprises.

If a list of Members and contact details is compiled and shared with the members then they are all made aware of the importance of not losing it or sharing it. Using an e-mail distribution list it must be done as a group on BCC not as CC

If you have any issues/queries please contact Nigel at Central Office on 02392 723747 or e-mail nigel@royalnavalassoc.com

12. ★ RNA Mentors - HMS Raleigh BZ

The RNA carries out both Mentoring in HMS Raleigh and Culture and Values Sessions(CVS) for Trainees at HMS Collingwood and HMS Sultan.

Mentoring new Recruits at HMS Raleigh was introduced in Summer 2008 and has been very successful with Shipmate Mentors from RNA Branches; Plymouth, Liskeard, Torpoint, Saltash and Bodmin involved with RNA Plymouth providing the largest number, fourteen Mentors.



HMS Raleigh Commanding Officer, Captain Ellie Ablett MBE Royal Navy has recognised the work undertaken by the Mentors and how valued their contribution to HMS Raleigh when she awarded a Captains' Commendation to three members of the team.

The trio are all ex WO1s, who mentor in Hanson Division and the commendation highlights the inherent qualities and determination of all the RNA Mentors in establishing Recruits confidence, extolling the virtues of Service life, personal experiences and maintaining a good rapport with the Initial Training Staff.

- S/M Steve Palmer left the Service in 2009 and immediately joined the Branch, however he missed the presentation as he was visiting New Zealand with his wife to avoid the cold weather.
- S/M Paul Spray joined the Branch in 2010 finally walking down the Gangway in 2006.



- S/M Grant Fox after serving 27 years in Submarines decided he wanted to see the real World and spent his last 10 years as a 'Skimmer', leaving the Service December 2012 and joining the Branch May 2014.

Finally, here is what the commendations are really for drinking tea and loafing. I'll bet Capt Ellie hasn't seen this Phot !!!!

Very seriously well done to all the Shipmates at Raleigh. A **BZ** thoroughly deserved.

13. Area/Branch Secretaries More Important 'Stuff'

Shipmate Secretaries please see below important information on a number of subjects

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).

Branch Club Support Fund;

The National Council has delegated authority to the General Secretary to approve minor grants of up to £250. Branches may apply by simple e-mail providing outline details of the grant. Shipmates should note that Branch balances may be taken into account in the decision to approve the award of a grant. It is hoped to turn around a grant application in just a couple of days. There is no need to seek NCM clearance or approval. A minor grant may be for anything, **except, 'Gizzets' or Marketing Materiel** which are all ready provided for free (Please contact the National Events Advisor S/M Steve Caulfield at rna1958@icloud.com) and be within the RNA's charitable objects.

Trade Mark Guidance;

Please see the attached guidance at the rear of this Circular for details of how to use the RNA Crest and Logo now that they are registered trademarks.

14. ★ Battle of May Island - Centenary Commemoration

The 100th centenary Commemoration of the Battle of May Island was held at Anstruther in Fife on 31st January 2018 which was attended by the Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Sir Jonathan Woodcock KCB OBE, Lady Woodcock and a large contingent of RN and RNA. Lady Woodcock's Great Uncle died onboard Submarine K4 during the accident.

The Battle of May Island was in fact a series of disastrous events that took place as the 40 ships and submarines were travelling from Rosyth to Scapa Flow for exercises with the Grand Fleet. Very sadly there were five collisions occurred between eight vessels resulting in the loss of 104 submariners, two submarines (K4, K17) and severe damage to four others (K6, K7, K14, K22) and a Cruisers (HMS Fearless).



On January 31st 1918 at 1830 the vessels weighed anchor and the entire fleet steamed in a single line nearly 30 miles (48 km) long. At the head of the line were the two cruisers *Courageous* and *Ithuriel* followed by the rest of the 13th Submarine Flotilla. These were followed by the battlecruiser squadron, HMAS *Australia*, HMS *New Zealand*, *Indomitable* and *Inflexible* with their destroyers. After these came the 12th Submarine Flotilla and finally the battleships.

To avoid attracting German U-boats, particularly as one was suspected to be in the area, after dark each vessel showed only a dim stern light to the following vessel and they all maintained radio silence. As each group passed the Isle of May at the mouth of the firth, they altered course and increased speed to 20 knots.

As the 13th Submarine Flotilla passed the island, a pair of lights (possibly minesweeping naval trawlers) were seen approaching the line of submarines. The flotilla altered course sharply to port to avoid them but *K14*'s helm jammed and she veered out of line. Both *K14* and the boat behind her, *K12* turned on their navigation lights and eventually *K14*'s helm was freed and she tried to return to her position in the line. The next submarine in line, *K22* had lost sight of the rest of the flotilla in the mist and veered off the line with the result that she hit *K14*. Both submarines stopped whilst the rest of the flotilla, unaware of what had happened continued out to sea. *K22* radioed in code to the cruiser leading



the flotilla to say that she could reach port but that *K14* was crippled and sinking.

About fifteen minutes later, the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron passed the island and the two submarines, but the battlecruiser *Inflexible* hit *K22* causing further damage. The battlecruiser bent the first 30 feet (9.1 m) of *K22*'s bows at right angles and wrecked the ballast and fuel tanks. She settled by the bow until only the fin showed.

Meanwhile, Leir, Captain of *Ithuriel*, had received and decoded the message about the first collision between the two submarines and turned back to help them. As the submarines behind her turned to follow her, the 2nd Battle Squadron passed through the line and it was only through emergency turns by both groups of vessels that further accidents were narrowly avoided.

As the 13th Flotilla reached the Isle of May, they encountered the outbound 12th Submarine Flotilla. The leader of the 12th Flotilla, *Fearless* loomed out of the mist and collided with *K17* which sank within a few minutes, although most of her crew were able to jump overboard.

As the submarines following *Fearless* turned to avoid their now stationary flotilla leader, the battlecruiser *Australia* narrowly missed *K12*, which turned to get out of the way, putting her on a collision path with *K6*. *K6* tried to avoid her but in doing so hit *K4*, nearly cutting the latter in half. The seriously damaged *K4* sank with all her ships company, during which she was hit by *K7*.



At this point the 5th Battle Squadron of three battleships and their destroyers passed through the area unaware of what had happened, some of the destroyers cutting down the survivors of *K17* struggling in the water. Only nine of the 56 men

originally in the submarine survived and one of these died of his injuries shortly afterwards. Within 75 minutes, the submarines *K17* and *K4* had sunk, and *K6*, *K7*, *K14*, *K22* and *Fearless* had been damaged.

A memorial cairn was erected in January 2002 at Anstruther Harbour which overlooks May Island. Photos show;

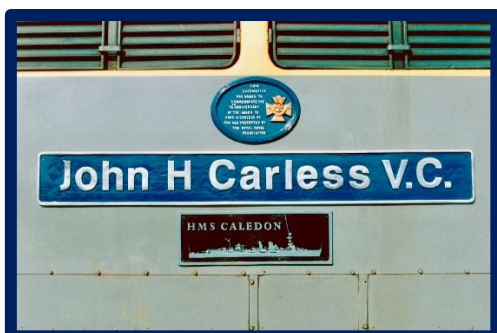
2SL and Standards (Courtesy Michael Hesketh)

Lady Woodcock and General Secretary (Courtesy Michael Hesketh)

K6 (Courtesy the Caledonian Mercury)

Church Service (Courtesy Crown Copyright)

15. ★ Can you Assist – Naming of Train in 1992



Mr James Walker has contacted Central Office concerning the story of Seaman John H. Carless, VC, who was killed in action at Heligoland Bight aboard HMS Caledon on 17th November 1917 and the 1992 commemoration of the 75th anniversary of his VC, by placing a on British Rail 'Class-31' diesel locomotive that was named after him. The head board is now on display in Walsall Museum.

Photographs of the engine clearly show that the Royal Naval Association played a role in the matter.....see photos attached.

James would like to know is whether this project was a one-off - perhaps arranged by a local branch - or was it part of broader venture to commemorate a number of naval heroes, and co-ordinated by your association centrally. Whether the former, or latter, he would be grateful for any information you could provide please.

Shipmates over to you.....



16.★ Victory 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 report on her progress to date.....

Looking back on the first 500 miles (Portsmouth to Hullbridge, Essex) of the Victory Walk, the main difficulty is remembering where I've been! Being on the move almost every day means that the walk becomes a blizzard of place names, each to be reached, passed and left behind.

Perhaps the two most difficult things to leave behind were Navy Command HQ with the ongoing WRNS100 demands, and Portsmouth's Spinnaker Tower. It took 60 miles and Selsey Bill before the Tower eventually disappeared behind me!

WRNS100 did not conclude until mid-December, with a superb reception for 100 serving and veteran naval women in the Speaker's House, Palace of Westminster. Shortly afterwards I broke for a Christmas break in a cosy rented cottage in Kent.



Already I've walked on almost every type of terrain, ranging from tarmac, shingle, chalk, sand, pavements, clay, pebbles, shells and grass, to glutinous mud. This has been accompanied by a cocktail of British weather - ice, snow, strong winds, sleet, rain, freezing winds and a little sunshine. We should not be surprised - after all it's still winter.

Encountering my first hill after 100 miles of flat walking was a shock to the system, as were the 'Seven Sisters' series of clifftops leading finally to the amazing 531-foot vista from Beachy Head. Not all views have been so invigorating. Miles of pebbled beaches and groynes proved monotonous, as have the never-ending grassy curved protective seawalls, accompanied by acres of mud at low tides in the Essex estuaries.

To write that the walk has been wholly enjoyable would be misleading. It's been depressing to encounter so many closed and derelict industrial sites, vandalised buildings, rubbish strewn paths and countless mounds of fly-tipped debris. Poor, non-existent or tampered waymarking, overgrown paths and sudden unmarked dead-ends have certainly caused walker's frustration!



These occasional dips in morale have easily been countered by meeting so many kind people along the way, including enthusiastic assistance from Sea Cadet Units. Highlights include seeing busy ferry ports and container terminals in action; visiting Hastings' 'Pier of the Year 2017'; walking the length of the World's Longest Leisure Pier at Southend; chancing upon countless monuments and memorials commemorating everything from wars to winkles; crossing the Thames on Westminster Bridge; and the first major change in

walking direction: from east to north.

I'm sure there will be numerous good and bad things to come, just as there are many, many more miles to walk. All I ask in return is that donations to the Victory Walk continue to roll in!

17. Libor Minibuses are now available to borrow - Routine for borrowing



Spring, Summer and nice weather is just round the corner so if your Branch is planning an outing then please consider using the three Libor Minibuses which are now alongside in their base ports; Portsmouth, Liskeard and Blackburn.

**** It is possible to borrow them for up to a month at a time. ****

listed below are the points of contact for each

bus sponsor are;

Portsmouth; e-mail andy@royalnavalassoc.com phone 02392 720782

Liskeard; e-mail warwickbelfitt@btconnect.com phone 01579 346606

Blackburn; e-mail belfastblues_812@icloud.com phone 07964 721849

Central Office are very keen that the buses are loaned out and on the road rather than parked up in their base ports doing nothing so have deliberately tried to keep rules to a minimum So in no particular order

They are free to loan. Insurance, maintenance etc costs covered by Central Office.

The vehicle is supplied with a full tank of fuel and should be returned with a full tank of Diesel and AdBlue topped up if necessary and cleaned. Can be driven on a car license. (No need for D1)

The loan is on a first come first served basis (Sponsor has final say!). **Longer loans may be easily negotiated with Central Office.**

They are covered for insurance for drivers aged 30 to 70 (Insurance cover for over 70s can be purchased from the insurer dependent on personal circumstances. The Insurer will require two weeks' notice for this to be arranged. Insurers contact details are available from Andy at Central Office). A very approximate cost for a weekend is £56 but very dependent on individual circumstance/health etc.

(More on Over 70s insurance - If you are over 70, you fall in to the government bracket of 'Group 2' medical standards, which attracts all sorts of complications; the requirement for driving assessments to demonstrate fitness to drive etc. The link below is very interesting. However please don't press print as it is 138 pages of medical terms.!

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/652720/assessing-fitness-to-drive-a-guide-for-medical-professionals.pdf

Only 8 passengers and the driver or up to three wheelchairs +3 carers +2 and one driver.

Roadside assistance is included

18. ★ Parade Marshal Caption Competition

Mick Kieran to Shipmate Smudge.....

'I'm going to the Conference in Ireland'

Shipmate Smudge...

Dublin?

'Mick no I'm catching the Ferry'

Da get it?.... Doublin as in Quick March

(Our thanks to Shipmate Terry Day at Spalding)



19. ★ One for the Road Joke

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his Father as to when they could discuss his use of the car. His Father said he'd make a deal with his son,
"You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and

there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

Love the Dad's reply!

"Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"

20. ★ 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 (which was 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 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

21. ★ Spot the Difference Competition

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



RNA Longcast

2018	
06 Mar	Applications for GS Position close
07 Mar	Runcorn Branch visit Central Office
10 Mar	National Council Meeting
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
04 May	Area 5 Quarterly – Norwich
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)
03 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly – Rayleigh
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
02 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly – Harwich
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	
7-9 Jun	Conference – Wyboston Lakes (Area 6)

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Torbay](#)

[RNA MAM](#)

[RNA France Nord](#)

[RNA Forth Valley](#)

[RNA Huntingdon](#)

[RNA City of Belfast](#)

RNA Torbay Branch



Apologies to our RNA Torbay readership especially to the Chairman, Shipmate John Soanes, who forwarded his article last year! sadly it has taken three months to publish his article, sorry.

On Sunday, 10th September 2017, Torbay Branch members, wives and guests with local dignitaries attended a ceremony on Roundham Head, Paignton to unveil and dedicate a replacement memorial to the memory of Lieutenant Commander Arthur Leyland Harrison VC RN. He was born in Torquay on 3rd February 1886 and killed in action on St. George's Day 23rd April 1918 during the

Zeebrugge Raid. *(The aim of the raid being to deny enemy submarines and other vessels use of the Zeebrugge to Bruges Canal by sinking three obsolete warships in the entrance)*

The original memorial was erected on the site in the Millennium year 2000, by Torbay Branch members, however, over the past seventeen years it had suffered from the elements and was in need of renovation. The Branch decided to raise funds to facilitate a new bronze plaque with raised gold lettering, which hopefully, with a new surround will be almost maintenance free and withstand the elements for many years to come.

In an extract from the London Gazette 17th March 1919, it was stated:

"Lieutenant Commander Harrison RN was in immediate command of the Naval Storming Parties embarked in HMS VINDICTIVE and immediately before coming alongside the Mole he was struck on the head by a fragment of a shell which broke his jaw and knocked him senseless. On recovering consciousness, he proceeded on to the Mole and took command of his party. who were attacking the seaward end of the Mole. The silencing of the guns on the Mole head was of the utmost importance and although in a position fully exposed to the enemy's machine gun fire, Lieutenant Commander Harrison gathered his men together and led them to the attack. He was



killed at the head of his men, all of whom were killed or wounded.

Lieutenant Commander Harrison, though severely wounded and undoubtedly in great pain, displayed indomitable resolution and courage of the highest order in pressing his attacks, knowing as he did that any delay in silencing the guns might jeopardise the main objective of the expedition - that is the blocking of the Zeebrugge - Bruges Canal"

We were hoping for fair weather on the day of the unveiling. Plans included marching of Standard bearers, with a brass band playing. Our Chaplain S/M Paul Lomas was to conduct the service in the presence of up to about 80 persons, most of whom would have been decked out in RN Blazers complete with medals and the memorial would initially be draped with a white ensign ready for a solemn unveiling ,with a large RNA banner to the side.

However, As they say "The best laid plans..... "

On the day the wind blew a 'hooligan' and it absolutely pelted down with rain and raincoats and umbrellas were the 'order of the day'. With no sign of the weather abating, we had to continue with the service. We had to dispense with the RNA Banner, as it would have been blown over the adjacent cliff, it was impossible to keep the ensign on the boulder and we all had a good soaking. The band had to huddle in a small gazebo in order to play for the hymns which were sung with gusto despite competing against the elements.



The ceremony went ahead at a rather hasty pace and everyone was pleased to return to our 'base' the RAF Club in Torquay where we enjoyed a reception in the dry.

RNA Muaskar al Murtafa'ah (MAM) Branch



A simple ceremony at the British Embassy Muscat marked a sad occasion as the Muaskar al Murtafa'ah branch of the RNA closed after over forty years of continuous support. The branch's chairman, CPO Ian Vansittart, presented the branch's standard to the Defence Attaché, Cdre Henry Duffy, and the Naval and Air Attaché, Cdr Kevin Broadley, for safekeeping.

CPO Vansittart first came to Oman in 1987. As an aircraft engineer, he was attached to the Royal Air Force of Oman and worked to maintain their Skyvan fleet. He fell in love with the country, and has lived there ever since with his wife Suzanne, who served a stint as the Warden of Salalah. He joined the RNA branch in Muscat on arrival, but unfortunately recent years have seen a decline in membership numbers.

Cdre Duffy said: "It is a real honour to receive this standard, and it will hang in pride of place on the Defence Attaché's office wall in the Embassy. However, I hope that one day the Standard can be returned when this branch of the RNA reopens in future."

(Photo features L to R; Cdr Kevin Broadley RN (Naval & Air Attache), CPO Ian Vansittart and Cdre Henry Duffy RN)

RNA France Nord



29 Members of France Nord Branch attended lunch in the historic town of St Lo in Normandy on 17th February.

The event was organised by S/M Ray and Liz Yeowell, and was held in unseasonably warm weather, making us raise a glass to all you 'chilling' back in Blighty.

Are you coming to Normandy/Brittany this summer? The branch holds lunches during the 3rd week of the month at various towns and villages in the area. You are all very welcome.

For details of events check our website at <https://sites.google.com/site/rnafrancenord/>

or please contact alan.gard@sfr.fr for further details.



RNA Forth Valley Branch

Shipmates from Forth Valley attended the Battle of May centenary commemorations on a bitterly cold 31st January at Anstruther Fife.



RNA Huntingdon RNA



Over the weekend 27-28 January 2018, shipmates from Huntingdon Branch held the first charity stall of the year at Tesco Superstore, Bar Hill Cambridge.

On the Saturday morning, S/Ms Karl Webb and Pete Aston set up the display with our display boards and Rum Tub, RNA flags and merchandise, and armed with joining forms and details of the Royal Naval Association to hand.

Later in the day they were joined by S/Ms Martin Girvan and Janette Ground (our newest member of the Branch). Sunday saw S/M Karl Webb return, with S/M Graham Murray, to complete the 2-day collection. As with previous years, the stall was very popular and allowed shipmates to chat with the community and encourage those with RN service to join the Association.

On the 7th of February, the Branch held its AGM. The Vice

Chairman, Hon. Secretary, and Committee member were re-elected; S/Ms Catherine

Fearon, Mark Fearon, and Janette Ground, were elected into the roles as Vice President, Committee Member, and Welfare Advisor. BZ shipmates.



Photographs show: S/Ms Martin Girvan, Pete Aston, and Janette Ground on the stall on Saturday; S/Ms Karl Webb and Graham Murray on the Sunday; S/Ms Catherine and

Mark Fearon who have been elected in to new Branch roles.

RNA City of Belfast Branch



The Belfast Branch wish to thank all our RNA Shipmates and RMA Oppo's and friends who turned out for the funeral service of our esteemed former Chairman Shipmate John (Jackie) Bain. Bravo Zulu

[John Bain](#)

[Harold Markham](#)

John Bain - Belfast Branch

Shipmate John Bain sadly crossed the bar in January 2018.

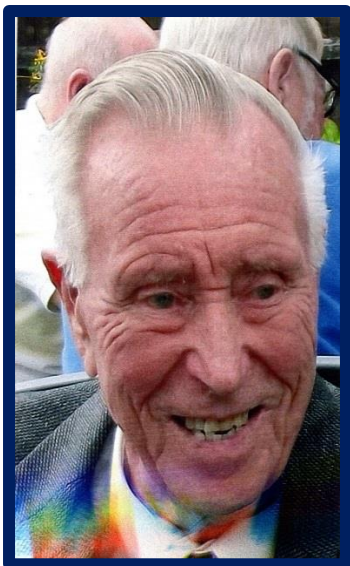
S/M John was the award winning Standard Bearer for Area 12 (Ireland) who went on to become the Chairman of the Royal Naval Association Belfast Branch. John was a former Royal Marine who saw action overseas.

He was very proud of his Royal Marine service but was equally as proud of his service to the Royal Naval Association and in particular his part in making his beloved Belfast Branch one of the finest in the country.

He will be much missed by his family and Shipmates.



Harold Markham – March Branch



March Branch are very sad to inform the RNA that Shipmate Harold Markham Crossed the Bar on Friday 16th February aged 94. Harold has been a member of the Branch since it was formed in May 2004, a loyal member who attended all meetings and functions that he was able,

He served in several theatres of WW11 including the Atlantic, the Far East and the Arctic Convoys, he was present at the Normandy Landings for which he was awarded the Legion D Honore by the French Government.

After the war he served with the R.A.F. as a glider instructor and was awarded the R.A.F. V.R.T Medal for over 10 years' service.

He will be sadly missed by his family, many friends and 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 Veterans UK www.veteranfunerals.co.uk Tel 07889 009393

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



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

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

GOH for 2017 was 1SL – 2018 GOH TBA.



Admiral Sir Philip Jones, KCB, ADC,
First Sea Lord & Chief of Naval Staff,
with Les Heyhoe RNWA Secretary & Membership
RNWA Reunion Dinner 12/10/2017 TUC London

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 – 23-26 November 2018

The annual Reunion of the HMS Relentless Association will take place over the weekend of Friday 23rd – Monday 26th 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).

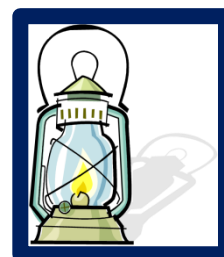
March 2nd - 4th	H.M.S. Exeter Association	hms_exeterassociation@hotmail.com	Mercure Exeter
March 2nd - 4th	H.M.S. Diana Association	kendavies131@yahoo.co.uk	Blackpool
March 9th - 12th	H.M.S. Ganges (Devonport Division)	bazval@btinternet.com	Inglewood Hotel Torquay
March 8th - 10th	R.N. Communications Association	noseeb@sky.com	Buxton
March 23rd	FAA Armourers Association	micktimpson@yahoo.co.uk	Royal Court Coventry
March 23rd - 26th	H.M.S. Surprise Association	geoff.prentice@virginmedia.com	Hadleigh Hotel Eastbourne

March 23rd - 26th	40 Commando Association Royal Marines	40commandoassociation@gmx.co.uk	Britannia Country House Didsbury
March 25th	Royal Naval Auxiliary Service (East Anglia)	philipchapman@talktalk.net	Last Anchor Ipswich
March 30th - 1st April	H.M.S. Ledbury, Brecon & RMS St Helena Falklands 1982	ianmcvitie@outlook.com	Menzies Strathallen Birmingham
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	AIRCREW MANS Association	webmaster@aircrewman.org.uk	Rembrant 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 -	H.M.S. Londonderry	enquiries@iowtours.com	The Country Hotel

4th	Association		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 Figgard Association	https://www.thefiggardassociation.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	Dougatpindrift@aol.com	Hadleigh Hotel Eastbourne
Sept, 21st - 24th	H.M.S. Ulster Association	ulster@candoo.com	Hallmark Midlands Hotel Derby
September 21st	RNCCA	honsec@rncca.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	HMS Eagle / HMS	alan666@blueyonder.co.uk	Tillington Hall Hotel

26th - 29th	Yarmouth / HMS Undaunted but open to all		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
		-	
		.	
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 – March 2018



Date	Year	Entry
1st	1807	<i>Blenheim</i> (74), flagship of Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Troubridge, sailing from Madras to the Cape with <i>Java</i> (32) and <i>Harrier</i> sloop, was lost with all hands in a hurricane off Rodriguez Island, E. of Mauritius (20.21S, 64.11E). <i>Java</i> also lost. Troubridge in <i>Culloden</i> had led the British Fleet into action at the Battle of St Vincent (14 February 1797) and commanded her at the Nile (1 August 1798) where she ran aground at the entrance to Aboukir Bay and took no part in the fighting. 'Thus perished one of the most outstanding officers of his generation' – N.A.M. Rodger.
2 nd	1709	<i>Assistance</i> , <i>Assurance</i> (Capt Tollett, who was very ill and conducted the battle from a deckchair), and <i>Hampshire</i> , with a convoy, fought a French squadron of five ships under Capt Rene Duguay-Trouin (<i>Achille</i>) 24 miles S.S.W. of Lizard Head. Five of the convoy were taken.
3rd	1971	Britain's first nuclear submarine, <i>Dreadnought</i> , reached North Pole.
4 th	1907	Admiral of the Fleet Sir Arthur Knyvet Wilson VC, C-in-C Channel Fleet and 'Old 'ard 'art' to the lower deck, hauled down his flag in the battleship <i>Exmouth</i> at Weymouth on his 65 th birthday and 'went on shore without ceremony of any kind'.
5 th	1954	<i>Explorer</i> , the first of two experimental, unarmed submarines,

		designed to try a new diesel and electric power plant incorporating High Test Hydrogen Peroxide (HTP), launched at Vickers, Barrow. She and her sister-ship <i>Excalibur</i> , which followed her down the ways on 25 February 1955, were inevitably known as the 'blonde boats'.
6 th	1987	Cross-Channel ferry <i>Herald of Free Enterprise</i> capsized off Zeebrugge. RN clearance divers assisted in rescue operations and returned on 10 April to help recover bodies
7 th	1990	Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fieldhouse introduced into the House of Lords. His supporters were Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin and Field Marshal Lord Bramall. He made his maiden speech on 12 June 1991.
8 th	2008	Service of commemoration held in Narvik fjord near Ofotfjorden over the hull of the destroyer <i>Hunter</i> lost on 10 April 1940 during the Battle of Narvik and found in 305 metres by HNoMS <i>Tyr</i> during NATO naval exercise 'Armatura Borealis'. Ceremonies held in <i>Albion</i> (flying Capt Warburton-Lee's last signal 'Continue engaging the enemy'), <i>Bulwark</i> , <i>Cornwall</i> and RFA <i>Mounts Bay</i> .
9 th	1797	<i>St Fiorenzo</i> (38) and <i>Nymphe</i> (36) captured the French <i>Résistance</i> (44) and <i>Constance</i> (22) 10 miles S.W. of Brest. <i>Resistance</i> taken into the Service as <i>Fisgard</i> , as she had landed a French force there. Battle Honour: <i>Résistance</i> 1797.
10 th	1777	James Aitken, known as Jack the Painter, executed at the gate of Portsmouth Dockyard for setting fire to the Rope House on 7 December 1776. The 67ft-high gibbet was made from the mizzen mast of <i>Arethusa</i> . His body was afterwards hung in chains on Block House Point at the mouth of the harbour.
11 th	1915	Destroyers <i>Ghurka</i> and <i>Maori</i> , destroyed U-8 near the Varne lightvessel (50.56N, 01.15E) by modified sweep. First success with indicator nets.
12 th	1944	The German U-boat replenishment tanker <i>Charlotte Schliemann</i> scuttled herself off Mauritius on 12 February 1944 after interception by destroyer <i>Relentless</i> , an encounter based on Ultra intelligence. The movements of a replacement tanker, <i>Brake</i> , were also known through Ultra but concerns about imperilling security of Ultra by rousing German suspicions delayed an attack for several days. <i>Brake</i> finally sunk by destroyer <i>Roebuck</i> on 12 March.
13 th	1762	RNH Stonehouse, Plymouth, opened.
14 th	1779	<i>Rattlesnake</i> captured the French privateer <i>Frelon de Dunkerque</i> 12 miles N.W. of Le Havre.
15 th	1963	The operation of helicopters from small ships is a major undertaking embracing a difficult art. It throws great responsibility upon young and relatively inexperienced aviators. The approach to this new problem must be made with great care, and no necessary time spared to ensure success in a field almost wholly unexplored.'
16 th	2002	Deployment of 42 Cdo RM to Northern Ireland. Fortieth deployment to Northern Ireland since 1969.
17 th	2008	Wreck of the light cruiser HMAS <i>Sydney</i> , sunk with all hands in action with the German raider <i>Kormoran</i> off Western Australia on 19 November 1941, found by sonar 250km S.W. of Carnarvon (26.14.37S, 111.13.03E), at a depth of 2,470m. The <i>Kormoran</i>

		located 12nm away a week earlier.
18th	1784	Nelson appointed to command frigate <i>Boreas</i>
19th	1847	Admiralty order that Wednesday 24 March be observed as a Day of Public Fasting and Humiliation, Divine Service to be specially performed in recognition of Irish Famine. Reaction of ship's companies and their pursers not recorded.
20th	1944	Submarine <i>Stonehenge</i> , Lt D.S.McN. Verschoyle-Campbell DSO, DSC and bar, RN, operating from Trincomalee, reported lost to unknown cause with all hands on patrol off N. coast of Sumatra; the first of three RN submarines lost in the war against Japan. Her CO was the youngest officer to command a submarine (<i>Sealion</i>) in 1943.
21st	1862	The Royal Marines divided into two separate corps, Royal Marine Artillery (RMA) and Royal Marines Light Infantry (RMLI), until 1923: the Blue and the Red Marines.
22 nd	2003	Two Sea King Mk VII of 849 Sqn A Flight, flying from <i>Ark Royal</i> on vital ground surveillance missions to support Royal Marines ashore on the Al Faw peninsula, collided over the northern Arabian Gulf. Two pilots and five observers killed. Posthumous MiD to observer, Lt Tony King. Operation Telic.
23 rd	1917	Destroyer <i>Laforey</i> sunk by mine in English Channel
24 th	1959	Admiralty announced Lt-Cdr B.F.P Samborne RN to be CO of Britain's first SSN, <i>Dreadnought</i> , and Lt-Cdr P.G. Hammersley RN to be MEO.
25 th	1941	First sea trials of Type 271 10-cm radar began on board the corvette <i>Orchis</i> in the Clyde; rough weather trials on passage from Lough Foyle to the Clyde on 1 April. The first equipment able to detect a periscope.
26 th	1955	2cwt solid-silver ship's bell, bought from the ship's fund of the carrier <i>Ark Royal</i> (III), sunk in November 1941, handed over to the Captain of the new <i>Ark Royal</i> (IV) at Portsmouth by Mr W.F.H. Vatcher who was a chief cook in the carrier lost in the Mediterranean. The bell went to <i>Ark Royal</i> (V). The Canteen Committee of the third <i>Ark Royal</i> decided specifically to commission a new bell for the next ship of the name. It was cast during the war and held in the custody of the RN Barracks, Lee-on-Solent.
27 th	1814	<i>Hebrus</i> captured the French <i>Etoile</i> off the Nez de Jobourg after a 24-hour chase. <i>Hannibal</i> took the <i>Sultane</i> which had parted company from <i>Etoile</i> . Last action against the French for which the gold medal was awarded. Battle Honour: <i>Etoile</i> 1814.
28 th	1860	VC: LS William Odgers (<i>Niger</i>). First to enter the pah and haul down enemy's colours at Omata, New Zealand. This engagement was the start of the second, six-year operation against the Maoris. Medal: New Zealand, 1860–6. Battle Honour: New Zealand 1860–61.
29th	1920	Battlecruiser <i>Hood</i> commissioned at Rosyth with a high proportion of officers and men from the battlecruiser <i>Lion</i> which had paid off. She sailed south from Rosyth on 15 May, hoisted the flag of Rear-Admiral Sir Roger Keyes in Cawsand Bay and entered Plymouth Sound, her home port for the first ten years. The heaviest RN warship at the time, still the longest ever built and the Navy's 16th and last battlecruiser.

30th	1912	Capt Robert Falcon Scott RN and the remainder of his party died in the Antarctic. 'It seems a pity but I do not think I can write more.' 'For God's sake, look after our people.'
31st	1951	Bermuda Dockyard closed and became a 'fleet anchorage'. HMS <i>Malabar</i> paid off in a ceremony at noon attended by seven officers and twenty ratings. Bermuda to remain HQ of America and West Indies Station.

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.