

The Semaphore Circular

No 703

The Beating Heart of the RNA

SEPTEMBER 2020



In commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day on 15 August 2020 RNA National President, Vice Admiral John McAnally CB LVO lays a wreath in remembrance at the Naval Memorial in Southsea. Also, in attendance are RNA General Secretary, Captain Bill Oliphant Royal Navy and the Fleet Commander's Warrant Officer, WO1 Mick Turnbull.

(Photo courtesy of Nigel Huxtable)

Shipmates Please Stay Safe

If you need assistance call the RNA Helpline on 07542 680082

This edition is the on-line version of the Semaphore Circular, unless you have registered with Central Office, it will only be available on the RNA website in the 'Members Area' under 'downloads' at www.royal-naval-association.co.uk and will be emailed to the branch contact, usually the Hon Sec

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Glossary of terms

NCM	National Council Member
NC	National Council
AMC	Association Management Committee
FAC	Finance Administration Committee
NCh	National Chairman
NVCh	National Vice Chairman
NP	National President
DNP	Deputy National President
GS	General Secretary
CONA	Conference of Naval Associations
NCBA	National Charter, Rules and Byelaws Advisor



indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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



Staff

photo (L – R) Bill Oliphant, Nigel Huxtable, Kathryn Brindley, Michelle Bainbridge, National President Vice Admiral John McAnally, Mike Gray, Charlie Darlington, Andy Christie

Find Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

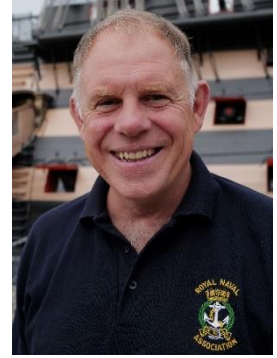
Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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Building 1/087,
Scott Road,
HM Naval Base,
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From the General Secretary

Dear Shipmates,

Just a brief intro from me this month as I'm loafing in France on leave. Rather annoyingly it's going to mean another 2 weeks of quarantine on return which is especially galling (pun intended) as the part of France where we are can still count the number of Covid deaths in single figures. Just as well we're all kitted out to be able to work from home on return.



Well done to all who made it on-line for this year's AGM which was held for the first time on Zoom. It seemed to work pretty well and all the necessary items of business were achieved in accordance with the Charter. Clearly, it's not quite the same socially and I still feel for Area 10 who I know would have put on a fabulous show in Liverpool.....maybe we can do something in Liverpool in 2023 on the anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic? Albeit, we didn't have the usual after match party, our President, Admiral John, led us in an Up Spirits tot toast to Her Majesty on completion which was very welcome. Well done to the raffle winners too. List published separately.

The one motion which was discussed was the venue for the 2022 AGM/Conference. I've asked that we are a little flexible on this as I want to fall in with what the RN is doing for the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict. I would suggest that it is 90% certain we'll be in Portsmouth and have the AGM/Conference and Gala Dinner on Saturday 18 June 2022 and a Service and Parade the following day. Confirmation to follow.

I'm also pleased to announce that we've moved closer to ASDIC. Don't worry, we're not trying to improve the RNA's ASW capability! It's the Association of ex-Service Drop-In Centres. As part of the work we're doing to move towards a more holistic approach to Welfare Support, we're collaborating with ASDIC and the RNRMC to give more opportunities for our shipmates to meet especially those who might be on their own. Please read more in the article published later in this edition.



Members of HMS PRINCE OF WALES current ship's company pay their respects on VJ Day at the NMA next to the REPULSE and PoW memorial stone

A big BZ to all those who were involved on 15 Aug in VJ commemorations and although the RNA were disappointed not to be invited to represent naval veterans at the national commemoration led by HRH Prince Charles at the National Memorial Arboretum it was good to see the RN represented by the HMS PRINCE OF WALES Commanding Officer, Capt Darren Houston and 25 of his Ship's Company.

Finally, I must take the opportunity to say a fond farewell to Chrissie Hughes who ran our very successful Shipmates and Oppos programme for many years. With the programme changing shape, Chrissie decided to move on but her sparking sense of fun will undoubtedly be missed once we all get back to the office. Very best wishes for the future Chrissie.

Yours Aye

Bill Oliphant

Chairman's chat

I missed you last month as the task master S/M Andy Christie hidden in his man cave made me yield, and quite rightly so, to our National President's article. I used the term S/m because when Andy is not turned too at Central Office, he is Chairman of Lee on the Solent & Stubbington RNA Branch. Having had the opportunity of visiting the Branch last year I found them all to be a jolly bunch with just over 40 members attending the meeting.



So, what has happened to the Sun since last month?

For a few weeks Commander (E) and myself have managed to squeeze in quite a few BBQ's to the envy of our village dog walkers as they passed us by on the public footpath which at the rear of our cottage, leads out across the field. We have no garden with this former farm worker's cottage but have the right to occupy a 15ft strip of land on the edge of the field. I often invite visitors to view my hundreds of acres of garden which is at its best when the Rape Crop is in golden flower, but no so good when it dies off, gets wet and stinks to high heaven. Living at the bottom end of a small cul-de-sac does have its advantage with no traffic. Sadly, as I write (type) an umbrella is now the order of the day with unscheduled heavy rain showers.

Membership news relating to WWII Naval Veterans:

The National Council has approved the following RNA Membership Benefits to WWII Veterans in recognition of their Service to the Country with effect from 15th August 2020.

- **NON RNA WWII Royal Navy Veterans are to be offered FREE Membership of the RNA.**
- **RNA WWII Veterans who are FULL Members with under 10 years continuous Membership will no longer be required to pay the Association Annual Subscription from 1st January 2021.**
- **RNA WWII Veterans who are FULL Members with over 10 years continuous Membership will be invited to accept LIFE Membership without cost to their Branch (Also applicable to HQ Roll Members).**

Branch Levies & Club Membership fees are not affected by the above, but I sincerely hope that Branches and Clubs will consider such veterans favourably.

A proforma for the implementation of the above has been sent to all Branch Secretaries by Central Office.

Running through Facebook and tuning into the successful Virtual TOT Nights set up by the RNA Wrexham Branch twins S/ms Eric Holmwood & Kevin Hackett, which are now being held on a Saturday evening only, it is pleasing to learn that the physical experience of Branch Meetings are now beginning to get back to some normality. However, having regard to social distancing, this is proving difficult where a Branch meeting takes place in a Pub. For the time being, this is where Zoom comes into its own. Branch Secretaries are reminded that Central Office will reimburse Branches should they wish to take out a monthly subscription of Zoom Pro @ £11.99 per month which can be cancelled without notice. **Meanwhile, please ensure you observe all safety precautions Shipmates and carrying out a Risk Assessment of the premises where you meet.**

The Monday nights Zoom Fireside Chats are proving to be remarkably successful with a most interesting range of topics being delivered by Shipmates and senior naval staff. Repeating some of what Bill Oliphant mentioned in last month's circular, talks held have been on the Battle of Jutland, the taking of South Georgia by HMS ANTRIM, memories of a D Day Veteran, the Battle of Taranto which was a great victory for the Fleet Air Arm. Look out in the Semaphore Circular for the diary of forthcoming talks which are highly recommended. Branch quiz nights around the country are also being held using Zoom and are becoming popular and open to all. For more information check out the Royal Naval Association Community Site on Facebook or Google it for events & dates along with sign in ID's and Passwords.

The 50th Anniversary of Black Tot Day was to have been commemorated aboard HMS BELFAST which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. Instead a scaled down event was held on land astern of HMS VICTORY attended by our National President, myself, Adrian Bell CEO of RNRMC, Steve Dingley Brand Manager for PUSSEY'S RUM with Shep Wooley and his orchestral shipmates. Various media covered the event and the live streaming on YouTube showed me proposing the Loyal Toast no less than three times as each media rep asked, "can you do that again" (silly question!). Normally I would jump at the opportunity of several Tots, but as I was driving, eagle-eyed shipmates viewing will have noticed the second, third and fourth Tots got smaller. The sacrifices I have to make!

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions imposed on us, I wish to acknowledge all Shipmates for the respects you paid on VJ75 Day – 15th August, be it you attended your local War Memorial or Paraded your Branch Standard outside your home – Lest we Forget. A BZ to all those who paid their respects on the day. It was quite moving to watch the National Memorial Arboretum Commemoration Service on BBC TV and listen to the interviews with Far East Veterans. On the evening I visited a 95-year-old member of my Branch, Ernie Page who served in India as a Shipwright maintaining and repairing Landing Craft. I had volunteered him to host the Tot toast on the Virtual Tot that evening. At 95, despite my protesting, Ernie insisted getting down on his hands & knees to sort out his spirit locker to locate the appropriate liquid. Ernie was simply blown away with the technology of Zoom and seeing so many Shipmates from around the country on a mobile phone. If you have access to the internet, please do join us each Saturday from 1830 with the Tot at 1910ish and several more after! Like most participants, the old Rum stock has taken a hammering, but the upside is your having a drink at home shared with Shipmates from all over the world.

National Conference 2021. This will be held in Nottingham hosted by No 9 Area and held at the 4* Crowne Plaza Hotel matching the price of the famous Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool. I would ask all Branches to make the utmost effort to attend, remember that this is also a reunion weekend and a great opportunity to meet up with Shipmates from Branches from all over. Several non urgent motions were held back from this year's Conference as we did not know just how complicated or simple this year's Zoom Conference would be. It is no use sitting back dripping about national matters if you do not exercise your right to attend and vote. National Conference is your Branch's opportunity to make its voice heard, so let us see as many Branches represented as possible at next year's Conference.

Not allowing Covid-19 to stagnate the growth of the Association, it has been agreed to allow new Branches to Commission using Zoom. So standby to welcome onboard new Branches surfacing at; Portsea, Salisbury & Thetford.

On the finance front, it will be appreciated if Branch Treasurers could forward to CO membership subscriptions when collected.

On a more personal point, my Granddaughter Katherine has just graduated with a First-Class Degree with Honours in Paramedic Science and is due to start work as a Paramedic with the East of England Ambulance Service in September. Paramedic students like Katherine would spend alternative 4 weeks at lectures and 4 weeks out on the frontline working 12 -16 hours shifts as the third crew member. Since February with the outbreak of Covid-19, second & third-year students were pressed into frontline service becoming the full-time No 2 crew member.

Well Shipmates that is enough from me. Time to secure and put away my wheel spanner

To those serving including reservists who continue to support the frontline against Covid-19 keep up the good work. With relaxed government guidelines I hope you are now being able to see your families more often.

Please continue to share your dits and Branch or Ship's news (including the Silent Service Boats) by articles to Andy Christie at andy@royalnavalassoc.com no matter how short they maybe. To our Overseas Branches – we know you are out there but want to hear from you. To Shipmates and your families in the UK and throughout the world and at sea, keep safe and adhere to all the advice being given to you. Do not lose sight that the Covid-19 is still out there so let us all set our sights on coming out of this crisis together. Stay Safe.

Yours aye

Keith Ridley

nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com

1. ★ Semaphore Circular – Distribution

Central Office would be very grateful if Area, Branch Secretaries and Shipmates would be kind enough to distribute electronically the Semaphore Circular too as many Shipmates as possible.

And just to gently remind those that have not had a read recently, that it is full of interesting and pertinent articles relating to the RNA, diary dates and fascinating historical RN content, it also importantly includes a monthly message from the General Secretary, which includes Daily Orders (Church Notices) and an article from the National Chairman. It really is essential reading in the communications channel between the National Council, Central Office and the RNA and I commend it to you.

Remember the Circular is available on the newly **refreshed website**, if you haven't had a chance to view it yet, why not pay it a visit, where you will find the Semaphore Circular at this link <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/downloads/2020/>

Or alternatively.....Open - Members Area Tab – Monthly Circular – 2020

Enjoy the read...

Finally, there will be no Semaphore Circular in October as the Editor will be taking in the rays on the Costa del Solent. Next Circular should be on the streets 01 November 2020

2. ★ Membership Offer for WW2 Veterans - Application Details

To celebrate VJ Day The National Council approved the following RNA Membership Benefits to WWII Veterans in recognition of their Service to the Country with effect from 15th August 2020.

- NON RNA WWII Royal Navy Veterans are to be offered FREE Membership of the RNA. (Please send an application form to Central Office indicating their status and annotate their entry on the new database for next years submission)
- RNA WWII Veterans who are FULL Members with under 10 years continuous Membership will no longer be required to pay the Association Annual Subscription from 1st January 2021. (Please annotate their entry on the new database for next years submission as exempt for subscriptions.)
- RNA WWII Veterans who are FULL Members with over 10 years continuous Membership will be invited to accept LIFE Membership without cost to their Branch. Please send completed applications to Central Office for processing.

The application form can be found at the rear of this Semaphore Circular.

3. ★ AGM Raffle Winners

The winners of the AGM raffle are;

First prize £500	Ticket no 00341	Mark Bardsley
Second prize £300	Ticket no 06142	Mr F Pretty
Third Prize £200	Ticket no 01791	S/M Lesley Thomas
Fourth prize£100	Ticket no 08181	Rev Colin Noyce
Special prize Rum to	Ticket no 04532	R Wheatley

4. ★ Monday Evening Fireside Chats

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

Meeting ID - 288 830 5105 Password – Shipmate (case sensitive)

Date	Presenter	Subject
Monday 07 Sep	To Be Confirmed	
Monday 14 Sep	National President	The Pacific War
Monday 21 Sep	WO1 Mick Turnbull	Fleet Commanders Warrant Officer Naval Update
Monday 28 Sep	S/m Ian Cameron	Fairey Swordfish
Monday 05 Oct	To Be Confirmed	
Monday 12 Oct	Rob Bosshardt CEO RNBT	RNBT
Monday 19 Oct	Dr Jann Witt	Nelson – A German Perspective
Monday 26 Oct	To Be Confirmed	

5. ★ RNA 100% Lambswool Scarves (Made in Scotland)

The RNA Lambswool Tartan Scarves are now available for sale at a cost of £15.00 plus post and package of £3.20 for orders of 1 to 10 scarves.

The scarves are tremendous value and, like the General Secretary, lovingly made in Scotland (Freedom!)

Please contact S/M Bob Coburn for further details, 01463 782162, or email robertcoburn001@btinternet.com



6. ★ Association of ex-Service Drop-In Centres (ASDIC)



The General Secretary is pleased to announce that the RNA has moved closer to ASDIC. Don't worry, we're not trying to improve the RNA's ASW capability! It's the Association of ex-Service Drop-In Centres. As part of the work we are doing to move towards a more holistic approach to welfare Support, we're collaborating with ASDIC and the RNRMC to give more opportunities for our shipmates to meet especially those who might be on their own. Please see the article below which

explains what it is exactly that ASDIC do.....

It is a pleasure to share with shipmates that the RNA is partnering with the Association of ex-Service Drop-In Centres (ASDIC) and becoming an Associate. The work of ASDIC was presented by Peter Mosse at the CONA Conference 2018. This article explains what this will mean for us.

What do Drop-In Centres provide? There are over 70 ASDIC Drop-In centres across the UK. Each one acts as a first port of call for any veteran or family member who needs help and advice, or is simply looking for companionship and somewhere to relax amongst ex-service colleagues. Whether called Drop-Ins, Hubs, Groups or Centres, big or small, they gather various charities and local organisations together as *Delivery Partners* and all work side-by-side to do the best they can to help veterans in need.

Who can access ASDIC Drop-Ins? Drop-Ins are open to any veteran who has served in the Armed Forces, the Merchant Service and Fishing Fleet, and in some cases, the emergency “blue light” services as well. No appointments are required and each one offers on the spot social and welfare support through face-to-face contact in an informal environment. Although Covid-19 has introduced constraints on normal meetings for the time being, it is recognised that the needs of veterans remain just as pressing, if not more so as the result of lockdown and isolation. This has led to increasing loneliness amongst shipmates and other members of the Armed Forces Community. Technology is helping as well, using virtual meetings and chats to see how people are and keep in touch, whether by Zoom or on the telephone.

What does ASDIC do? ASDIC helps Drop-Ins to fulfil their social and welfare role for veterans by making it easier for them to work together and get better at what they do. By introducing them to each other and bringing them together on their website and in social media, they can share best practice, access advice and work with the best charities and support services. ASDIC is also now developing a regional structure across the UK to further aid local communication, coordination and feedback.

Who are Delivery Partners? Delivery Partners are the charities and other organisations who support the Drop-Ins. They include tri-service welfare charities like the RBL and SSAFA, others who offer specific things such as employment advice like the Seafarers' Advice & Information Line (SAIL), and service welfare organisations like the regimental or ship's associations and The Royal Marines Charity (RMA). All Delivery Partners are invited to partner with ASDIC as Associates. It will therefore come as no surprise that the RNA has decided to partner with ASDIC as well, so that we can enhance the support we offer shipmates.

What are the benefits of the RNA partnering with ASDIC? With 270 odd branches and 21 Clubs, all shipmates in the UK are within striking range of a Drop-In. Not only can they offer assistance to our members but Drop-Ins are also a place where we can reach out to shipmates who are lost or out of sight. And there will be ways in which we can contribute to the Drop-Ins as well, perhaps through our local network of branches and welfare support. As Covid restrictions begin to lift we need too to look to the future and see if there are social events and activities we can invite them to.

How can my branch become involved? RNA branches are encouraged to look up their nearest Drop-In centre on the ASDIC website and get in touch to see how you can help each other. This will be an opportunity to meet the staff and volunteers who run them, see what they offer and how busy they are. So, who benefits and what can we do?

- First of all, is there a shipmate in your branch who you think could benefit from some of the services available at the Drop-in? Is there a way you can help spread the word to other veterans in your area or something else you could do – perhaps there may be someone at the Drop-In who needs a social home that you could adopt?

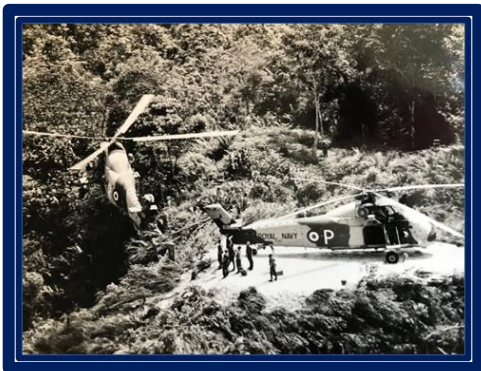
- Next, are there ways in which your branch could involve Drop-Ins and their staff? Could you plan something to involve shipmates, to help decrease loneliness perhaps? Do you have the facilities to support a particular interest group, say for a recreation afternoon (eg Uckers, quiz, archery or model making), a day just for ladies or a social together, subject to government restrictions of course?
- There are no size fits all here but whatever the age, size and composition of your branch, all Branches are encouraged to make contact with your local Drop-In centre and see how it works. There is bound to be something worthwhile you can do to support each other. And then let us know how you get on, so we can share progress with everyone and make the most of this new relationship with ASDIC.

How else could Branches benefit? It would be worthwhile contacting other relevant ASDIC Associates in your area. We all have a common interest where welfare case work and supporting each other as comrades is concerned. The more we can coordinate what we do and the closer we cooperate, the better the overall service we can give to our beneficiaries and the more people we will be able to reach.

Where can I find out more about ASDIC? ASDIC has recently become a charity and will be based with the RBLI at Aylesford. The [map](#) on their website www.asdic.org.uk shows where all the Drop-Ins are and each is listed [individually](#) in a directory with opening times, a short explanation of how they work, and what they can do to help. There is also a directory of [Associates](#) where the Drop-Ins can see what they can offer and a point of contact so they can discuss how they might be able to work together.

The Verdict. RNA partnering with ASDIC will be an evolving relationship but should become a thriving benefit for shipmates. There are further details to be worked out both at national and local level but Central Office will keep you updated. In turn, please do keep us informed about how things develop with ASDIC Drop-Ins in your branch or area. Working better together in this way promises considerable benefits to all shipmates and veterans wherever you live, and could also help grow our membership.

7. ★ Last Month's Unusual Photo



Last month's unusual photograph was taken in the jungles of Borneo during the 1964 Indonesia-Malaya confrontation and features two Wessex Helicopters.

I asked for your assistance (Stand Too! FAA) in trying to work out which aircraft mark they are and which squadron?

One of my own branch, S/M Tony Fenn, WAFU extraordinaire (he calls himself that!) who sits sulking in WAFU's corner, where they all gaggle together and insist on wearing green shirts! Has very kindly provided the

answer.....

The photo shows a Wessex Mk 5 of 848 Squadron. First squadron to receive Mk 5s. We (845 Sqdn) relieved them in the Indian ocean on the way to 'Singers' 1966. Thank you very much Tony.

Please send your photos (Which I will send back) / old 'dits' etc to andy@royalnavalassoc.com

8. ★ Welfare Spotlight – The Aged Veterans' Counselling Service

Welcome shipmates to your new monthly update, Welfare Spotlight, focusing on areas hopefully of interest as well as answering any questions of concern to you. Please send these into Central Office(admin@royalnavalassoc.com) for the attention of Deputy National Welfare Advisor (DNWA) Shipmate Geoff Apperley.

In recent months Covid 19 has brought many restrictions but all our lives have been changed by it. In particular lockdown, shielding and isolation have increased the stress and loneliness felt by many shipmates but particularly our older shipmates. Other separate welfare articles have focused on general mental health support but this month's spotlight falls on a specific counselling service available to older veterans more than 70 years old.

These shipmates often suffer in silence but can be helped by sharing their troubles or worries to a sympathetic shipmate's ear in branch or their branch Welfare Officer. However, many cases could benefit from professional counselling to help them find their own answer or solution to their problems.

The Aged Veteran's Counselling Service is free, confidential and open to all veterans born before 1st January 1950 plus their carers and family members if affected by the veteran's circumstances. This support can help shipmates cope with depression, anxiety, loneliness, relationship difficulties or anything causing a sense of isolation, loss or social exclusion. Referrals can be made online by a welfare officer or veterans can self-refer at www.agedveteranscounselling.org.uk or by calling 020 7708 5000 (Mon-Fri 08:30 – 17:00 hours) or to be sent a form in the post.

The service will call you back to arrange an assessment session followed by up to five further sessions locally. This service may be subject to covid 19 restrictions though. Remember shipmates, this service costs nothing, it is totally confidential and there to support a vulnerable older group of shipmates. You may not need it but do please share details sensitively with anyone in your branch who you think may.

9. ★ Naval Children's Charity

We have a new name - formerly the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Children's Fund we are now the NAVAL CHILDREN'S CHARITY. We hope that this will make it easier for families to find us and get help when they need it.

We offer help to children aged up to and including the age 25 of parents or guardians who are serving or ex-serving members of the Royal Navy including the Reserves and Royal Fleet Auxiliary. We work closely with other naval charities giving financial support and grants in times of need.



A large part of how we support is through our Emergency Essential Grants scheme where we respond quickly and directly to alleviate distress. The scheme helps those children whose families are struggling financially either thanks to the Covid 19 crisis, unemployment, redundancy, illness, bereavement, injury or disability. Our caseworkers work with families to look at long term issues, providing support to prevent more serious problems such as debt and relationship issues taking hold.

They also work to prevent stress and anxiety providing funding for therapies, specialist equipment, expenses for hospital visits or separated families.

Other support given includes rent, council tax arrears, debt relief, moving costs and, in cases where there is significant disability, house adaptations or support with mobility cars and transportation. Many of our families experience marital difficulties and breakdown which can result in short notice relocation.



We also have some free books aimed at helping families with separation and long absences, particularly younger children to help them understand.

Families can come to us directly or through NS FPS, SSAFA or other organisations. We have a simple form on our website which can be filled in and then a caseworker will contact the family to discuss how we can help.

www.navalchildrenscharity.org.uk

caseworkers@navalchildrenscharity.org.uk 023 9263 9534

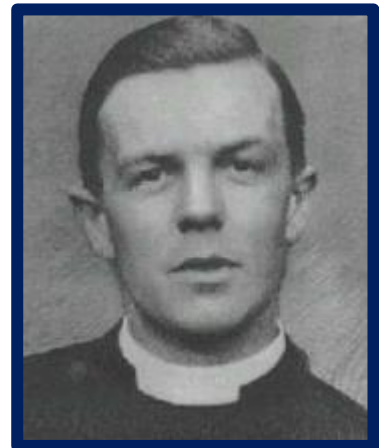
10. ★ VC Series - Reverend Christopher 'Kit' Tanner AM Royal Navy

Christopher 'Kit' Champain Tanner AM was born in June 1908 and sadly lost his life on 22 May 1941 while serving in HMS *Fiji* during the Battle of Crete.

Reverend Kit played Rugby Union for the Barbarians and was an England Rugby Union international, winning 5 caps between 1930 and 1932.

He was posthumously awarded the Albert Medal for assisting in the rescue of around 30 sailors in the Second World War.

Tanner was educated at Cheltenham College and Pembroke College, Cambridge. He was ordained in 1935; served curacies in Farnham, Surrey and Gloucester; and was Priest in charge of St Christopher, Haslemere. In 1937 he married Eleanor Rutherford: they had one daughter born after his death in 1941.



In June 1940 he became a Chaplain with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve; and was awarded the Albert Medal for his work in attempting to save fellow shipmates when HMS *Fiji* was sunk during the Battle of Crete in May 1941. He succumbed to his exhaustion and died, aged 32, as soon as he was about to board HMS *Kandahar*. He is commemorated on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Plymouth Naval Memorial. There is a Rood cross at St Christopher, Haslemere dedicated to his memory.

For information, The Albert Medal was first instituted by Royal Warrant in March 1866 and was discontinued in 1971. The Medal was split into Sea and Land with two levels Gold and Bronze and changed again in 1917 to Gold first Class and Bronze Second Class. The Albert Medal was abolished in 1949 and was replaced by the George Cross (GC) which is the second highest award of the UK honours system

The George cross and its predecessor the Albert Medal (First Class) was awarded for "for acts of the greatest heroism or for most conspicuous courage in circumstance of extreme danger", not in the presence of the enemy, to members of the British armed forces and to British civilians.

(Image courtesy of Robert Prummel - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6104708>)



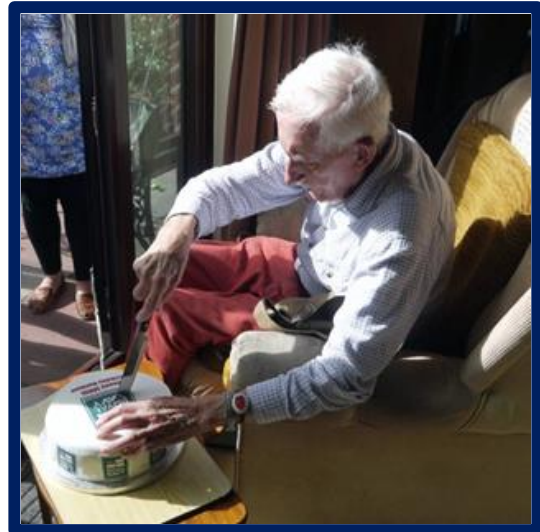
11. ★ Centenarian - Shipmate Norman Cosford - Chard Branch

Chard press Officer S/M Dick Moon has forwarded this lovely article concerning Chard Shipmate Norman Cosford's 100th Birthday Celebrations. Norman was born on 22 August 1920.....

Today I had the privilege and pleasure, along with my husband, Shipmate Dick Moon, of meeting RNA Chard Branch's oldest, long-term, member.

Norman Cosford joined the group of centenarians on this day. It was such a delight to meet Norman and talk to him. Although his eyesight and hearing is a problem, his mind is fully active and has a full and strong recollection of his time of service in the Royal Navy. His sense of humour has also not left him when talking of his younger years as a young matelot.

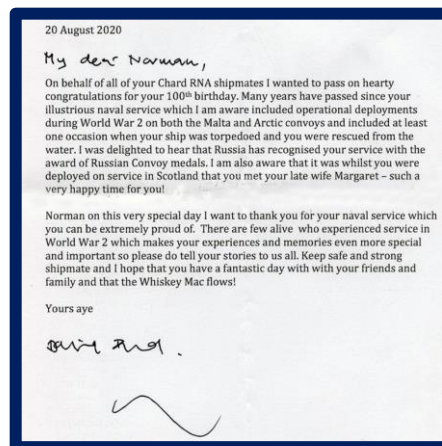
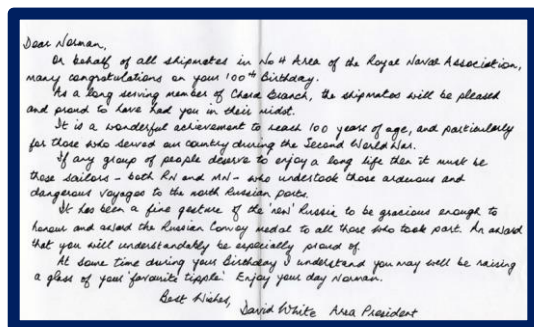
Norman served during World War II and fought in some very difficult campaigns. I was so pleased to have heard only recently that Norman had received two medals from the Russian Embassy for his time of service with the Russian convoys. A much deserved accolade to a very modest and highly deserving recipient. His World War II service ended with Norman being at Omaha Beach on D-Day.



To help recognise and celebrate his 100th birthday Norman received the best wishes from HM

The Queen on becoming a centenarian, a letter of congratulations from the President of Area 4 RNA (Shipmate David White), as well as the patron of RNA Chard Branch (Commodore David Pond) and obviously best wishes sent from his fellow shipmates within Chard Branch, together with a bottle of his favourite Famous Grouse and Crabbie Ginger Wine to enable him to have a few Whiskey Macs from his fellow Chard members. A cake was also provided (I understand heavily laced with whisky), which was made and iced by a Chard Branch Associate Member (Jude Holman) who is the wife of a full member.





(S/m and Chard Branch Chair Paula Moon. Photo of S/m Norman supplied by his family. Other photo submitted by S/m Dick Moon.)

BZ..... Norman and very many Congratulations from The National President, National Chairman, General Secretary and all the Central Office Team.

12. ★ Question of the Month.... Can anyone help please.

Shipmate Mike Hilder asks..... Can anyone tell him why HMS Lincoln(F99) had a thin red line all the way around the upper deck? Answers to me or S/M Mick (mick_hilder@hotmail.com)

13. ★ Shipmate Reg Green – Getting back in touch with the RNA

National Chairman, Shipmate Keith ‘Stoker’ Ridley, forward this lovely article concerning WW2 Veteran S/M reg Green.

Pictured with his daughter Janette Butler, is 93 year old former Able Seaman & Far East VJ Veteran Reginald (Reg) Alfred Green seen engaged in conversation with the Prime Minister at the National Memorial Arboretum on 15th August, proudly wearing his RNA Blazer displaying his Life Membership Badge. Reg was one of the forty special VJ75 Day guests invited to the commemoration service having served in the seas around Japan but in Tokyo Bay at the time of the surrender. I was put in touch with Reg by his Son David who now lives and works in Canada who asked via Central Office about the possibilities of him reconnecting in some fashion with the RNA. Reg had joined the Edmonton Branch back in 1982 and was convinced many years later to join the Cheshunt Branch where he became the Branch Vice Chairman. With advancing years, Reg has not been able to attend meetings and had lost touch with Shipmates.



Knowing his Father may be feeling isolated due to Covid-19 restrictions his Son David contacted Central Office just a few days back. In making contact by phone, I was amazed to learn from Reg he uses email! He joined the Royal Navy in 1944 aged 17 at HMS Royal Arthur which was at Skegness, later being drafted to HMS Ganges. Reg could not understand why they made him a Seaman when he wanted to be a Stoker. Apparently, his entire intake were made Seaman and a week later the next intake were all made Stokers. Drafts that followed were HM Ships Penn (G77) a P Class Destroyer, Brigsbury Bay (K606) a Bay Class Anti-Aircraft Frigate and Tyne (F54) a Destroyer Depot Ship which later became a Submarine Depot Ship. During his four years' service, Reg travelled to Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Australia.

In common we both knew S/M Ron Joy NCM No1 Area (late 1970/early 80's) whose young brother Roger was a member of my Branch here in St. Neots, and some 20 years after Reg, I had trod in his footsteps in Wanchai and Orchard Road Singapore. Reginald said he was very proud to have served King & Country in the Royal Navy. If there are any young Shipmates out there who served with Reg or on the Ships mentioned, please get in touch with me, I am sure he would like to share some dits with you.

Young or Old, Once Navy – Always Navy

S/M Keith Ridley
National Chairman

14. ★ Annual National Seafarers Service 2020

Shipmates should be aware that in view of the enormous problems surrounding the coronavirus epidemic and its associated restrictions, the Annual National Service for Seafarers Trustees have decided that this years' Service will have to be cancelled. They did not take this decision lightly but with COVID-19 dictating much of what the government will allow us to do, the safety and wellbeing of you all was paramount.

Alternative ways of holding the Service were investigated in some detail with St Paul's and the participating schools, but unfortunately no acceptable solution could be found. Therefore, with the continuing uncertainties surrounding all aspects of the virus, Trustees considered that cancellation was the only sensible and safe course of action.

While this news is undoubtedly disappointing, we fully expect to be holding the Service again in mid-October 2021 and will contact you as usual in June next year with the necessary details.

Finally, whilst we fully understand that these are very difficult times for everyone, should you still wish to make a donation to support the continued upkeep of the Service it would be most welcome and thoroughly appreciated. You can do this by visiting our [website](#).

Yours sincerely,

ANSS Team

15. ★ Merchant Navy Day - 03 September 2020

For Shipmates who are not aware.....
Thursday 03 September is Merchant Navy and Nick Harvey the campaigns manager for Seafarers UK is requesting that everyone fly's the Red Ensign, wherever possible, without the need for flag-hoisting ceremonies or public gatherings, especially with this year C19 crisis in mind.

Please open the link below for comprehensive details on Merchant Navy Day.

<https://www.seafarers.uk/merchant-navy-fund/merchant-navy-day/>



16 ★ VJ Day – Japanese reaction to surrender 1945

Shipmate Ian Cameron forwarded this interesting article concerning the Japanese reaction to their surrender in 1945.

General Itagaki had met his Generals and senior staff at his HQ at the former Raffles College in Bukit Timah and told his men that they would have to obey the surrender instructions and keep the peace. Itagaki and his superior had originally resolved to ignore the surrender order and to continue fighting. An estimated 77,000 Japanese troops from Singapore were captured, plus another 26,000 from Malaya.



About 200 Japanese soldiers, perhaps out of fear of retribution by British forces, decided to join the communist guerrillas whom they were fighting just days before in a bid to continue the fight against the British. They soon returned to their units however when they found out that the MPAJA, which was funded by the Malayan Communist Party, did not plan to fight the returning British at that time.

The following facts have been widely reported, and although disputed, still makes interesting reading-The night of the meeting at Raffles College, more than 300 officers and men killed themselves by falling onto their swords in the Raffles Hotel after a farewell sake party, and later, an entire Japanese platoon killed themselves using grenades. (Makes death of the tot pale into insignificance!)

The photo above shows General Seishirō Itagaki signing the terms for the reoccupation of Singapore on board the heavy cruiser HMS Sussex. 4 September 1945

17. ★ Save the 'BBC Red Button Teletext Service' petition

Areas, Branches, and individual Shipmates may wish to consider supporting the National Federation of the Blind of the UK's petition to Save the BBC Red Button Teletext Service from permanent switch off. This service is invaluable to many older, disabled, and vulnerable people who



rely on the information it provides for their connection to the outside world.

This issue has been highlighted by the daughter of S/M Ronald Hendrey, who is a 95 year old RN D-Day veteran, who relies totally on this service. It is clear her Father like many others will never access the internet and the other alternatives are simply not accessible due to disability and undoubtedly there will be other RN veterans who will be affected by this closure.

If you would like to support the petition and for specific detail please email sarahgayto@yahoo.co.uk (Petition Lead) or admin@nfbuk.org

18. ★ Covid 19 Joke - Respectfully

An important breakthrough! Finally a credible Covid 19 Test that can be done at home easily.....

Take a glass and pour a decent dram of your favourite beverage into it;
then see if you can smell it, if you can then you are
halfway there: then drink it and if you can taste it then it is
reasonable to assume you are currently free of the virus.
I tested myself 4 times last night and was virus free every time thank goodness.
I will have to test myself again today though as I have developed a
headache which can also be one of the symptoms.....

19. ★ NATO CIS Group, Mons – Black Tot Day

Shipmate Commander Neil 'Nobby' Hall Royal Navy, Executive officer of the NATO CIS Group.
(*Sadly can't say what they do Loose Lips sink Ships etc*)

The Group are based in SHAPE, Mons, Belgium and it celebrated the 50th commemoration of Black Tot Day with the other RN folk in the Group.

Seen here in the photo toasting are L - R;

Mrs Andrea Perryman, former POWRN (Met),
CPO Wrt Andi Gray, Cdr Nobby Hall RN, Capt
Greg Smith RN and Lt James McLauchlan RN



For those who do not know what the acronym SHAPE stands for, it is Superb Holidays at Public Expense.....

20. ★ Lisbon Maru - Mr Lin Agen

Shipmates may be aware of the tragic loss of the Lisbon Maru off Hong Kong in late September 1942. Christopher Allanson has kindly forwarded notification that Mr Lin Agen has sadly died. Mr Lin a local Chinese fisherman repeatedly dived into the water to rescue and assist prisoners of war, whilst under Japanese fire, who had survived the torpedoing of the Lisbon Maru

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am writing to everyone I know who has an interest in the Lisbon Maru. You will all be aware that next Saturday, 15 August, marks the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War, otherwise known as VJ Day. There will be thoughts for those who returned home after years of incarceration in the most miserable conditions in POW camps, and for those who did not come home; including the 828 who still lie on the seabed of the South China Sea following the sinking of the Lisbon Maru and the shootings that followed.

You will be saddened to learn that last week Mr Lin Agen, the last of the surviving Chinese fishermen from Zhoushan who took part in the rescue of hundreds of British prisoners of war from the Lisbon Maru, passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 96. A memorial service was held for him in his home town on Sunday. Tributes were paid by relatives of victims of the Lisbon Maru who had travelled out last October to say a final farewell to their fathers, and from the Lisbon Maru Association of Hong Kong and others. Fang Li, the Producer of the planned documentary film, travelled down from Beijing specially to attend the ceremony. Video footage of the occasion (available only in Chinese) shows his passion for the need to spread the word about this important but little known event and his particular sadness at the passing away of Mr Lin, which he regards as an important milestone in the Lisbon Maru story.

21. ★ HMS Ajax and River Plate Veterans Association

S/M George Phillips writes to update us with news of the handover of a special commemorative plaque that couldn't be handed over due to tensions in Chile during the associations recent trip in December 2019

In the February issue of Semaphore Circular you kindly printed an article about our trip to South America in Dec 2019 to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the River Plate. In the article we mentioned about a trip to Concepción where we intended to hand over a special commemorative plaque to the City on behalf HMS Ajax and HMS Exeter. Due to the civil unrest in Chile at the time, this part of our trip was cancelled and the plaque handed over to Captain Chris Saunders, Defence Attaché at the Santiago British Embassy for safe keeping and to be handed over at a later date.



We can confirm that this has now happened and we attach a folder with 3 photos and a brief description of the occasions.



Photos – Top right – Malcolm Collis presents the plaque to Capt Chris Saunders MBE RN

Bottom right - Armando Cartes and Major Alvaro Ortiz

Bottom left – the Conception Plaque.

22. ★ Request for Assistant Please – HMS Ganges Museum

The Semaphore Circular received a request from the Fly Navy Federation Secretary, Phil Carpenter on behalf of the HMS Ganges Museum. He asks if Shipmates could assist in identifying the location of where the photo below was taken. Even if you don't any information maybe significant. Suggestions so far HMS Fieldfare - R.N.A.S. Evanton? Does the Clock Tower ring any bells (sorry about that one!) Please email ryedavid@outlook.com



RNA Longcast

2020	
05 Sep (was 12 Sep)	National Council Meeting – Zoom On-Line Meeting
10 Oct	Area 2 Committee Mtg - Bromley
08 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
13 Nov	AMC / FAC
21 Nov	Area 2 Delegate Meeting – Ramsgate
05 Dec	National Council Meeting - Portsmouth
25 Dec	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Boxing Day
2021	
06 Feb	Area 5 AGM and Quarterly – 1400 - Venue to be announced
Apr TBC	RAF v Navy Rugby – The Stoop, Twickenham
02 – 05 Apr	Easter Bank Holiday
16 Apr	Open Day
23 Apr TBC	Welfare Seminar - Venue to be announced
03 May	May Bank Holiday
14/15/16 May	Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations – Londonderry
14 May	Open Day
15 May	Armed Forces Day - Scarborough
May TBC	National Standard Bearers Competition – HMS Collingwood
May TBC	Inter Services T20 Cricket - Lords
31 May	World Uckers Championship – Venue to be announced
31 May	Late May Bank Holiday
May/June TBC	Official Opening of Central Office - Portsmouth
Jun TBC	HMS Collingwood Open/Field Gun Day
11 Jun	National Council / AMC / FAC / SOC Meetings
12 June	National Conference - Nottingham
25 Jun	Open Day
23 Jul	Open Day
Aug	AMC / FAC
30 Aug	August Bank Holiday
Sep	National Council
Sep	Naval Veterans Biennial Parade - Whitehall
Nov	AMC / FAC
Dec	National Council
25 Dec	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Boxing Day
27 Dec	Christmas Holiday
28 Dec	Boxing Day Holiday

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Chatham](#)

[RNA Uttoxeter](#)

[RNA City of Glasgow](#)

[RNA South Bristol](#)

[RNA Helston](#)

[HQ Role - S/M Anthony Murphy](#)

[RNA Rosyth and West Fife Branch](#)

[RNA Spennymoor](#)

[RNA Harwich](#)

[RNA Rhondda](#)

[RNA Falmouth](#)

[RNA Folkestone](#)

[RNA St Neots](#)

[RNA Market Harborough](#)

[RNA Woking](#)

[Scottish Area](#)

[RNA Portsmouth](#)

[RNA Torrevieja](#)

[RNA Spalding](#)

[RNA Huntingdon](#)

[RNA Dublin](#)

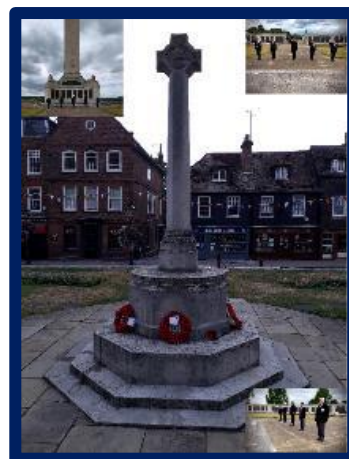
RNA Chatham Branch

Members of RNA Chatham Branch, RNR Medway Tender HMS President and the RM's attended a ceremony to mark the 75th and end of WW2 on VJ Day Saturday 15 August 2020.

Shipmates ensured that the moment has not passed unnoticed despite parades and services being severely restricted this year, and those that did attend represented that many shipmates and veterans who could not. A wreath was laid by



The Deputy Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor in commemoration of the generation of sailors, pilots and marines who formed the British Pacific Fleet in 1945. The photo opposite shows (From- L to R)



Chairman Tim Stopford, Major RM Will Hale, Lt Ritchie Wilkinson RNR, S/M Rhoderick (Spike) Hughes and Vice Chairman Tom Pask, The top picture is of the memorial at Rochester Cathedral,

RNA City of Glasgow Branch

S/Ms Kenn McKinnon and Brian MacKenzie from the Glasgow Branch attended at Knightswood Memorial on Saturday 22nd where a service to commemorate the Japanese surrender and the end of the Second World War.



S/M Kenn laid a wreath and S/M Brian carried the branch Standard.

The Lord Provost, Philip Braat also laid a wreath. The ceremony was conducted under the social distancing rules.



RNA Uttoxeter Branch

Members of Uttoxeter and District Branch joined the British Legion and local dignitaries to commemorate the end of the war with Japan and to celebrate the 75th Anniversary.



Prayers and words of Remembrance were spoken, and the Church Bells were rung 75 times. The Last Post was sounded and a Minutes Silence observed.

Afterwards in RNA tradition Shipmates retired to the nearest Hostelry to remember and toast all those who had fought in that theatre of war.

RNA South Bristol Branch

Report on visit of Lord Lieutenant of Bristol to HMS FLYING FOX on 20th August 2020. Item for inclusion in 'The Semaphore Circular' in due course.

Peaches Golding OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Bristol has been appointed by Her Majesty the Queen as an Honorary Captain Royal Naval Reserve.

As Lord Lieutenant of Bristol, Peaches Golding has been a consistent supporter of the armed forces in the City of Bristol and the



Royal Navy in particular. Her appointment as an honorary officer is seen as an endorsement of her wide-ranging effect with the region, from the corporate business community right through to the general public.

She visited HMS FLYING FOX on 20th August 2020 and was hosted by Royal Marines Brigadier Jock Fraser, Naval Regional Commander (Wales and West of England), the Lord Lieutenant was briefed by local Naval commanders, key personnel and affiliated supporters of the Royal Navy, enhancing her local and broader service knowledge. The Royal Naval Association was represented by Shipmates Andy Andrews (Branch Chairman) and Norman Low (Branch Secretary). During the visit Capt Peaches was taken out on a boat for a short trip and S/M Barbara Hillier volunteered for the 'plum job' of bag carrier, in this case it was the LL's handbag! (Was S/M Barbara a radar rating by any chance ??)

S/M Anthony Murphy – HQ Role



The photo shows S/M Murphy celebrated 'Black Tot' Day at his home in Bedhampton.

As he says.....

“One Bootneck Cadet and one Old Salt - Up Spirits”

RNA Helston Branch

Helston Branch Shipmates mustered on their doorsteps at 1100 for the two minutes silence to commemorate VJ Day.

In the afternoon everybody mustered again in S/M's Joe and Josie Locke's back garden for eats and a cream tea

(Note none of your Devon rubbish here in Kernow proud to put the jam on first as is the tradition here in Cornwall),



S/M Sharon
Clake joined in
on Skype.

A small but
dignified service
was held first

with the Vice Chairwoman (JL) who read out “They shall not grow old” and ended the service with the Kohima Epitaph. Chairman (GS) read out a list of WWII veterans who had crossed the bar from the branch. Secretary (JL) read a passage from ‘Lost



Voices' of the Royal Navy book written by Lt Ronald Neath RNVR about witnessing the Japanese surrender from the Duke of York.

Photographs in order Georges Scott, Alec Willet, Peter Brooke, Joe & Josie Locke (Tea time)
Peter Cherry

RNA Rosyth and West Fife Branch

To mark the 75th anniversary of Victory over Japan, the Branch held a reduced memorial service in the Hillend Children's Playpark.



The event was led by the Branch President S/M Alan Bayliss and the Branch Chairman S/M Richard Wardrope next to the Beacon of Peace, shown in the photo below.

The memorial Service commenced at 19:00 with S/M Dickie Wardrope reading an introduction concerning the events that led to the Japanese surrender.

"To end the war in the Pacific, the Americans dropped a Uranium gun type bomb named "Little

Boy" on the City of Hiroshima on the 6th August 1945 killing 80,000.

Three days later on the 9th August they dropped a second bomb named "Fat Man" on the City of Nagasaki This was a Plutonium Implosion bomb killing 40,000;

In the ensuing months tens of thousands More would die from Radiation poisoning.

On the 15th August, the Japanese Emperor "Emperor Hirohito" announced Japans surrender under the Potsdam agreement. Although the Official surrender document was not signed until the 2nd September onboard the US Battleship, USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.



The UK official witness to the bomb dropped on Nagasaki was Group Capt. Geoffrey Leonard Cheshire (Baron Cheshire) VC OM DSO and 2 Bars DFC, who is better known today as The Leonard Cheshire Disability."

Branch Members in attendance were; S/M's Jim Stewart Hon Treasurer, John Sherwood Hon Secretary, Norman Thoroughgood School's Liaison Officer, David Sowden, 'Footsoldier', Mike Gilbert Branch Photographer with his wife Mary, Mike Firth Standard Bearer, Denis Christie, Val Doole, Dot

Patterson, Barbara Firth Social Secretary, Ron Webber, Bugler Michael Hunter, Pipers Brooklyn Morris and Jacqueline Gibson.



Honoured Guests; Mrs Ella Bayliss, Mr David Blackburn and his wife Diana, Mrs Myrna Venters and husband, Mrs Isabel Stewart, Mrs Theresa Sowden, Councilor David Coleman and his wife Jill Coleman, Mrs Francesca Henderson Landlady of the Hillend Tavern, Ken and Vera Crawford, FAA Ray Whitehouse, and wife Pam.

Wreaths and flowers were laid to the accompaniment of 'Amazing Grace' Played by Pipers Brooklyn Morris and Jacqueline Gibson.

On completion of the 'Cry for Peace', the 'Town Cryer' Cllr David Coleman turns to the parade and says, "Men of the Royal Navy, The Queen" and the Loyal Toast is given.

And finally, three of the village children who followed the ceremony from start to finish with their parents (Left hand photo).

RNA Spennymoor and District

A church service to bless a town's new veterans' tri-service Banner and to commemorate Victory over Japan (VJ) Day took place in Spennymoor on Sunday 16 August.

Due to the government's current Coronavirus guidelines St. Paul's Church could only allow up to 30 people to attend wearing facemasks and observing social distances. The congregation included the Spennymoor born Lord Lieutenant of County Durham Sue Snowden, whom gave a Bible reading and Spennymoor's Deputy Mayor Councillor Liz Maddison, whom recited the Kohima Epitaph. The Act of Remembrance was recited by former Poppy Appeal Organiser Pam Harper.



The idea to purchase a new tri-service Banner for the town's veterans, which was paid for from the sale of the 'Spennymoor 75 VE Day' pin badge, came from the Spennymoor and Ferryhill Royal Navy Association (RNA) branch member Chris Lewarne, whom said, "In recent years the town has lost two Military Associations, the Royal Air Force and Durham Light Infantry Associations, so if the time comes that there are no more military associations in the town to carry their standards on parades, the three armed forces will still be represented with the tri-service flag."

As part of the service to commemorate VJ Day the Reverend Matt Tarling showed a short film from VJ Day, 1945, that brought the Second World War to an end.

The church service had been jointly organised by the Spennymoor branches of the Royal Navy and Royal Signals Associations and thanking those that attended Liz Lewarne of the RNA said, "Today's service was strange for all of us and I would like to thank everyone that came along to be part of our event and I would especially like to pass on the veterans' gratitude to the Lord Lieutenant for attending and to the Reverend Matt Tarling for organising the church Service."

The standard bearers were Pete Molloy – Royal Signals Association, Albert Jacques-Durham Light Infantry, Chris Lewarne – Royal Navy Association, John Roby – tri-service and Brad Wight – Union flag.



(Photos/Images courtesy of Keith Taylor)

RNA Harwich Branch



Shipmates from Harwich branch took part in the V.J. Day Commemorations organised by Harwich RBL.

The Standard Bearer nearest camera is Harwich RNA Standard Bearer Shipmate Ron Scutcher

Our thanks go to S/M Trevor Potter Branch Hon Secretary for sending in the photos and news.

RNA Rhondda Branch

The Rhondda Vice Chairman S/M Rob John was observing the VJ Day commemoration at Hay-on-Wye with his wife S/M Cathy when he was approached by the organiser of the event Kelvyn Jenkins.

He was recognised from when Kelvyn kindly performed the Last Post and reveille at the laying of the Commemorative stone for CPO George Prowse VC RNVR the last recipient of a Blue ribbon VC in Gylfach Goch in 2018.

Despite not being in RNA rig Rob laid the cross to remember the fallen. After all, it is not the clothing, it is the privilege and honour in doing so.



RNA Falmouth Branch

Falmouth Branch Chairman, S/M Mick Stevens has kindly forwarded a report on VJ Day events from deepest Cornwall.

With no RBL in Falmouth the Town Council looks to the RNA for guidance and organisation for Remembrance Events and so it was for Saturday.

The sun shone, Geoffrey Bennetts, our Branch Chaplain, conducted a moving and poignant service, Dave Maitland a piper played Kohima, a moving lament, and a local musician sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

The day beforehand I had laid out 117 handwritten Poppy Crosses representing all those from the Falmouth WWII Roll of Honour. Laid out in the form of a cross with a black painted Sentinel Soldier at the head of the cross they provided both a reminder of those who gave all and a talking point for those assembled.

The Service was well attended with the Town Mayor & Mayoress, Branch Shipmates Steve & Vicky Eva, along with nine associations laying tributes and perhaps up to fifty + spectators looking on.

RNA Folkestone Branch

Shipmates attended the VJ Day commemorations on Saturday 15th August

The Standard Bearer S/M Steve Shaw parading the Branch Standard and S/M Bill Kempson placing a wreath at the Burma Star Memorial at the Garden of Remembrance, Folkestone.



Also attached a copy of a poem 'Cry for Peace'. This was read by our branch Welfare Officer S/M Lynn Hatton who is a bell ringer at a local church and it was followed by a church bell being rung 75 times. This was part of a countrywide event called 'Ringing and Crying out for Peace'

*Victory in Europe
Was on the eighth day of May
Now it's August fifteenth
So what of this day*

*Japan's now surrendered
And told to "lay down its arms"
Go back to your factories
Offices and Farms*

*But in Singaopre and Thailand
And Burma, no less
Our 'Forgotten Army'
Still had to clear up the mess*

We mustn't forget



*The war in Far East
Or the lives which were lost
Before the battle ceased*

*Three quarters of a Century
Have passed since those days
And life has moved on
In so many ways*

*So August fifteenth
Became a day of celebration
As Japan agreed
To the Potsdam declaration*

*And on September second
At last it was done
The World war was over
The battles been won*

*V.J Day
Is a day to be cherished
When we remember
All those who have perished*

*Stand proudly my country
Stand proudly with Britain
Dwell on this cry
So proudly written*

This kingdom never gave up, and it must never forget



RNA St Neots Branch

S/M Ian Cameron reports that St Neots S/Ms held an informal Branch meeting on 20 July with social distancing, good ventilation, hand sanitising, plus optional masks.

It was felt that a less formal meeting would help ease the branch into a safer Covid model going forward.



The meeting was led by S/M Mike Milne and all S/Ms agreed that it was good to be back and putting the Branch Covid strategy to the test.

And on the 9th August S/Ms held a Branch picnic and here are branch members in their bubbles enjoying a very pleasant Sunday. The main brace was spliced, and the day out was enjoyed by all. Here S/M Mike Milne is checking that everyone is adequately supplied with victuals. Thanks to all S/Ms who helped set up the gazebo earlier in the day.

In case anyone missed the picnics naval connection,

S/Ms Tony Webley and Keith Ridley show the flag! (Literally)



RNA Market Harborough Branch

Our thanks to Hon Sec, S/M Pat Middleton who forwarded this report about Market Harborough VJ Day 2020.

Harborough District Council cancelled our low-key event which the branch had planned, so we had an even lower key event with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Royal British Legion, and Pat Middleton Hon. Secretary of the Market Harborough Royal Naval Association



RNA Woking Branch

Shipmates from Woking Branch attended the VJ Day Parade celebrations.



(Photos were kindly provided by Bob Holmes from Woking News and Mail)

Scottish Area and RNA Beaulieu Branch

National Ceremonial Adviser Shipmate Bob Coburn paraded the Scottish Area Standard at a short service to commemorate VJ Day 75th anniversary, at S/M Bob's local war memorial in Beaulieu.

The wreath was laid by our local councillor Helen Carmichael, who is also the Provost of Inverness.



RNA Portsmouth Branch



RNA Portsmouth branch committee observe the 75th VJ Anniversary 2 minutes silence outside the branches HQ 'The Rose in June.' In deepest Copnor!

Many thanks to Paul the landlord

RNA Torrevieja Branch

Thanks to S/M Tony Jenkins our Torrevieja branch correspondent who has provided all the gossip from the branches 50th Black Tot commemorations.....



A small devoted, enthusiastic and hardy band of RNA Torrevieja Branch Shipmates embraced the current social distancing rules and endured the heat to commiserate the 50th Anniversary of 'Black TOT Day' on Plaza Playa Flamenca promenade with the backdrop of the Mediterranean and the branches Standard on the 31st July 2020.

The shipmates forwent the traditional banding together around the messdeck table in favour of wearing masks and 'social distancing' so that the remainder of the ritual of the time honoured 'toasting' and 'worldly discussions of all manner of things' could continue.

The tradition of issuing a Tot of rum to each sailor started in 1740 by Vice Admiral Edward Vernon as a measure to help the wellbeing of all Royal Naval Sailors and was ended on the 31st July 1970 also for the sailor's wellbeing – and to put it lightly, 'Jack was not pleased' and hence the day was forever known as **'Black Tot Day'**.

As Royal Naval tradition dictates, a Bottle of 'British Navy PUSSER'S RUM' was duly piped aboard and presented to the 'Rum Bosun' for each shipmates ration to be added to the 'Rum Fanny' (under close scrutiny of the shipmates); the Rum Bosun then transformed the RUM TOT into 'Grog' with the adding of an equal measure of water.

At 1200 Hrs local time the "Up Spirits" was Piped and the 'die hard Jack's' responded with the traditional saying of "stand fast the Holy Ghost".

The Rum Bosun duly issued each shipmate with their ration and the time-honoured privilege of the first toast was then made by the Rum Bosun Danny Kay of "Her Majesty the Queen"



Each subsequent toast was made by a shipmate (as below) and repeated by all before taking a sip of Grog, until the ritual last toast of "Sandy Bottoms" was made where all shipmates finish the remainder of Grog in their glass.

Proposed Toasts:

Who

Rum Bosun (Danny Kay).

Maureen Jenkins

Rose Kay

Danny Kay.

Patrick Deather.

Ann Deathers

Paul Edwards

Tony Jenkins

Colin Holloway

Tony Jenkins

Rum Bosun (Danny Kay).

Toast

"Her Majesty the Queen"

"His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain"

"To Great Britain and all our home ports"

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

"To all Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Mariners past and present"

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

"To all those at sea, may you have fair winds, calm seas and a compass that's true"

"May your powder remain dry; fuse be short, and aim be true"

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

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

"Sandy Bottoms"



The traditional residue in the Rum Fanny which has the affectionate name of **Queen's** and caused by the Rum Bosun's erroneous gauging of each shipmate's ration of Grog, was duly dished out in equal proportioned to each shipmate for the traditional final toast proposed by Tony Jenkins of "The Queen, God Bless Her".

Read more or see photos & videos at our website www.rnatorrevieja.com

RNA Spalding Branch

Spalding Branch celebrated the 50th Anniversary of stopping the Tot, Black Tot Day.



Shipmate Terry Day the Branch Secretary opened his garden and supplied a Tot for those of the Branch who wished to join in the event, needless to say, as the pictures prove only the Bubbly Rats turned up. as we have been in lock down since March it was great for some of us to get together catch up with the gossip and swing the lamps for an hour or so.

The Branch President S/M Terry Carter was, as ever the Rum Bosun, closely scrutinised to ensure that his fingers kept to the outside of the measure.

Huntingdon and District Branch RNA

Huntingdon Branch celebrates 'Virtual' 50th Anniversary of Black Tot Day.....



RNA Dublin Branch



Shipmates from Dublin Branch, met together for a 'socially distanced' Black Tot Day, at Ryan's Pub in Dublin (known by the Branch as 'The Lodge', after the landlord once mistook RNA Rig, for the Shipmates being Freemasons!).

The Shipmates gathered for a pint or two of Dublin's famous 'black stuff' followed by a tot or two of Pussers. This was the Branch's first event since lockdown and from what the Shipmates can remember, was an enjoyable day

CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Ron Miller](#)

[David Thompson](#)

[Robert 'Bob' Stevens](#)

[Edward 'Ted' King](#)

[Eddie Commander](#)

[Frank Taylor](#)

Ron Miller - Bracknell Branch

It is with great sadness that Bracknell Branch report the loss of Shipmate Ron Miller, who crossed the bar on Monday 3rd August, aged 94 years.

Ron was born on the 9th of March 1926 at Twickenham Hospital in Middlesex and spent part of his early life living in an air raid shelter during the blitz. At 17 years of age he fulfilled his life's ambition and joined the Royal Navy, initially at Royal Arthur, Skegness and Gosling in Warrington before doing his Seamanship training at the Royal Naval Barracks Portsmouth. This included gunnery training at Excellent, Whale Island, then a torpedo course at Vernon. On passing out as an Ordinary Seaman he was drafted to Vernon where he qualified as a Seaman Torpedoman in March 1944. He was already at sea in Russia on his 18th birthday (due to them getting his DOB wrong) - his duties included torpedoes, depth charges, demolitions as well as being a Seaman Electrician.

With HMS Diadem he saw service at Normandy, Bay of Biscay patrols, 6 (Arctic) perilous convoys to "Hell and Back"



Russia and Norwegian patrols and actions. As an Active Service Rating (Regular) Ron was then drafted to the Far East serving on HMS Apollo and HMS Berry Head, a repair ship, until the end of hostilities with Japan. Ron did not see any action as the war was almost over when he got there but did see our Prisoners of War returning to Australia from the Japanese camps. Ron always said "*.....we were so embarrassed to see them as we had a much better war. They looked like survivors from Belsen - they had been through hell and many did not survive*".....

Ron joined the Reserve Fleet at Sheerness and was drafted to the Aircraft Carrier HMS Theseus. Following a tour of Australia and New Zealand they returned to Hong Kong but with Fleet reductions, Theseus was sent home and Ron was drafted to HMS Alacrity on the China Station. There was trouble in China and Malaya with the Communist advance, so it meant they went up and down the Yangtze to Shanghai and Nanking in bitter cold, and then to Malaya where the temperature was in the 90s. The Korean War had just started and Alacrity did patrols off the Korean coast, and then after two and a half years in the Far East it was back to England.

Ron then served on HMS King George V followed by the Duke of York. During the Suez Crisis Royal Navy servicemen were forced to complete an extra 18 months extension to their service and Ron was drafted to Collingwood which he enjoyed. He wanted to transfer to the Royal Marines but was turned down as he was told a naval rating could not join the Marines, so on the 13th September 1952 he left the Royal Navy after 10 years' service.

Ron was awarded the 1939-1945 Star, Atlantic Star, France and Germany Star, Arctic Medal and Star, Pacific Star, War Medal, The Naval General Service Medal (Malaya). He was later awarded The Russian Medal of Ushakov and 3 Russian Commemoration Medals. (He did not claim the Korean Medals). Most recently he was awarded the French Legion d 'Honneur. The photo below shows Ron being presented with the medal by Cdr Craig Moran RN.



Ron didn't fancy civilian life, so he decided to join the Army, and completed his basic training at the Tower of London which was the Royal Fusiliers' Depot and was promoted to Lance Corporal being made a training instructor. He was told he could not go to Korea with the RF but was promoted Full Corporal and took the draft to Kabrit in the Canal Zone, as advance party for the Battalion that was leaving Korea. Ron joined "A" Company as a Platoon Commander - the platoon's duty was to protect the water filtration points from intruders around the Suez Canal. After several months, the Battalion was sent to Khartoum in the Sudan. Ron took a Regimental Signals course and found himself made Signal Platoon Sergeant after just completing the course. Ron was also the Company Physical Training Instructor. The Battalion returned to the UK in May 1955 and were based at Dover Barracks. Ron was on a 22-year contract with a 6-month option to leave. He decided he had had enough so he took his

discharge in September 1955 and was awarded the Army General Service Medal (Suez) to accompany his Naval one. Ron served three years in the Army.

Ron met and married Pam in 1957 and together they had 3 Daughters; 10 Grandchildren; 12 Great-Grandchildren and one Great-Great-Grandchild at the last count. He worked with the Sperry Gyroscope Company at Brentford then at Ferranti in Bracknell for 24 years. In 1996 Ron joined the local Sea Cadets Unit and served for 8 years as an Instructor. He also joined the Bracknell Branch of the Royal Naval Association where he served as Secretary for four years and has been a loyal supporter up to recent times.

Ron's funeral (including the Branch White Ensign and Branch Standard) was held on Wednesday 19th August at 1430 at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, Wokingham.

Fair Winds and Calm Waters, Shipmate. You will be greatly missed.

David Thompson - City of Glasgow Branch

City of Glasgow are sad to inform Shipmates that member David Thomson has crossed the bar Aged 71.

S/M David joined the RN in 1965 and served until 1972 leaving in the rank of Leading Aircraft Handler. During his naval career he served in HMS Culdrose and then a series of flat-tops including; Albion, Eagle, Centaur, Hermes and finally Bulwark.

A member of the City of Glasgow RNA he was also the Chairman of Cambuslang British Legion and founding member and past chairman of Cambuslang Remembrance Garden Group.

He will be missed by all.

Bob Stevens – RNA Warwick Branch

Lieutenant Commander Robert Stevens Royal Navy (Rtd) crossed the bar on 31 July 2020,

Known as Bob. He was born in Windsor on 28 January 1941 and joined the Royal Navy as a cadet in May 1959 at Dartmouth. He trained as a Marine Engineering Officer, *seeing service around the world in HM Ships: Blake; Eagle; Bulwark; and Gurkha and saw active service in the Cod Wars.*

Bob left the Royal Navy in December 1979 at Rosyth and was offered the position of Plant Manager at Keller Foundations at Ryton, Coventry. He moved to Long Itchington and lived in Warwickshire for around forty years. Subsequently working for Peter Frankael (BMT) a firm of Maritime consultants based in London and at Tile Hill college in Coventry as their Estates Manager.

Bob worked tirelessly for Warwickshire and the Armed Forces community. Initially he was elected as a District Councillor in 1992 and then as a County Councillor in 2007, holding the position of Chair of the County Council in 2015.

He was President of Warwickshire Royal British Legion and Chairman of the Southam Branch. He was also Chairman of the Armed Forces Covenant Committee for Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire.



As President of Warwick RNA Bob was at the heart of the Branch, present, unfailingly, at formal meetings and social events, where he was a great raconteur. He welcomed every new member and supported us all with charm, warmth and kindness and will be hugely missed.

R.I.P Bob.

Ted King - Plymouth Branch

Plymouth Branch are hugely saddened at the loss of our much loved and respected Shipmate, Full Life Member, Edward 'Ted' King, Royal Naval Gunner, WW2 Veteran who crossed the bar on 26 August 2020.

Ted, during WW2 served worldwide on Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships as a Gunner (DEMS), his service included the Battle of the Atlantic, the Mediterranean Convoys, The Pacific Theatre and The Indian Ocean/ South China Sea and the work continued in the East long after VJ Day.

S/M Ted, remarkably was a founder Member of the RNA Branches of both Battersea in London and Terrevieja in Spain before he settled in Plymouth, he was also a Veteran Member of the WO's & SR's Mess HMS DRAKE. Ted was a very active Member of both the Branch and Mess and was particularly dutiful in ensuring he attended all Naval Memorial Services within the City. - Rest in Peace Shipmate.

Eddie Commander – Plymouth Branch

In early August Plymouth Branch learned that, sadly, our much-respected Shipmate Eddie Commander ex Seaman (RP), WW2 Veteran, had crossed the bar. Poor health had prevented S/M Eddie attending Branch Functions over the past few years, though the Branch Welfare Officer maintained contact throughout, keeping the Branch Membership updated.

Eddie, served aboard the light cruiser HMS DIDO during the WW2, the ship's Battle Honours are: - Crete 1941, Sirte 1942, Malta Convoy 1942, Sicily 1943, Salerno 1943, Aegean 1943, Anzio 1944, South France 1944, Arctic 1944.

Eddie was also a Member of the HMS DIDO Association. The light Cruiser was the ship on which he served on Arctic Convoys. Eddie was many years later presented his Ushakov Arctic medal by the Russian Ambassador to the UK. - Rest in Peace Shipmate.

Frank Taylor - City of Glasgow

Shipmate Frank Taylor born on the 7th Aug 1936 sadly crossed the bar on the 18th Aug 2020.,

S/M Frank started work in the shipyards as an apprentice electrician and was called up for 2 years national service on Mine Sweepers before returning to the ship yards.

He then joined the reserves and served 35 years in Clyde RNR, Glasgow reaching the rank of CPOEM. He was a member of the City of Glasgow RNA and will be greatly missed.

UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

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

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



- RNA member entry just £10 plus four guest at £10 each provides access to the all attractions including the Submarine Museum, RM Museum and Explosion!.

Legal Services



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

Breakdown Service



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



Organisers of Reunions should be aware the CONA Travel will match or better any other 'like for like' Reunion/Group Trips bookings so why not give them an opportunity to impress you.
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The 'Shortcast' Editors Note

Due to the current Coronavirus situation Shipmates should contact the individual Association to ensure that the reunion is still going ahead.

Note from the CONA (Conference of Naval Associations) Secretary -

I would be very grateful if organisers of reunions would oblige me by obtaining a quote from the CONA Travel Service, who will not be beaten on like for like price. CONA Travel Service donate 1% of their CONA business back into the Conference totalling to date £2,700 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh, and by the way, their service is first class as well.

	Please check go to link for RN Shipmates.co.uk for a comprehensive list of further reunions. www.rnshipmates.co.uk		
Fri 4th Sep 2020	H.M.S. Diana Association	Hallmark Hotel Derby	
Fri 18th Sep 2020	HMS Ark Royal IV Communicators	Weymouth	Contact
Fri 25th Sep 2020	H.M.S. Arethusa	Novotel Hotel Newcastle	Contact
Fri 25th Sep 2020	Royal Navy Electrical Weapon Engineering Branch Association	Risboro Hotel Llandudno	
Fri 25th Sep 2020	H.M.S. Tiger Association	St Pierre Hotel, Wakefield WF2 6QG	
Fri 2nd Oct 2020	HMS Lowestoft Association	Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea	Contact
Fri 2nd Oct 2020	H.M.S. Troubridge Last Commission 1966 - 69	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea	Contact
Fri 23rd Oct 2020	Undaunted / Eagle / Yarmouth - Open to RN	Hallmark Hotel: Derby	Contact

5/9 Oct 2020	<p>The HMS LOCH FADA ASSOCIATION F390 will hold their 23rd Annual Reunion & AGM @ the Royal Beach Hotel Southsea from 5th to 9th October 2020. This will be our 4th 4 Day Reunion after the great successes of our 1st Three.</p> <p>Friday venture into Pompey (Under own Steam) Saturday 1030 AGM & 1830 Reunion Dinner (Black Tot day being Mourned by the Issue of Real Pussers Rum) in the Company of our Special Guests The Lord Mayor & Escort of Eastleigh (our Warship week Town).</p> <p>Sunday Mystery coach tour (towards Southampton).</p> <p>All Bookings & Arrangements are being made by Isle of Wight Tours email iowtours.com or telecom 01983 405116, or F390.sec@virginmedia.com or Snailmail F390 Sec, 91 Ayling Lane, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3ND. Telecom 01252 310767</p>	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
31 Oct 2020	<p>Please Note date Change.....</p> <p>BRNC Entry September 1980 40th Anniversary reunion dinner, BRNC Dartmouth, Saturday 27 MARCH 2021. Details available from Cdr N J 'Nobby' Hall neil.hall324@mod.gov.uk</p>	BRNC Dartmouth
2021		
7/10 May	<p>The HMS Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association will hold their 42nd Annual Reunion & AGM at the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea from 7th to 10th May 2021.</p> <p>Please contact Secretary Denis Askham for more details. askhamd3@gmail.com</p>	Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association

Swinging the Lamp – September 2020

The RNA is grateful to the Author, Lt Cdr Lawrie Phillips TD, RD, RNR for allowing us to publish a selection from the RN Day by Day. If you would like to read more it can be purchased from - The History Press and is priced £60 ISBN 978 0 7509 8266 5



Date	Year	Entry
1st	1836	Rum withdrawn from accompanying women and children who became entitled to tea and sugar in lieu.
2 nd	1950	Lt-Cdr HRH The Duke of Edinburgh RN took command of the sloop Magpie in the Second Frigate Squadron based at Malta. The ship had served in Walker's Second escort Group in the Battle of the Atlantic.
3 rd	1942	Having safely delivered the damaged battleship Queen Elizabeth to the eastern seaboard of the USA, the destroyers Pathfinder, Quentin

		and Vimy were attacked by, and sank, U-162 off Trinidad. The German CO, Fregattenkapitan Jurgen Wattenburg, had been an officer in Graf Spee. He escaped internment in Argentina, returned to Germany and trained as a submariner. As a POW in Arizona, he again escaped for thirty-six days.
4 th	1964	Frigate Lowestoft, Cdr M.W.G. Fawcett RN, part of a RN squadron assembled for the opening that day of the Forth Road Bridge, collided with the anchored cruiser Lion, Home Fleet flagship, near the bridge while moving downstream in poor visibility. No reprimanded at Portsmouth court martial on Trafalgar Day.
5 th	1972	Second Cod War. First use of the Icelandic Coastguard's warp cutter, when Aegir cut the nets of the Hull trawler Peter Scott.
6 th	1776	Turtle (first American submarine) attacked Howe's flagship (Eagle) in New York harbour: perhaps the first recorded submarine attack.
7 th	1939	The Price of Admiralty. 'Deaths at sea. Administrative arrangements may not provide for any large number of bodies brought into port for burial. For that reason, Captains of HM ships are recommended, when time permits, to arrange for the bodies of officers and men killed in action or dying at sea as a result of wounds to be buried at sea, unless the ship is very close to the port to which she is proceeding.' – AFO 2516a/39.
8 th	1656	Speaker and two consorts captured six out of eight Spanish ships of the Plate fleet off Cadiz.
9 th	1935	First landing of a Service rotary-wing aircraft on one of HM ships: a Cierva C30A autogyro, K4230, on Furious by Wg-Cdr Brie.
10 th	1990	Revd Caroline Eglin (nee Pullman) commissioned. The first female Chaplain to enter the RN.
11 th	1793	Nelson (Agamemnon) first met Lady Hamilton, at Naples.
12 th	1944	Furious and Trumpeter, escorted by Devonshire and six destroyers of 26th DF, laid mines in Aramsund Channel: one German escort vessel sunk. Operation Begonia. FAA Sqns: 801, 808, 827, 830 (Furious – Seafire, Barracuda); 846, 852 (Trumpeter – Avenger). The last Home Fleet operation in which Furious took part before reducing to reserve.
13 th	1914	E 9, Lt-Cdr Max Horton, sank German cruiser Hela S.W. of Heligoland. DSO. First RN submarine commander to sink an enemy warship. Returned to Harwich flying Jolly Roger and so established traditional signal for a successful patrol.
14 th	1805	Vice-Admiral Viscount Nelson embarked in Victory at Portsmouth for the last time, having by his own reckoning been absent from her for only twenty-five days 'from dinner to dinner' since 18 March 1803. The ship sailed next morning

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



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

WWII Membership Offer to Shipmates.

The National Council has approved the following RNA Membership Benefits to WWII Veterans in recognition of their Service to the Country with effect from 15th August 2020.

- NON RNA WWII Royal Navy Veterans are to be offered FREE Membership of the RNA. (Please send an application form to Central Office indicating their status and annotate their entry on the new database for next year's submission)
- RNA WWII Veterans who are FULL Members with under 10 years continuous Membership will no longer be required to pay the Association Annual Subscription from 1st January 2021. (Please annotate their entry on the new database for next year's submission as exempt for subscriptions.)
- RNA WWII Veterans who are FULL Members with over 10 years continuous Membership will be invited to accept LIFE Membership without cost to their Branch. Please send completed applications to Central Office for processing.

Application form

Life Membership is requested for (full name) Being an RNA
WWII Veteran who is a FULL Member with over 10 years continuous Membership of the
..... Branch.

Application form

Life Membership is requested for (full name)Being an RNA
WWII Veteran who is a FULL Member with over 10 years continuous Membership of the
..... Branch.

This/these applications are submitted by

On behalf of the Branch of the RNA

Please return the Certificates to me at the following address.

.....
.....

Post Code.....

Send applications to RNA Central Office Bld 1/087 Scott Road, H M Naval Base Portsmouth PO1 3LU.

2021 Diaries

The 2021 diary will be available as the diary part only, price - £5.

Diary with the NEW dark blue crested cover and address book, price - £8

This year the address book is also available too. – free, just ask for one!

Orders should be sent to the address below and accompanied either by a cheque or card details.

To: Royal Naval Association,
Bld 1/087 Scott Road
HM Naval Base
Portsmouth
PO1 3LU

Order form

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Please provide **2021 RNA insert Diaries @£5.00**each £

Please provide **2021 Diaries with Cover @£8.00**each £

Please provide **Address Book inserts @ £1.00** each £

TOTAL £.....

Deliver the order to S/M.....

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Find enclosed a cheque to the value of - £made out to The Royal Naval Association

Or charge to my Credit Card/Debit Card; the details of which are:

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