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The Semaphore Circular

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The Beating Heart of the RNA

November 2021



Newly crowned 2021 World Uckers Champions 'The Ludo Two'! Bob and Sara 'I never played Uckers before' Field. Sara is the Members Support Manager in Central Office and Bob works for RNRMC. The photo shows them receiving their winners' prizes from RNA General Secretary, Bill Oliphant and Steve Dingley who was representing the sponsors Pussers Rum.

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

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



Staff photo (L – R) Sara Field, Kathryn Brindley, Lynda Pearson, Malcolm Little,

Andy Christie, Charlie Darlington and General Secretary Bill Oliphant.

Missing on this occasion was Mike Gray.

Stood Down since photo was taken..... Nigel Huxtable and Julie Royston.

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

1. [Naval Associations Biennial Parade](#)
2. [Legion D'Honour](#)
3. [AMC Visit to RNA Cleethorpes](#)
4. [Assistance Please – HMS Mars Project](#)
5. [2021 World Uckers Championship](#)
6. [Monday Fireside Chats Programme](#)
7. [Unveiling of the Lisbon Maru Memorial](#)
8. [RNA Falklands 40th Commemorations](#)
9. [Armed Forces Covenant Review Report](#)
10. [Lazy Day at Sea – HMS Falmouth F113](#)
11. [Jack Speak](#)
12. [German Ship Clock](#)
13. [Tom Palmer Book](#)
14. [Remembrance Poem](#)
15. [Away Sea Boat Book – Capt Malins](#)

Glossary of terms

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

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Snail Mail – Postal Address

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

From the General Secretary

Dear Shipmates,

I was just reflecting on how what a lucky man I am. As I sit penning this note in Central Office here in Portsmouth Naval Base, I can hear the strains of *I vow to Thee my Country* wafting in the window courtesy of the RM Band. Always a treat to hear them play and today's occasion is the ceremony on *HMS Victory* to install Admiral Sir Ben Key as our new First Sea Lord. Sir, heartiest congrats on your appointment from all at the RNA, we wish you very best wishes and we stand ready, as ever, to support the serving Royal Navy wherever and whenever we can. Sir Ben relieves Admiral Tony Radakin who moves up in the bed as Chief of Defence Staff which is also excellent to see.



Admiral Sir Ben Key, First Sea Lord

Well, I thought things were going to calm down a little bit after Conference and the Biennial Parade but that has certainly not happened and it's all good. The fact that we are busy in Central Office on all fronts is testament to the energy which surrounds the Association at the moment. Having just submitted an impact statement to RNRMC in respect of membership numbers, I can report that we are a smidgen short of 12500 members as at last week. That's a 25% increase in numbers since the start of the year.

I'm also encouraged by feedback from Branches who are recognising that we are a Welfare organisation as well as a social group. We always have been of course, but Covid has made us realise that we can and ought to do more in that space. The Sparko initiative, to use TV sets to reach those elderly in our community who are not conversant with the digital age, is gaining real traction and we now have over 75 beneficiaries connected as part of the programme. That's 75 individuals we have helped to combat loneliness.

Meanwhile, our fabulous Julie Royston is stepping back from the Project Semaphore programme after being involved with the Project since it's early days and managing it for the last two years – thank you Jules for your humanity and support. We will all undoubtedly miss you. The Project survives though and still has legs so if you know of anyone over 70 who might benefit from an iPad and coaching on how to use it, please contact Lynda in Central Office for now. We will be recruiting behind Julie though to keep this great project running.

This leads me onto Sarah Clewes who, you will recall was the original architect of Project Semaphore, and has just been appointed as the interim Chief Executive of the Naval Families Federation. Heartiest congrats Sarah and we look forward to working ever more closely with the NFF to support our wider Naval Family.

I have good news from *Raleigh* too where we hope to start our RNA recruitment programme with both New Entrants and, on Passing Out Parade days, their families too. There's an amazing statistic that nearly 35% of new entrants come from some sort of naval stock so we aim to capitalise on that when they are at the Parade. And, of course, with their sons and daughters Passing Out, those who were not previously part of the Naval Family, are now!



S/m Lorna Cockayne with her Legion d'Honneur

There are some great articles in this month's edition as October has been another really busy month peppered with at lots of events which are described in greater detail in these pages. I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to visit Christchurch Branch and be there for S/m Lorna Cockayne's presentation of the Legion d'Honneur by Cdre Jude Terry. It was very moving and Lorna is just the most humble lovely lady.

Thank you to the Ryde Branch for inviting me to their Trafalgar Night dinner a couple of weekends back. What a good crowd you have there. I'd hot footed it across the Solent after the World Uckers Championships where I regret to report S/m Christie and I didn't even get beyond the first round!

But well done, Sara and Bob Field who went on to become winners later that afternoon. Sara and Bob are seen here with the defeated finalists who certainly get the 1st Prize for their outfits – BZ to all concerned and I hope that this is the start of something bigger in our annual calendar. Sara looks a little sheepish in this photo....maybe it's because her husband Bob had to remind her of the Uckers rules the night before! Anyway, it's rather nice to have a World Champion in our midst.



Finally, Christmas cards and 2022 Diaries are in – call Sara to order 02392 723747.

Best wishes,

Bill Oliphant

Chairman's chat

As I get underway, first of all on behalf of the Membership I must congratulate our former National President S/M Vice Admiral John McAnally on being appointed a Vice Patron of our Association by the National Council. This reflects the high esteem in which we regard our former National Presidents for their time and commitment to the Association.

Our new National President S/m Vice Admiral Duncan Potts is now onboard and easing his way around. He has our full support, and we look forward to him visiting our Areas & Branches in due course.

Here we are again with Santa on the horizon and his little helpers working overtime. Whereas the year gone? Speaking for the Central Office Team, who have not been sitting around drinking coffee and tea, stuffing themselves with biscuits, I must thank them for the excess work and effort they have all put in so far this year. Like all of us Covid certainly presented a challenge, but the team rose to it and stuck at it putting in long hours and exceeding those that they are contracted to work. Well done the 'A Team'



S/M Keith lays a wreath on behalf of the RNA at the unveiling of the Lisbon Maru Memorial at the National Arboretum.

A big thank you to all those Areas, Branches and individual Shipmates for your generous donations to Operation ULTRA in contributing to our former National President Admiral John and Nigel Huxtable's farewell gifts. Each was presented at National Conference with a cheque for a substantial sum. I guess Admiral John went off on bought his own Golf Ball Factory and Nigel something in the Photographic world.

In addition to this year's National Conference weekend, it was an outstanding Reunion and the opportunity for us all to meet numerous Shipmates who since March 2020 had only met virtually either on the Zoom Fireside Chats or RNA Wrexham Branch's very successful Saturday night Virtual Tot Times. I cannot praise Wrexham Shipwrecks enough for reaching out to the many isolated Association Members, BZ. Participants of the latter please note, there will not be any reimbursement for the copious amounts of Rum you consumed over the period and the evenings to come, as the Rum issue ceased on 31st July 1970. No drips please. A big thank you goes to S/M's Tom & his wife Lynda Rotherham who not only organised the Conference Gala Meal Raffle but provided hospitality at the Nottingham RNA Club. This Club is a little Gem and well worth a visit if you or your Branch is visiting Nottingham. I also wish to thank Nottingham City Council for the £60 Fixed Penalty Notice when I explored their wonderful complex one-way traffic dedicated Bus & Tram Lanes. I sent in an Appeal along with some wet tissues but alas, no luck. Following on from Conference was the Naval Associations Biennial Parade at the Cenotaph and I would like to thank all S/M's and the various Ship's Associations that supported it.

On 14th October Bill Oliphant & myself were invited to a meet of RNA Lee on the Solent & Stubbington Branch to present Life Membership and a Certificate to two long serving Shipmates who were both surprised and stunned at their awards for dedicated service to their Branch. The Branch Chairman's (Andy Christie) admin left a lot to be desired when he convinced Bill & myself

that the last Ferry back to Pompey was not 1050 but 1150. Belated thanks Andy for the lift back to the Ferry. As you disappeared so did the last Ferry which had sailed at 1050 – never trust a Pusser! As Bill and I started stripping off to swim across the harbour this nice gentleman stepped forward to apprise us of his Water Taxi Service – Phew.

On 21st October my wife and I attended RNA Selsey Branch's Trafalgar Night Dinner which was a most memorable evening, more so because I actually won a draw prize - a bottle of..... Ladies Eau de Cologne. This was followed the following evening by a Trafalgar Night Dinner in the Wardroom of HMS NELSON hosted by Portsmouth United Services Rugby Club. If you want to meet up with S/M's from countrywide simply visit Portsmouth at Trafalgar Night Dinners time as either S/M's are visiting their 1800's first draft on HMS VICTORY or attending a Trafalgar Night Dinner. On this visit I bumped into Shipwrecks from Wrexham, Rayleigh, Salisbury, Hinckley and Aldershot just to name a few along with many more familiar faces all of which it was a pleasure to meet.

Hopefully, Shipmates are taking advantage of the Covid Booster Jab along with the Flu Jab and like myself being a young 70+ year old, a Pneumonia Jab. I thought I was still in the Navy about to be deployed. It is pleasing to learn that Covid restrictions although eased, Branches are beginning to hold physical meetings. However, we must respect those members who may feel it is too soon to be attending Branch meetings. Stay alert, respect others as the invisible enemy is still out there.

I read a comment on Facebook which read "Do our Navy Ships go to sea now? " I am not sure where that person has been hiding, he certainly does not keep up to date with Naval Shipping movements, and deployments. The answer is a definite YES, and with Sunday sailings too! The fleet may be smaller, but our Fleet is out at sea, and worldwide. During my recent visits to Pompey, I have witnessed several of our Ships coming and going on Saturdays and Sundays. It is pleasing to see our Navy doing more and more Sea Time.

New membership continues to increase at a pace, and I will leave it to Bill Oliphant in his chat to bring you up to date with startling figures. Well done Bill and his Central Office Team, in particular Sara Field who has taken the Watch over from Nigel Huxtable as Membership Secretary. Sara is now processing 13.9 new applications per day in addition to her other work.

UCKERS News has already hit the decks on the outcome of the RNA World Uckers Championship held on 23rd October. Our very own S/M Sara Field of Central Office and her husband Bob lifted the title blowing away S/M Wally Blagden the former title holder and everyone else in their way. In her interview with the worlds press and TV Sara admitted never having played Uckers before having spent 24 years in the Royal Navy, Bob who also served declined to comment. I found it hard to believe that Sara who left the Navy as a CPO(Wtr), and we all know they always hid away onboard Ship to avoid work, had never played Uckers. Building work to widen the Central Office Doorway was immediately put in hand on Monday 25th October. Well done Sara & Bob. Can somebody tell my wife that Uckers is not just simply a game of Ludo even if we did get knocked out by a Fareham Team in the first round. It will be great to see more teams enter next year and it will certainly create an administrative nightmare for Wally Blagden and Andy Christie. Well done you two for the time taken to organise this fun event.

On a sad note, in late September and late October we said farewell to National Council Member S/m Jim Hammond of No 5 Area, and Chairman of RNA Rayleigh Branch, along with former NCM of No 5 Area S/m Ken Wright who had also been a past Chairman of RNA Brentwood who both Crossed the Bar. Both gave outstanding Service to the Association, their Area and Branches over the years – may they have reached their desired haven.

Well Shipmates, time to go on Watch so I will sign off.

To all serving Shipmates including reservists, who are out there maintaining the peace and keeping the sea passages open keep up the good work. To all Shipmates and your families in the UK and throughout the world keep safe. For those at sea, a safe return. Stay safe everyone, we will overcome Covid.

Yours aye

Keith Ridley

nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com

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

Shipmates from the Royal Navy, RNA and partner Naval Veteran Charities mustered in King Charles Street, just off Whitehall, on a bright sunny morning to enjoy a very successful Naval Association Parade on Sunday 12 September 2021.



Led by the Collingwood Royal Marine Band and platoons from HMS Collingwood and HMS Sultan over four hundred Shipmates paraded in Whitehall along with over 60 Standards including National Standards from across the wider Naval family. The parade commenced with a march onto Whitehall 'falling in' around the Cenotaph, which is in its centenary year, for a service conducted by the Chaplain of the Fleet the Venerable Andrew Hillier.

Following the service, the Parade, led by the 'Bootie' Band marched past the Women at War memorial, as there was no chance to recognise the 100th anniversary of the Association of Wrens last year due to the Covid crisis.

Rear Admiral Phil Hally CB MBE, ACNS led the VIP review party along with the National President, Vice Admiral Duncan Potts CB and Naval Regional Commander for South and Eastern England, Commodore Bob Belfield Royal Navy and took the salute on the Cenotaph.



On completion of the parade everyone attended a reception at the Civil Service Club in Great Scotland Yard which enable both the RN trainees and Shipmates to enjoy each other's company and experience the 'dit spinning' abilities of wider naval family with much laughter in such an auspicious occasion.



(Acknowledgement - Pictures Courtesy Nigel Huxtable)

2. ★ Legion d' Honour Presentation – Shipmate Lorna Cockayne

Christchurch Branch member S/M Lorna Cockayne was presented with a Legion d' honour by Commodore Jude Terry OBE Royal Navy at a ceremony recently.

It was only appropriate the Cdre Jude, who will become the highest ever ranked female in the RN early next year when she is promoted to Rear Admiral should present the Legion d' honour to S/M Lorna.

Lorna who is 96 years old and served in the WRNS during WW11 was recognised for the work she did at Bletchley Park on the Colossus computer in the famous 'C' Watch. Lorna was also instrumental in setting up RNA Christchurch and is also an RNA Life Member and has been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation.



Lorna was a WREN from 1943/4 to 1946 when she was demobbed like most other service personnel. Her first postings were Scotland Portland and Exeter then possibly the most important posting was to Bletchley Park. Arriving with no training the Wrens were given duties and were trained in their jobs by other Wrens. Lorna was on C watch. There were four watches which worked 8 hour shifts which changed with only a few days off per month.

BZ Lorna on your thoroughly deserving award of the Legion d' Honour.

(Acknowledgement – Wrens Watch C photo courtesy of Geoff Robinson)

3. ★ AMC to visit Cleethorpes

The AMC (Association Management Committee) along with the FAC (Finance and Administration Committee) report to the National Council. Members of the FAC and AMC are National Council Members selected from the NC. The AMC also consults a number of national advisors who are experts in their chosen subjects -

- Chairman Governance Committee/ SOC (Standing Orders Committee)
- National Welfare Advisor
- Branch Recruitment and Retention Advisor
- National Events Advisor
- HMS Raleigh Mentors Advisor

This month's AMC is 'going on the road' and will hold its November gathering, 12/13 November in the Cleethorpes RNA Club with the aim being for Shipmates to have an opportunity to witness the meetings in progress and ask questions. As the National Chairman says "this is a great chance to observe and engage with RNA democracy in action."

4. ★ RNA Cork and County Branch - Assistance Please - HMS Mars Project

Shipmates RNA Cork and County Branch would appreciate your assistance and are appealing for funds to enable them to refurbish the HMS Mars Memorial to coincide with the anniversary of the tragic accident 120 years ago..

Very tragically twelve Royal Navy sailors were killed when a gun exploded on HMS Mars during gun practice off the coast of Ireland on the 14th of April 1902. Two of the casualties were buried at sea, one of the sailors was repatriated to the south of England and the remaining nine of the sailors are buried in Cobh, County Cork.

As you can imagine, the intervening years have taken their toll on the headstones and professional help is required to refurbish them. As this disaster occurred during training and was pre-war, none of the statutory bodies will consider grant aid towards the refurbishment.



The actual cost of refurbishing the headstones is in the region of €2,500 and it is beyond the small local Branch to cover it. Any assistance with this very worthwhile project would be greatly appreciated by the shipmates of Cork & County Branch.

Donations can be sent by cheque direct to RNA Central Office marked for the HMS Mars Project. Or direct into the RNA Bank Account Sort Code 60-05-14 Acc No 29671612 again ensure you annotate for HMS Mars Project on the payment.

5. ★ World Uckers Championships 2021 – Update

Shipmates enjoyed a super day of fun and competition at the World Uckers Championships which were held in Portsmouth Naval Base on Saturday 23 October 2021.

Teams from all over the UK descended on the 'Uckers Parlour Marquee' sited in HMS Victory Arena Port Side. The Naval Base Commander, Commodore JJ Bailey Royal Navy, kindly

formally welcomed the players and their supporters before throwing the opening dice, sadly not 'Snake Eyes' on that occasion.

Players had travelled as far a field as Bluith Wells in Welsh Wales to Birmingham and further north. Play proceeded all day until the final parings sat down to do battle in front of a crowded Marquee.

Unbelievably the aptly named 'Ludo Two' featuring Sara 'I've never played before – Honest' Field, who is the RNA Membership Support Officer (RNA Legend Nigel Huxtables relief) and her husband Bob Field who is employed by the RNRMC arrived in the final to play the HMS Pickle Pusser Pirates, Les Heyhoe and Steve 'Sherbie' Barrett.



After a tense battle Sara and Bob came out on top and have been declared the 2021 World Uckers Champions.

Here' a list of some of the team names so you can plan what your team is going to be called when you enter it in next year's competition.

Bluith Wells A + B

3rd Time Lucky

The Salop 6 Throwers

Two Sue's

Dockies 2

It Flies It Dies

The Bushmen

The Coxless Pairs

The Rumsmiths

Heermi 1.74

Ludo Two

The Barnacle Boys

Dit On

Init2winit

Timbershifters

History Hooligans

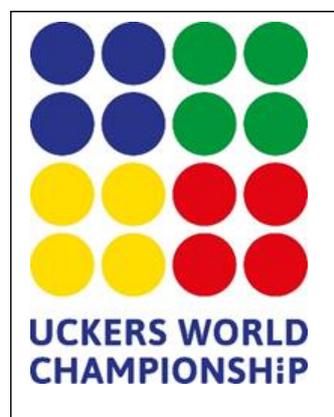
Green Machine

The Two Billies

Chip n Ern

HMS Pickle Pussers Pirates

Dynamic Duo



A prize giving was held on completion and RNA General Secretary, Bill Oliphant acknowledged that without input from so many the competition would not have been such a success, but did want to highlight a few folk for their contribution-

Wally Blagden – Uckers Legend

Andy Christie for organising the venue and trouble-shooter

Steve Moffat - Uckers Board Guru

Bob Field – Raffle

Steve Dingly – Pussers Sponsor

For information the Uckers Raffle 1st Prize 5Lt Rum Barrel and 6Bottles of Pussers Rum to fill it was won by xxxxxxxxxx, the 15 year old bottle of Pussers was won by Dave Morris, landlord of the Chip n Ern Bingley West Yorks. (£110 to RNRM Charity)

Finally, Wally (is still sulking after the loss of his World Championship) as Tournament Secretary,

Wanted to advise that all the issues raised by contestants concerning play at this years competition will be addressed before the 2022 competition.

- Coaching/team talk will be allowed and will be in next year's rules
- If you take your fingers off the piece you are moving, you cannot change your mind, and play carries on to the next player, unless of course a six had been thrown and more moves can be made, This will also be made clear in next year's rules
- If you are in a mixy, with your partner, say red and yellow (red on top of yellow) and it's yellow's turn, and he throws a number which enables him to move forward, the fact that his partner's red piece is on top of his, does not prevent this movement.
- I would like to hear any more comments please, so we can ensure the rules become 'crystal clear' for next year @ uckersworldchamp2021@gmail.com

Shipmates start practising for next year it really was great fun perhaps we should give consideration to a 'Crib' Competition to run alongside the Uckers 15 -2 that B*****

6. ★ Monday Evening Fireside Chats

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

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

Date	Presenter	Subject
Monday 08 Nov	David Griggs	
Monday 15 Nov	Alan Gregory	CWGC (Commonwealth War Graves Commission)
Monday 22 Nov	Anthony Moth	Leander Class Frigates
Monday 29 Nov	Nigel Huxtable	Career Highlights
Monday 06 Dec	Richard Jones	The sinking of HMS PoW and HMS Repulse

Monday 13 Dec	Matron Dodds	Confessions of a Health Professional
2022		
Monday 03 Jan	Angus Konstam	The Golden Age of Piracy
Monday 10 Jan	Duncan Potts	Counter-Piracy
Monday 17 Jan	Adrian Bell	RNRMC
Monday 24 Jan		Burns Night
Monday 31 Jan	John Bolt	Royal Marines History

7. ★ Lisbon Maru Memorial Unveiling – National Memorial Arboretum

On 3 October, over 650 people attended a service at the National Memorial Arboretum, in Staffordshire, to remember the 828 prisoners of war (POWs) who perished during the *Lisbon Maru* incident of 2 October 1942. During the service, a new memorial was unveiled by Vice Admiral John McAnally CB LVO, Vice Patron of The Royal Naval Association, when he said: “These men did not die in vain. Not only did the great gallantry of many individuals save the lives of their comrades but also they like all who fought in the Far East in World War 2 contributed to development of the Japan we see today: a bastion of democracy in Asia and a country who has resumed her historic relationship of friendship with the United Kingdom.”



The *Lisbon Maru* was a Japanese freighter requisitioned as a troop transporter. Armed fore and aft, it set sail from Hong Kong in late September 1942 carrying nearly 800 troops. It also carried 1,816 British POWs to be taken to Japan as slave labour, but had no markings to show their presence, and was therefore a legitimate target for allied attack. On the morning of 1 October, it was torpedoed by USS *Grouper*, an American submarine, and holed below the waterline. The Americans were unaware that there were POWs on board. After the torpedo attack the hatches were battened down on the three cargo holds where the POWs were crowded in cramped and squalid conditions, and for the next 24 hours they suffered in hot, airless conditions with no food, water, fresh air or latrines, and dysentery



was rife.

When the POWs realised that their Japanese guards intended for them to go down with the ship and drown, they began to plan their escape. The prisoners managed to break out of the holds just before it sank, but the Japanese troops began firing at them with rifles and machine guns,

killing and wounding dozens. As the POWs jumped into the sea to escape the sinking ship the slaughter continued. The intervention of local Chinese fishermen, who began to rescue men from the water, caused the Japanese to stop the killing. 828 of the prisoners died from gunshot wounds or drowning.

“This terrible event has remained hidden and forgotten for far too long,” said Major (Ret’d) Brian Finch, one of the organisers of the memorial. “The number of descendants who attended the service is a testament to the sense of importance attached to this memorial and the need to ensure that those who suffered and died during the *Lisbon Maru* incident are remembered.”



The service was attended by descendants of those aboard the *Lisbon Maru* and representatives of the Armed Forces and veterans. It was conducted by The Reverend Canon Roger Hall with assistance from The Reverend David Conroy and The Reverend Iain May.

(The photo above is believed to be the only surviving photograph of the sinking of the Lisbon Maru, taken from a Japanese naval ship around 8.00 am on 2 October 1942 (Credit: National Archives))

8. ★ RNA Falklands 40th F40 Anniversary Commemorations and Conference 2022 – Outline programme

Next year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands Campaign and Conference plans are starting to shape up and so we thought Shipmates would appreciate an early ‘Heads Up’ of the programme. Malcolm Little is the RNA point of contact and has provided a guide to the weekend below;

Over the weekend of 17-19 June 2022, the RNA to host an inspiring series of F40 commemoration events, combined with its 2022 Annual Conference & AGM, to ‘**Reunite, Relive, and Remember**’.



Friday – Reunite

Friday sees Special Interest Groups and other Shipmates reuniting for a 1900 Beating Retreat at the steps of the Guildhall, followed by a civic function in the Guildhall for invited Falklands Veterans, and an evening RNA dinner in the HMS Nelson Wardroom, garden marquee for the majority.

Saturday - Relive

Following the AGM, Saturday sensitively relives the Campaign for all attendees, campaign veterans or otherwise, with a number of 'Falklands Forum' keynote speakers. The day will end with a reception in the marquee.

Sunday – Remember

On the Sunday, in Old Portsmouth, those related to the Naval Service are invited to march with their Shipmates with the RNA National, Area and Branch Standards for a 1100 Service of Remembrance at the Falklands monument, followed by the City of Portsmouth unveiling a new memorial, and presenting the RNA, RMA and Falklands Veterans with Freedom of the City scrolls. Commemorations will conclude with a short service, and civic refreshments in Portsmouth Cathedral.

(Acknowledgement – HMS Invincible photo courtesy of Crown Copyright)

9. ★ Armed Forces Covenant Review Report.

Shipmates may be aware that November 2021 marks ten years since the Armed Forces Covenant (AFC) was first enshrined in UK legislation. Together with Poppy Scotland the RBL have marked this significant anniversary with the launch of an independent report reflecting on the AFC's impact on the wellbeing of serving personnel, veterans, and their families. The full report found here: www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/campaigns-policy-and-research/campaigns/the-armed-forces-covenant . It celebrates advancements in outcomes, understanding, funding and services for the Armed Forces community over the past decade, which have been overseen by government at all levels, as well as businesses and voluntary organisations.

Key findings include:

- 90% of the general public agree with the principles of the AFC that no member of the Armed Forces should face disadvantage due to Service and that special consideration is appropriate in certain circumstances, especially for those who have given the most such as the injured and bereaved. However, despite this support only 17% have heard of the Covenant.
- The AFC has provided a framework for charities, policymakers, businesses and the Armed Forces themselves to deliver improvements and address the needs of the AF Community. Whilst more that can be done, research found near universal recognition that the provision of health services to veterans in the NHS has improved substantially since 2011 as a result of the AFC.
- Much progress has been on the first principle of no disadvantage, whereas the second principle of special consideration has had less central Government attention.
- Born out of perceived failures in support for those who sacrificed the most, the AFC has become an enduring success story for the nation. A covenant for the next decade doesn't require fundamental change to its wording or principles to continue successfully, it requires only renewed vigour in communication and a determination to ensure that it meets the needs of all those in the Armed Forces community who need it.

The report also makes 37 recommendations for further strengthening delivery of the Covenant, ensuring that it remains fit for purpose into the next decade. These include:

- Geographical restrictions placed on AFC delivery should be overcome with a desire to support members of the Armed Forces community wherever they reside and face disadvantage or are eligible for special consideration.
- As AFC ownership is a matter for all of government, each UK and devolved department should have a named minister responsible for its department's AFC commitments, and a list published in the Covenant Annual Report.
- The Sec of State for Defence should use the powers in the [Armed Forces Bill](#) 2021 to extend the scope of the new Covenant duty to all public sector bodies including central government.

Thanks to S/M Malcolm Little at Central Office for providing this very interesting article

10. ★ Lazy day at Sea 1979 – HMS Falmouth F113

Shipmates may remember when ships had a few relaxing days at sea. Pictured below is HMS Falmouth on the 13th October 1979 in the Pacific during the Group 8 Deployment to the Far East and Australia, conducting 'Operation Village Fete'.



If you have any other 'Lazy Days at Sea' photos you would like to be published please forward to Admin@royalnavalassoc.com or send photos to Central Office and we will return them straight back to you.

11. ★ Jackspeak

The term 'Gulpers'

A long swallow of an 'oppo's tot. Either repaying some favour owed or repayment of a gambling debt.

Note- that two 'sippers' equal one 'gulpers' in the framework of hospitality!...

The term 'Velcro back'

Someone who is stuck to his/her 'pit' a similar expression to 'canvas back'

The term 'Float Test'

To ditch something overboard.

(Acknowledgement thanks to Jackspeak by Rick Jolly)

12. ★ German Ship Clock Augsburg 1585 – British Museum

Our grateful thanks to Shipmate Ian Cameron for his final contribution as St Neots PRO as he is stepping down from the role. BZ Ian for all your articles over the years on behalf of all RNA Shipmates.

I thought that this remarkable German Ship Clock Augsburg 1585, which is located in the British Museum, would be of interest to S/Ms. (Notice that the guns actually "fire!")

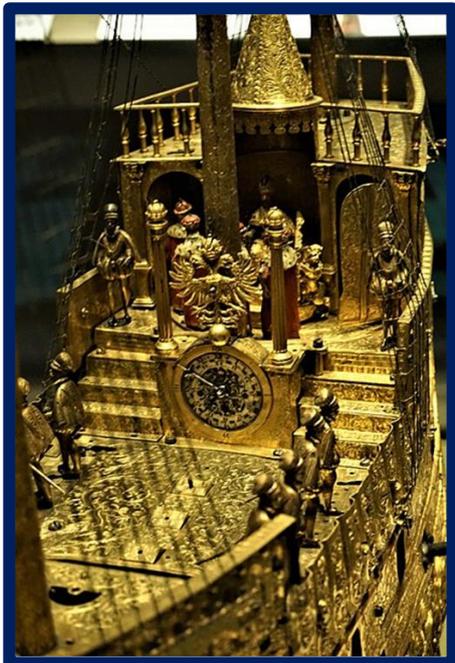
It measures - Height 104 cm, length 78.5 cm, width 20.3 cm (excluding cannons)

"A gilded Ship or Nef, skilfully made, with a quarter and full hour striking clock, which is to be wound every 24 hours. Above are three masts, in the crow's nests of which sailors revolve and strike the quarters and hours with hammers on the bells. Inside, the Holy Roman Emperor sits on the imperial throne, and in front of him pass the seven electors with heralds, paying homage as they receive their fiefs. Furthermore, ten trumpeters and a kettle drummer alternately announce the banquet. Also, a drummer and three guardsmen, and sixteen small cannon, eleven of which may be loaded and fire automatically.

With its protective case, it stands on a long green table- cloth." It has a small clock, showing hours and minutes on a beautiful silver dial with coloured enamel floral motifs.



Sailors wielding hammers in the crow's nests strike the hours and quarters. **The machine was also a magnificent and ingenious automaton designed to announce a banquet by travelling independently along a table.** As it went, a small regal or pipe organ would play a tune and drumsticks would play on a skin stretched across the base of the ship's hull.



While all this was going on, the tops of the fore and mizzen masts would twirl round. As part of the entertainment, the Electors of the Holy Roman Empire, preceded by three heralds, processed and each made a small bow before the Holy Roman Emperor, Rudolf II, seated on a throne beneath a canopy. The ship moved on again accompanied by the music and drumming and as a grand finale to entertain the guests, **it fired the main cannon in the bowsprit, which then ignited a fast-burning fuse that burnt quickly round the hull, firing off the other cannons in turn to finish its performance in a wonder of noise and smoke.**

Hans Schlottheim was born sometime between 1544 and 1547, the son of a clockmaker from Naumburg in Saxony. From as early as 1567 he lived in Augsburg.

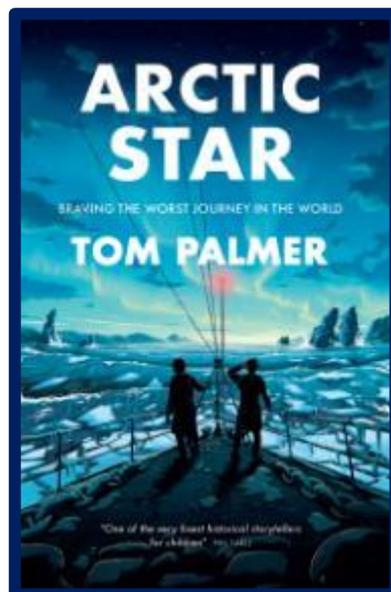
(Acknowledgement - Courtesy to the British Museum)

13. ★ Remembrance Day Film and Book by Tom Palmer

Shipmates may recall that children's author Tom Palmer provided the Monday night Fireside chat recently.

You may be interested to know that has made a Remembrance Day film, at the Arctic Convoys memorial at Liverpool Parish Church as his latest children's book is "Arctic Star" about three young naval recruits braving the Arctic Convoys during the Second World War. Rooted in the real-life story of the Arctic convoys, "Arctic Star" was researched with the support of HMS Belfast, the Imperial War Museum and The Russian Arctic Convoy Museum. There is more about the book and you can watch the film from this webpage <https://tompalmer.co.uk/arctic-star/>

I do hope it will be of interest to the families you know with a naval interest and prove to be an excellent potential Christmas gift!



14. ★ A Remembrance Poem

RNA friend Tim Lewin very kindly forwarded a poem for Remembrance Day which was written by 14 year old Joshua Dyer. Joshua was asked at school to write a poem for Remembrance Day and one hour later this is what he produced.....

'ONE THOUSAND MEN ARE WALKING'

One thousand men are walking
Walking side by side
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide
they walk toward the light milord
they walk towards the sun
they smoke and laugh and smile together
no foes to outrun
these men live on forever
in the hearts of those they saved
a nation truly grateful
for the path of peace they paved
they march as friends and comrades
but they do not march for war
step closer to salvation
a tranquil steady corps
the meadows lit with golden beams
a beacon for the brave
the emerald grass untrampled
Lest we forget.
a reward for what they gave
they dream of those they left behind
and know they dream of them
forever in those poppy fields
there walks one thousand men



Joshua Dyer 2019 (aged 14)

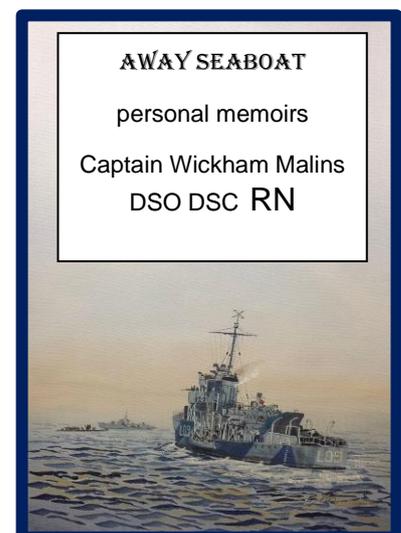
15. ★ 'Away Seaboat' – Book by Captain 'Ticky' CW Malins DSO DSC Royal Navy

Shipmates a book of personal memoirs by Capt CW 'Ticky' Malins DSO DSC RN is being offered to RNA members at the specially reduce bargain price of £5 (inc P&P) and Shipmates abroad for £10.

The book covers Captain Malins naval career from late pre-war to the early Sixties.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy please contact;

tim.lewin@btconnect.com



Gin Lovers.....

Ideal Christmas Gift for GIN LOVERS! Read On.....

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

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

Now on sale at £35 plus £4.50 P&P but if you buy 2 or more, the Postage is free! What an incentive! Please also remember that the RNA receives 10% for each bottle sold, so apart from drinking a very smooth Gin, you are helping the Association! Don't forget to click the button for RNA when you are on the gin website.
[Sea Urchins Navy Strength Gin - Mygin](#)



Branch Insurance

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

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

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

Or PLI Plus

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

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



Pussers

Calling all 'Rum Rats'

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

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

www.pussersrum.com



Forces Cars Direct

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

Offering unique new car discounts with savings up to 35% on a full range of makes and models, you can be sure to find the right car for you! Forces Cars Direct is endorsed with 5-star TrustPilot ratings from its customers, was named Veteran

Business of the Year in the English Veterans Awards, and has support from the Chairman of the Defence Select Committee, so you not only save thousands, but can be assured of the highest level of service too.

With Forces Cars Direct you will also benefit from:

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

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



RNA Slops – RLP Embroidery

WWW.RNASLOPS.CLOTHING

The RNA Officially Licensed supplier of embroidered garments.

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

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

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



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

Just for Groups

Shipmates should be aware that just For Groups, which is a part of the UK Holiday Group return 5% of turnover to the RNA to reinvest in CONA and other programmes.

'Tailor Made' Holidays – for the RNA

Please find below a couple of proposals for your consideration one for a possible self-drive stay in Leatherhead with coach transfers to Chessington World of Adventures and the other for Hampton Court Palace.

Alternative attractions which we could look at with this particular hotel which also might be suitable are RHS Gardens Wisley, Denbies Wine Estate and Thorpe Park



Federation House, Leatherhead

Federation House is located just a short stroll from Leatherhead Town Centre and its train station. The hotel hosts 55 en-suite rooms all with hairdryer, TV, tea/coffee making facilities, safe and a fridge. There are 90 on-site complimentary car parking spaces.

Option 1

Location: Leatherhead

Hotel: Federation House

Date: 23rd– 25th September 2022 (Friday – Sunday)
Price: £199 per adult sharing (or first two occupants of a room)
£149 per child under 16 sharing with 2 adults
Basis: 2 nights' Dinner, bed & breakfast
Supplements: £25 per person per night (£50 total) on single occupancy rooms within allocation below
Excursions: Coach Travel and admission fee for Chessington World of Adventures
Insurance: £25 per person optional extra
Proposed allocation: 5 twin rooms, 5 double rooms, 10 family rooms & 5 single rooms, Total 49 places

Option 2

Location: Leatherhead
Hotel: Federation House
Date: 23rd– 25th September 2022 (Friday – Sunday)
Price: £185 per adult sharing (or first two occupants of a room)
£125 per child under 16 sharing with 2 adults
Basis: 2 nights' Dinner, bed & breakfast
Supplements: £25 per person per night (£50 total) on single occupancy rooms within allocation below
Excursions: Coach Travel and admission fee for Hampton Court Palace
Insurance: £25 per person optional extra
Proposed allocation: 5 twin rooms, 5 double rooms, 10 family rooms & 5 single rooms, Total 49 places

For further information please contact Cheryl.barnard@justforgroups.com or check out www.justforgroups.com or call 01603 886740

RNA Longcast

2021

05 Nov	Budget Meeting
11 Nov	Field of Remembrance
12 Nov	FAC
14 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
13 Nov	AMC Meeting in Cleethorpes
09 Dec	National Council Dines-In National President (VA Potts)
10 Dec	National Council
23 Dec-4 Jan	Central Office Closed
25 Dec	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Boxing Day

2022

05 Feb	Area 5 Meeting - Harwich
11 Feb	AMC/FAC – Zoom
04 Mar	National Council Meeting - Zoom
15 Apr	Easter Monday
30 Apr	Navy v Army Rugby Match – Twickenham
07 May	National Standard Bearers' Competition (Collingwood)
May	AMC/FAC (Collingwood)
07 May	Area 5 Meeting – Stowmarket
20 May	Central Office - Open Day
Jun TBC	HMS Collingwood Field Gun Day
17 Jun	NC meetings
18 Jun	AG/National Conference
19 Jun	Falklands 40 th Anniversary Parade
08 Jul	Central Office - Open Day
Jul – tbc	Covid Commemoration Service - NMA
29 Jul	AMC / FAC – Zoom
06 Aug	Area 5 Meeting – To be advised
12 Aug	Central Office - Open Day
01-04 Sep	Bournemouth Air Days (Christchurch Branch)
10 Sep	National Council Meeting
30 Sep	Central Office - Open Day
29 October	Area 5 Meeting - Harwich
10 Nov	Garden of Remembrance
11 Nov (pm)	Budget Meeting
13 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
19 Nov	AMC / FAC – Zoom
03 Dec	National Council Meeting
21 Dec – 03 Jan	Central Office Closed for Christmas

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[Area 2](#)

[RNA Eastbourne](#)

[RNA Reigate](#)

[RNA Isle of Man](#)

[Scottish Area](#)

[RNA Bracknell](#)

[RNA Chatham](#)

[RNA Wantage](#)

[RNA Birchington](#)

[RNA Dublin](#)

[RNA Torrevieja](#)

[RNA Runcorn](#)

[RNA Stocksbridge and Deepcar](#)

[RNA Chard](#)

RNA Area 2



On Saturday 2nd October Area 2 in St Georges Chapel (ex HMS Pembroke in Chatham) 'laid up' 3 Standards; the old Area 2 Standard and the old Standards from Herne Bay and Gravesend's Branches.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Roger Bristow, who is Padre to Bromley RNA, with Area Ceremonial Officer, Shipmate Steve Susans taking charge.

The 3 Standards were laid up to the right of the altar before the new standard carried by Shipmate Steve Champion was unfurled and blessed by the Padre.

An act of remembrance followed, and a reading from Psalm107. The service was witnessed by Standard Bearers from the area

along with friends and families.

Thanks go to Chatham branch for providing refreshments following the service.



RNA Eastbourne Branch

Shipmate Bill Whaley forward the article below featuring the Royal Navy visiting Eastbourne in the form of HMS Ranger.....

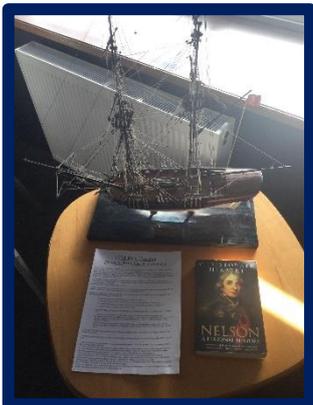


5 members of Eastbourne RNA were invited onboard HMS Ranger when she visited Sovereign Harbour on 6th to 8th October. S/m's John Wicking (Chairman), Brian Witham (Vice-Chairman), Bill Whaley (Hon. Sec.), Jessie Witham and Stanley Aulton spent almost 3 hours onboard on a superb evening. A few drinks were put down and the members were thoroughly looked after. Obviously, a tour of the ship was fitted in in between drinks and eats!

On the evening of the 7th October the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Ben Hammick Royal Navy attended the Monthly meeting of RNA Eastbourne and briefed members on the role of the

HMS Ranger. 5 other members of the ship's company joined the C.O. After the meeting and all were suitably fed and watered at the Fishermen's Club, Royal Parade, Eastbourne.

And Shipmates attended a Trafalgar Day lunch in the Fishermen's Club, Royal Parade, Eastbourne on Thursday 21st October 2021. There were 43 attendees, and a good time was had by all.



S/M Harry Cherry loaned a model of HM Brig. Badger which was believed to be one of Nelson's first commands. The "Immortal Memory" was toasted in true Naval fashion.



RNA Reigate Branch

Our thanks to Reigate Branch Hon Sec, S/M Vic Gellet for keeping us a praised of matters in deepest Surrey.....

On Tuesday 12th October, Reigate branch attended the AGM and Presentation evening of our local Sea Cadet unit, T.S. Ark Royal SCC. There has been a close bond between the unit and the Branch for many, many years.



On Tuesday, the branch confirmed its commitment to the unit with an annual bursary of £400 which allows cadets to attend National Sea Cadets courses. The branch also sponsor the Units “Cadet Of The Year” Trophy awarded annually.

This year’s worthy winner, OC Sam Lewis, was presented with the trophy by Branch Chairman S/M Ian Page and Secretary Vic Gellett,

Along with the trophy that Sam keeps, he also gets the chance to attend a National Course of his

choice which the branch will fund.

RNA Isle of Man Branch

Hon Secretary, Edna Clarke BEM and fellow Shipmates Chairman S/M Nigel Taylor, who is also doubles up as the Branch Standard Bearer, and new member S/M Steve Taylor attended the decommissioning of HMS Ramsay at Rosyth.



HMS Ramsay was affiliated to the Isle of Man branch. On completion the guests all attended a reception in MOD Caledonia, featuring a Hog Roast



RNA Scottish Area

Area Secretary S/M Karen Elliot forwarded a wee Church notice concerning the RBL Christmas Carol Service in Edinburgh.....Boom Boom

Link: <https://www.legionscotland.org.uk/Event/legion-scotland-christmas-carol-service>

Join Legion Scotland on the 12th of December 2021 at Canongate Kirk at 4pm for our annual Carol Service.

Cancelled in 2020 due to COVID restrictions we look forward to being able to invite everyone, once again to gather to enjoy a service of thanks with lessons and carols.

Planning for this event will be kept under review throughout 2021 should COVID continue to impact restrictions on events in the latter part of the year.

If you have any queries on this event please contact Brian Ward on 0131 550 1562 or email b.ward@legionscotland.org.uk

Where: Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh, EH8 8BN

When: 12th December 2021, 4:00pm to 5:00pm

RNA Bracknell Branch

Our thanks to Bracknell Hon Sec June Boddrell who forwarded the article below updating us on matters 'Bracknell'.....



Since our last report in April, the Bracknell Branch has continued to be active. Two more zoom “Tot Nights” were enjoyed in May and June, as well as Branch meetings in May, June and July, with a quiz and talks on the St Nazaire Raid and “Dit-telling”. We were finally able to gather “physically” in August for our first face-to-face meeting since March 2020.

We started “quietly” with a general “catch-up” and “table-top” quiz (Aug), before enjoying excellent talks by an ex-Beefeater on “Unusual Prisoners in the Tower” (Sept – *see photo*) and on “The

Battle of Trafalgar” (Oct – *see photo below*), complete with sound effects, setting the scene perfectly for our Trafalgar Dinner on the 23rd. Twenty-eight Shipmates are expected to attend and enjoy this traditional occasion.



Shipmates from the Branch regularly “tune in” for the weekly “Fireside Chats” and “National Tot Nights” on Monday and Saturday evenings respectively – all greatly enjoyed and bringing about more “friendships” from around the country.



A few Shipmates attended the Central Office Open Day on Friday 30th July. The weather was relatively kind (although a bit “blowy”!) and it was great to meet new faces, see “old” ones and visit Building 1/087 in Scott Road for the first time. An excellent lunch and enjoyable tour of the harbour as usual added to the day.

Branch Shipmates also attended the “party” to celebrate the re-commissioning of the Salisbury Branch on Saturday 21st August – a very happy occasion with wonderful hospitality, refreshments and entertainment. Four Shipmates were privileged to be allowed onto the roof of Bracknell Town Council to raise the Red Ensign to celebrate Merchant Navy Day on Friday 3rd September (*see photo*). The Branch was also represented at the Annual Conference in

Nottingham at the beginning of September, when Shipmates also enjoyed the generous

hospitality of the Nottingham RNA Club. New friendships were reinforced even more at the Naval Association (Biennial) Parade at the Cenotaph on 12th September, when the Civil Service Club and Uxbridge RNA Club as usual made us most welcome. The weather was exceptionally kind!!

Twelve Shipmates travelled to Gosport on the 17th September to visit the Submarine Museum. The galleries in the Museum, HMS Alliance and Holland 1 (or HM Submarine Torpedo Boat No 1), were all well explored and more sunshine enjoyed!! (see photo).



Finally, two Shipmates took part in a local afternoon event, advertising groups, clubs, associations, activities, sports & hobbies in the area, with the hope of finding new members. Fingers crossed, but we hope we will have two new Shipmates joining us soon (see photo).

RNA Chatham Branch

Shipmates from RNA Chatham Branch attended an invitation from HMS President (Medway Tender) Royal Naval Reserve unit in Rochester on Thursday 30th September to celebrate Medway tender's 21 years of service,

It was a very enjoyable evening and after testing the powerboat simulator 90 year old Shipmate Ron Hudson was ready to sign on again and wouldn't let any other shipmate back onto the simulator!

Ron served in HM Ships HMS Newfoundland, HMS Boxer, HMS Watchful, and a tug named Warden. Except this time he didn't get sea sick!

As you can see in the photo the Commanding Officer had to come and turf him off it, although he did look pretty slick didn't he



RNA Wantage Branch

Congratulations to the RNA's newest branch on holding their inaugural meeting recently.

Shipmate Mo Morris, whose day job is flying helicopters at RAF Brize Norton, advised Shipmates that the meeting was held in the aptly named 'Royal Oak' in Wantage and that during this meeting a prayer and a crossing the bar drink was conducted for the late CPO Stuart Osmer, who is the Grandfather of a colleague of S/M Mo's, Flt Lt Jason Omer, at RAF Brize Norton.



Hopefully there will be many more meetings to come.....

RNA Birchington Branch

Birchington Branch held their Trafalgar Supper at the Royal British Legion club Minster /Monkton club on the 16TH October. The supper was attended by 32 members and guests along with Nelson can they spot the deliberate mistake. 32 portions of fish and chips were delivered in separate boxes from a local fish and chip shop which is owned by Russians. A massive raffle was held with proceeds going to the RNA many thanks to the club.



RNA Dublin Branch

Shipmate Nick Purkis reports from the Emerald Isle.....

Shipmates from Dublin Branch were able to celebrate Trafalgar Night this year, with the Irish Government relaxing some restrictions on the day itself. Around 50 Shipmates and their guests, gathered at the Royal Irish Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire to commemorate the evening.

Our Guest Speaker was Commander Tim Chrishop RN, President of Area 12, who attended with his wife Caroline. Additionally, we were delighted to welcome H.E. The British Ambassador, Mr Paul Johnston and his wife Nicola for their first event with the Dublin Branch RNA, but we also



understand their first formal dinner, since taking up the post one year ago. Unfortunately, just before rising to speak, the Ambassador's bow-tie broke - the perils of clip-on bow ties!



We also welcomed the British Defence Attache to Ireland, Colone Sean Grant, who has recently taken up his post, to his first RNA event. In true Army style, Colonel Grant struggled a little, with the traditional shot of Pussers Rum, before we sat down to Dinner.

RNA Torrevieja Branch

Our thanks go to Tony Jenkins Chairamn at Torrevieja Branch for keeping us briefed on events in the Mediterranean Sun!

The recent relaxation of the COVID regulations provided the opportunity to once again be able to gather and pay tribute to Admiral Horatio Nelson at the Trafalgar Celebration Dinner & Dance by the (RNATB) Royal Naval Association Torrevieja Branch in the Costa Blanca & Costa Calida area of Spain, which was a resounding success and thoroughly enjoyed by the seventy plus people in attendance at the Hotel Parquemar, in Guadamar on the 21st October 2021.



The Shipmates (S/M), Families and Guests intermingled for pre-dinner drinks of Spanish Cava, while all dressed in their finery and 'once again starting to swap stories, whether sea related or not' and the Military Pomp was elevated by various pieces of military music being played in the background, including *Cockleshell Heroes*, *Fanfare To The First Sea Lord* and *Viscount Nelson*, to name but a few.

The Standards Bearers, Bryan Dalton & Danny Kay, marched in to the sound of *Heart Of Oak* and while all that were able remained standing for Grace by the RNATB Chairman of:

"Grant O'Lord good fellowship to us who dine and for this bread with our gathered friends. Safety to all who cross the seas with us and assurance to all who put their trust in us.

Safe anchorage of our shipmates that have Crossed the Bar before us and may the light guide us till our sailing ends.

Please bless this food we are about to share, those who prepared it, those who serve it, and those who have worked to make today the special occasion that it is.

For all of this we give you thanks. - Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen”.

While the spectacular table starters were being devoured, the RNATB Chairman was privileged to welcomed on behalf of the RNATB Shipmates, and their families the honoured guests which included, **Gitte Lund Thomsen**, Councilor for (OARI) International Residents Office of the Torrevieja

Ayuntamiento, **Jean Paul Mulero**, Director of

(OARI) International Residents Office of the Torrevieja Ayuntamiento, and **Graham Knight**, a retired Director of (OARI) International Residents Office for the Torrevieja Ayuntamiento, who remains a member of the Executive Committee of the Partido Popular and is also an Honorary Member of the RNA Torrevieja Branch, along with guests representing:

- (RAFACB) Royal Air Force Association Costa Blanca,
 - (ARPO) Association of Retired Police Officers,
 - (RBL Torrevieja) the Royal British Legion Torrevieja Branch,
 - (TMA) The Torrevieja Maritime Association
 - and not forgetting (RMATB) the Royal Marine Association Torrevieja Branch,
- as well as those Very Important People, their civilian friends.

He also said that the RNATB were truly privileged to have such a remarkable international representation with participants from Spain, Denmark, France, Holland, Russia, Belgium, Ukraine and of course United Kingdom (Great Britain) and even Yorkshire, all in Honour of Vice

Admiral Horatio Nelson and hoped everyone enjoy yourselves.

He also read out the messages received via the Secretary, Margaret Forshaw, of “best wishes to RNA Torrevieja Trafalgar Night celebrations for a glorious evening, from friends in RNA Plymouth Branch” and “Best wishes on Trafalgar Night from Mike Wright, Ex Chairman of RNATB”.

Following the outstanding three course table service meal that the Hotel provided through their exceptionally efficient and cheerful staff, the tradition of toasting with port took place with the standing Toast to the King of Spain, “Su Majestad Rey (King) Felipe VI of Spain: Long may he reign”; being proposed by **Gitte Lund Thomsen** and then in keeping with Royal Navy tradition, the remaining Toasts were made seated and were; “Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of England: Long Live & God Bless Her”; which was proposed by **S/M Mike Cockman**. Following which was a short well recited amusing recap of Nelson’s past by **S/M Mo Davin** who then proposed: “to 1st Viscount (Vice Admiral) Horatio Nelson; Long may he be remembered”.



The RNATB Chairman then rounded off the formalities by thanking the Mayor of Torrevieja, **Eduardo Dolon**, the Town Hall and particularly the guests **Gitte Lund Thomsen**, **Jean Paul Mulero** and **Graham Knight** for all the support they have provide both the RNATB and all other Organisations and Associations; which received a round of applause.



He also went on to thank the Standard Bearer's who also received a round of applause. Finally on behalf of all branch S/M and guests there he asked Pam Cluney, the organiser, to step forward and be presented some flowers by Gitte Lund Thomsen by way of recognition and thanks for organising the

evening, which due to all the changing rules and criteria and the short lead time, has been a challenge to say the least.

There followed an entertaining Raffle with twenty odd prizes, which was humorously conducted by Nicola Louden and went down a storm.



The evening concluded with much merriment and cavorting on the dance floor until it was time to 'set sail for their home port' with the departing farewell of "we'll be back next year".

Our thanks to S/M Liz Coyle visiting form RNA Bromley branch in UK, who took the photos

The Torrevieja Branch were also very active when it came to the Poppy Appeal in Spain.....

RNA Torrevieja Branch (RNATB) were once again proud to have their Standard paraded by Shipmate Bryan Dalton with Shipmate Phil Prince parading the Standard for the Royal Marines Association Torrevieja Branch (RMATB) along with the throng of Royal British Legion (RBL) Standards including the Torrevieja Branch and Orihuela Costa Branch at the Annual Poppy Appeal Launch in Benidorm on Saturday the 16th of October 2021.



A small contingent of Veterans from the RNATB joined the other veterans from all the services to marche in the parade behind all the Standards, which was led by the Torrevieja Pipes and Drums, who yet again played vigorously and impeccably.

The Standards and parade consisting of hundreds of Veterans of all nationalities

and services formed in Av. Castello, where a crowd gathered to take photos and videos of not only the Standards and the highly acclaimed Torrevieja Pipes and Drums, while they practiced by playing a few renditions, but more especially of the two Royal Hospital Chelsea, "Skippy" Arthur Teasdale (of the young age of 91), and his 'wingman', Wayne Campbell (a youngster of a mere 83), both in their distinctive scarlet uniforms, and members of the RBL Orihuela Costa Branch. It was heart-warming to see so many people of all nationalities stop and talk to them.

A sizable gathering was developing and lining the streets by the time the parade had formed and set off down Av. Castello, such that when the parade turned left onto Levante Promenade (along the seafront) not only were they lining the street but were standing and applauding from the beach.



The spectacle of the flowing Standards, Skippy & Wayne and the Veterans all marching to the formidable sound of the Bagpipes and Drums was creating a growing momentum of spectators, such that there was very little space left for the parade to march by the time it turned left into the square and came to a halt at the Rincon de Loix for the presentations and where the Launch Officials took to the stage.

The Spanish and British National Anthems were played by the Royal British Legion Concert Band while the substantial audience and Standard Bearers stood proudly to attention.

The ceremonies traditional salute of dipping the Standards to the sound of the solitary bugler and the Flanders Poem of 'We Will Remember Them' was all performed in radiant Spanish sunshine.

Mr Don Cubbon, the Chairman of District North RBL, welcomed the Mayor of Benidorm, Toni Perez Perez, and the other principal guests of Joe Falzon, the Vice Chairman of the RBL; Sarah-Jane Morris, the British Consul in Madrid and Alicante; Captain Ian Clarke RN, Defence Attaché Madrid; Bob Chambers, RBL Overseas Membership Council Representative and Fiona Hedges, the RBL Overseas Membership Support Officer; he then thanked the city of Benidorm for the welcome that it always provides to the Royal British Legion and went on to summarise the hard work the members had carried out and how well they had raised funds despite the effects of COVID 19. He also emphasised that all the money raised is used to help ex-servicemen and their dependants in their time of need here in Spain and highlighting a few cases that had received support in the previous six months.



The Mayor of Benidorm, Toni Perez Perez welcomed all participants and said how delighted he was to host the Launch of the Poppy Appeal once again and highlighting the multicultural and multinational make-up of the city and made a very warm and pertinent speech on the support and benefits that had been made by the RBL to the residence of Benidorm during the 2019/2020 COVID period and cited how the RBL "is a role model" and that the organisation can always count on the support and encouragement of his council.

There were further speeches by the RBL Vice Chairman, the British Consul and the Defence Attaché, all extolling the virtues and outstanding work carried out by the RBL across the world but especially here in Spain where the support network is exemplary.

The ceremony ended with a rapturous applause and then the Standard Bearers marched passed and gave the salute to the sound of the Royal British Legion Concert Band, followed by the

Torrevieja Pipes and Drums, who marched off while playing and gave a salute in front of a huge gathering of spectators and finally closing the ceremony for another year.

RNA Runcorn Branch



Shipmate Gordon Weir reported a memorable Trafalgar night was had by Shipmates from RNA Runcorn Branch at the Halton RBL.

Gordon would like to say well done and BZ to Runcorn Branch

RNA Stocksbridge and Deepcar Branch

Hon Sec Shipmate Chris Burden forward the article below;



Stocksbridge and Deepcar celebrated Trafalgar night on Wednesday 20th October with a small social gathering, whilst we are small in number a good time was had by all.

In the included photos, we presented a standard from the Sheffield Naval Association to Pat Davey chair of the Joint Council for Ex Service Associations seen on the left, along with Shipmate Mel Guest

(widow of our late chair) and our current chair Shipmate Pete Gillott. the standard will be on display at the Home mess in Sheffield in due course.

The photo opposites shows that our new chairman does actually visit the bar, but the question remains “ did he actually spend his own money”



RNA Chard Branch

Our thanks go to Shipmate Dick Moon for forwarding this article about happenings in deepest Somerset at Chard Branch

A great time was had by all at our first Trafalgar Night dinner for two years due to the Coronavirus. The event took place at Hornsbury Mill with the evening being rounded off with our Chair, Shipmate Paula Moon, officially presenting the honour of being RNA Chard Branch President to Shipmate Malcolm (Happy) Day in recognition of his long service to the branch.

Shipmate Malcolm Day is now Chard Branch President and Standard Bearer along with being Area 4 Standard Bearer Training Officer and Ceremonial Advisor. Malcolm has served his Branch faithfully for the 34 years that it has been going and is a worthy recipient of the role of President having also served some 29 years as Chairman.



The Trafalgar celebrations were then concluded on the Sunday morning with members attending the annual Trafalgar Church Service at St Thomas Church, Cricket St Thomas.

We were proud and honoured to have Reverend Geoffrey Walsh, RNA Area 4 Chaplain at both the Trafalgar Dinner and church service and had the added bonus of having not only the RNA Chard Branch Standard but also the Fisguard Artificers Association Standard

paraded by a new member to Chard Branch, Shipmate Andy O'Brien who is the official Fisguard Association Standard Bearer.



On conclusion of the service members dispersed promptly due to inclement weather so our usual photo opportunity showed only some of the church attendees, however a photo was captured of

Photos Top to Bottom -

I-R Shipmate Mike Kirkland (Treasurer) Shipmate Malcolm Day (President) and Shipmate Paula Moon (Chair)

L-R S/m Malcolm day, S/m Sue Kirkland, S/m Mike Kirkland and S/m Andy O Brien.

L-R standards at:- S/m Malcolm Day and S/m Andy O Brien.

[Robert Saxby](#)

[Mary Strood](#)

[Derek Norman Hobson](#)

[Colin Rickard](#)

Robert Saxby - Folkestone Branch

The Shipmates of Folkestone Branch are deeply saddened to report that their President Bob Saxby, Crossed the Bar on 24th September 2021 aged 96.

During his wartime service he served on HMS Magpie as an Able Seaman. He was awarded many WW2 medals including the Atlantic Star, Arctic Convoy and was presented with the Ushakov Medal at the Russian Embassy, he was also awarded the Légion d' honneur.

He was a member of the Royal Naval Association for 38 years, 5 in Ashford RNA, 20 in Redruth RNA and his latest 13 years in Folkestone RNA. Bob served on many Branch Committees and was also a Standard Bearer, parading the Branch Standard at Ypres.

During his service he has supported the Branch activities, especially involving charity collections where his record as an Arctic Convoy Veteran attracted much attention.

He leaves his wife June, son, daughter, and grandchildren. All Branch members will wish to send them their deepest sympathy.

May your final journey be on calm waters.



Mary Strood - Tewkesbury Branch

S/M Monica Malpass, Hon Sec of Tewkesbury Branch is sad to announce that Shipmate Mary Strood crossed the bar recently aged 88. Mary joined the Wrens as an Air Mechanic on the 13th May 1952 and at the end of her service was mothballing Sea Furies! One of the oldest members at RNA Tewkesbury, Mary Strood, died peacefully in her sleep, at Forest Court Nursing Home near Mitcheldean.

After initial training at HMS Dauntless, she did her basis training at HMS Heron - RNAS Yeovilton then went to HMS Sanderling, RNAS Dale in SW Wales, then returned to HMS Heron for the final 2 years and 4 months. She took part in the Royal Tournament in 1953 and also played for combined Women's Services.

She had been a member of the RNA, here at Tewkesbury for several years, though had not attended in recent years due to ill health. Only a few months ago, S/m Monica rang her to ask for her official number - which she remembered! (could we forget?)

Sadly, she had spent the last 4 months largely in quarantine being passed like a parcel from hospital, to hospital, and then nursing home to nursing home before finally being admitted to Gloucester Royal a couple of weeks ago, and only arrived at her final destination the day before her death. Covid resulted in her Dementia/Alzheimers becoming worse and increasingly isolated, living on the outskirts of Redmarley in the wide open spaces. It was sad to see her almost in the middle of Gloucester, in a home where she was just fading away, as visiting was a challenge and her surroundings were not the best. I visited her there at the end of August and it was sad to see that while she was alive, the 'lights were out' and she just 'wasn't in'. She was asleep in 10 minutes.

She left there for Gloucester Royal a fortnight ago having been found on the floor in the middle of the night! With a hairline fracture in her neck, she possibly enjoyed her stay and was sitting up and 'taking notice' in a truly caring environment. She moved to Forest Court last Thursday - free at last! Here she at last reached the security of a loving environment, in the country where there were wonderful views from the home, she could at last be at peace and feel loved by those around her, and feel safe to leave us forever, at peace.

She was a wonderful lady, who joined the WRNS in 1952, became an Air Mechanic, a Leading Wren and finally worked on Sea Furies - putting them into mothballs - one of which is in the Fleet Air Arm Museum at RNAS Yeovilton.

When Mary joined our local branch of the RNA she raised our contingent of WRNS to 3 and all 3 of us had served in the Fleet Air arm. Mary and I served as Air Mechanics and often discussed the differences in our service time as she served 10 years prior to me. As mentioned before, she worked on the Sea Fury that is now in the Fleet Air Arm Museum, as I worked on the Scimitar that is also there.

She was very frail but had a bubbly personality.

Mary will be greatly missed.

Derek Newman 'Hilly' Hobson – HQ Roll



Shipmate Derek Norman Hobson very sadly crossed the bar on 31st July 2021. Born on 10 September 1943 in Sunderland - hence his navel nick-name "HINNY HOBSON!"

Derek joined the RN at HMS Raleigh on 02 May 1961 in the rate of M(E) 2. His first sea draft was HMS Rhyl when he became a Submariner where he saw service in a number of boats including;

Osiris, Warspite, Conqueror and Courageous.

Upon his discharge shore on pension after 22 years (9-9-1983) service, he took up a second career in a managerial position with a large supermarket chain until he retired aged 65 years in 2008.

During his naval service he visited Yorkshire with a shipmate on leave, and there met his future wife, Pearl. They married in 1968 and eventually settled in her home town, raised a family of two daughters, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Besides being a much loved family man Derek was a member of S.O.C.A., the RNA, President of the local British Legion and a member of Wakefield Friday Club wherein he served on the committee for a number of years until he "Crossed the Bar".

Calm Seas Shipmate.



Colin Rickard – RNA Area 2

It is with great sadness that we announce the "Crossing the Bar" of our Shipmate Colin.

Colin was Chairman of Area 2, and presided over Area Delegate and committee rarely missing a meeting. Colin was a firm believer in involving the Branches in the area and visited many in his role as area chairman, promoting the Association and where possible giving grants for various causes.

His commitment extended to attending all National Conferences promoting the Area and passing back down the line information and news.

Colin was a stalwart of the Standard Bearers competitions both locally and National he won various Trophy's in his role as Standard Bearer for Paddock Wood branch and continued up until his illness.

He provided a Naval presence at funerals and events around the Area giving comfort to families of veterans who had passed, and representing the Area as much as possible either in his role as Chairman or carrying the Standard.

All of us involved on Area 2 Committee will miss Colin's Dedication to Duty, his Sharp Wit, his attention to detail and Naval traditions. Fair Winds and a Safe journey Colin.
Alan Oliver (Area Welfare).

From Central Office Staff – Please accept our condolences and pass them to the Shipmates in Area 2 and to his family. He was a lovely man and will be a very sad loss to all in the RNA.



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The ‘Shortcast’ Editors Note

Please forward any reunions for 2021/22 and I will publish them here

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

I would be very grateful if organisers of reunions would oblige me by obtaining a quote from the CONA Travel Service, who will not be beaten on like for like price. CONA Travel Service donate 5% of their CONA business back into the Conference totalling to date £2,700 which provides funds to assist member Associations. Oh, and by the way, their service is first class as well.

	Please check go to link for RN Shipmates.co.uk for a comprehensive list of further reunions. www.rnshipmates.co.uk
2021	
5/7 Nov	HMS Cleopatra Old Shipmates Association Reunion – For details contact Honorary Secretary Warwick Franklin at Warwick_franklin@outlook.com or call 10752 366611
26 Nov	HMS Carysfort – Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
2022	
11/13 Mar	R.N. Communications Association - AGM/Dinner Dance Royal Beach Hotel Southsea - For further details contact C Beeson07807347509 or noseeb@sky.com
07 May	HMS Nottingham (D91) – Liverpool (HMS Eaglet – Invitation Only)
13 May	HMS Bulwark, Albion and Centaur Association – Red Lee Hotel, Scarborough
21 May	HMS Broadsword Association - HMS Drake
28/29 May	<p>HMS Fearless 1982 Crew Royal Maritime Club (Home Club) Portsmouth To attend the gala dinner evening at The Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth, you will need to book your dinner tickets in advance. Please use the link to make your booking. Cost £60.00 per head.</p> <p>https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hms-fearless-82-40th-anniversary-reunion-tickets-189862392527</p> <p>Please note that accommodation at the hotel is not an option, as the hotel is already fully booked. If you plan to stay overnight in the local area, you will need to book alternative accommodation as soon as possible as availability will be limited, as there are many Falkland Reunions taking place the same weekend.</p> <p>Your Dinner Ticket includes a welcome drink, three course dinner, a cheese course and Port. Wine will be included on the table. Menu choices will be provided at a later date. We have a great toastmaster to smooth things along.</p>

Plus-ones are encouraged and there will be a DJ for the those that wish to boogie, while the rest of the salts mingle by the bar swapping sea dits about our time down south.

Dress Code for the Dinner is black tie or lounge suit plus mini medals for men & evening gowns or cocktail dresses for the ladies. Mini medals may be worn in honour of those no longer with us.

Sun 29 May

0945 Muster at the Gosport Bus Station (be warned - the last ferry across is 1030)

1100 Service. Dress of the day. Jacket/Tie with Medals

1140 Gosport Parade via High Street to Reception at Walpole Park Gosport.

On completion Disperse and safe journey home

Swinging the Lamp – November 2021

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



Date	Year	Entry
1st	1944	Successful assault on Walcheren. Operation Infatuate 1 and 2. Ships: <i>Erebus, Roberts, Warspite, Kingsmill</i> . No. 4 Army and 41, 47 and 48 RM Cdos. About 180 landing craft of a wide range of types took part.
2 nd	1800	Alexander Dalrymple, first Hydrographer of the Navy, published the first Admiralty Chart, a 'sketch of the Road on the NE Side of the Island Houat in Quiberon Bay by Thomas Moore, Master of HM Ship <i>Diamond</i> '.
3rd	1914	German battlecruisers bombarded the British coast near Gorleston, Norfolk, for the first time. HM Ships: <i>Halcyon, Leopard, Lively</i> . D 5 sunk by mine 2 miles S. of South Cross Sand Buoy, Yarmouth, seeking, with D 3 and E 10, to intercept the German squadron.
4 th	1906	Disturbances among men at the new RN Barracks, Portsmouth. The trigger was the drill order 'on the knee' given by Lt Bernard St G. Collard, the duty officer, to stokers fallen-in on the parade ground in the rain on a Sunday afternoon. Stokers, not understanding this gunnery command, considered it a humiliation and insurrection

		followed. Several ratings were courts martialled and very severely punished. The cause was lack of judgement by a junior officer and it reflected wider deficiencies at RNB. The Admiralty took a dim view. The Commodore, Executive Officer and Gunnery Officer were relieved. 'On the Knee' resounded throughout the nation to the embarrassment of the Royal Navy (as did 'Bunga! Bunga!' in 1910). Collard was court martialled and reprimanded but he returned as an admiral to cause another naval humiliation.
5 th	1942	Prime Minister Churchill directed the First Lord of the Admiralty to give names rather than numbers to submarines; 'I have no doubt whatever that names should be given, and I will myself make some suggestions which may stimulate others'.
6 th	1956	British forces landed in the Canal Zone, Egypt, following the nationalisation of the Suez Canal. Helicopter assault in Whirlwind and Sycamore aircraft by 45 RM Cdo launched from <i>Ocean</i> and <i>Theseus</i> on Suez. First major helicopter-borne assault from ships. 'Whatever may be said of Suez – an amphibious success but a diplomatic disaster – it saved the day for the Royal Marines in particular and amphibious warfare in general' – Col Ewen Southby-Tailyour.
7 th	1975	Another black day for the Royal Navy. The 'infamous' DCI T641/75 announced that black nylon stockings for Wrens (Vocabs 45500-05) were to be replaced by black tights. 'BR81 and BR96 will be amended'. The Navy had not fully recovered from the withdrawal of the Rum ration in 1970 when this further blow landed. A vigorous but futile 'Fight Tights' campaign was led by the FAA. The black stockings calamity 'had a devastating effect on morale'.
8 th	1813	Boats of <i>Revenge</i> cut out a French privateer at Palamos.
9 th	1970	Carrier <i>Ark Royal</i> , Capt John Treacher RN, collided with Russian Kotlin-class destroyer S. Of Crete during Exercise Lime Jug. No damage to <i>Ark Royal</i> .
10 th	1941	Submarine <i>Swordfish</i> , first of name and of class, launched at Chatham. (<i>Sentinel</i> , fourth of her name and sixty-second and last of the class, was launched on 27 July 1945.)
11 th	1918	Armistice signed by Germany ending the First World War. RN strength 37,636 officers and 400,975 men, excluding RNAS transferred to form RAF on 1 April 1918.
12 th	1992	Plans to transfer RN Operational Sea Training from Portland to Devonport and the closure of Portland Naval Base by April 1996 announced by the Armed Forces Minister.
13 th	1941	<i>Ark Royal</i> torpedoed by U-81 off Gibraltar (36.03N, 04.45W) while returning from Operation Perpetual. Sank next day, and might have been saved by better damage control, from which many lessons were learned.
14 th	1967	Order for first Type 42 guided missile destroyer placed with Vickers: <i>Sheffield</i> .
15 th	2010	Destroyer <i>Manchester</i> , Cdr Rex Cox RN, on counter-narcotics patrol in the Caribbean, arrived in Havana for a five-day visit, the first British warship in Cuba since the frigate <i>Bigbury Bay</i> in 1957.
16 th	1857	VC: Lt Nowell Salmon, AB John Harrison, Lt Thomas James Young and AB William Hall (<i>Shannon</i>) for gallantry at Lucknow during the

		Indian Mutiny. Hall was the first non-white and the first Canadian to gain VC. Young married the sister of Mid Boyes, VC.
17th	1999	Sea King helicopters from <i>Ocean</i> provided humanitarian relief after major earthquake in Duzce area, Turkey. Within hours the frigate <i>Northumberland</i> was engaged in disaster-relief operations on the island of Anguilla in the wake of Hurricane Lenny.
18th	1942	<i>Arethusa</i> , light cruiser, was escorting a convoy to Malta in Operation Stoneage. Air attacks started at 0600 18 November, and at 1800 <i>Arethusa</i> was torpedoed. She was towed sternfirst back to Alexandria, having to battle with raging fires and a rising gale. She reached Alexandria on the evening of 22nd, with 155 men dead. She was the last serious casualty of the famous 15th Cruiser Squadron. In 1944, <i>Arethusa</i> led the bombarding forces at Normandy and later carried King George VI over the Channel to visit forces in Normandy.
19th	1895	First Commander of Signal Schools appointed
20th	1957	Admiral Lord Mountevans, 'Evans of the <i>Broke</i> ', died at Golaa, Norway. He was second-in-command of Scott's ill-fated Antarctic expedition and he gained added fame for his dashing action off Dover in the destroyer <i>Broke</i> in 1917. Between the wars Teddy Evans commanded the Royal Australian Squadron, was C-in-C South Africa and C-in-C The Nore.
21st	1914	Three RNAS Avro 504 biplanes flew from Belfort on the Franco-Swiss border to bomb the German airship factory at Friedrichshafen on the shores of Lake Constance, destroying an associated gas plant. The loss of Antwerp having put German airship facilities at Dusseldorf and Cologne beyond flying range, the RNAS aircraft were crated and sent by rail to Belfort. The attack flew N. of Basle and followed the Rhine on a 250-mile round trip over the Black Forest in what Admiral Sir John Fisher, First Sea Lord, praised as 'a fine feat of endurance, courage and skill'. The senior officer, Sqn Cdr E.F. Briggs, was forced down and captured. Fl/Cdr J.T. Babington and Fl/Lt S.V. Sippe returned to Belfort.
22 nd	1997	HMY <i>Britannia</i> entered Portsmouth for the last time, escorted by <i>Southampton</i> with CINCFLEET embarked and berthed at South Railway Jetty. Commodore Royal Yachts, Cdre A.J.C. Morrow, rang down 'Finished with main engines' at 1135. End of 44-year career, having steamed 1,087,623 miles.
23 rd	1896	Lofts for the training of carrier pigeons established at Sheerness, Portsmouth and Devonport
24 th	1944	Corvette <i>Shawinigan</i> (RCN) sunk with all hands in the Cabot Strait (47.34N, 59.11W) by homing torpedo from U-1228.
25 th	1960	Royal Marines, except recruits and bandsmen, authorised to wear the green beret of the Commandos.
26 th	1899	Naval Brigade formed at Durban from <i>Forte</i> , <i>Terrible</i> , <i>Tartar</i> and <i>Philomel</i> .
27 th	1978	The last catapult launch in the Royal Navy: F4K Phantom of 892 NAS piloted by Fl/Lt Murdo McLeod (Pilot) and Lt Denis McCullum (Observer), launched from the waist catapult of <i>Ark Royal</i> at 1515A inbound to RAF St Athan. The last Buccaneer launch that day was an 809 NAS aircraft, Sqn Ldr Rick Phillips (Pilot) and Cdr Ken MacKenzie (Observer).

28 th	1914	VC: Cdr Henry Peel Ritchie (<i>Goliath</i>) at Dar-es-Salaam during search and destroy operation. Ships: <i>Fox</i> , <i>Goliath</i> , <i>Dupleix</i> and <i>Helmuth</i> : three German ships disabled, and harbour installations wrecked. Ritchie's was first naval VC won in the First World War.
29 th	1963	Tribal-class frigate <i>Mohawk</i> commissioned at Barrow. Her RM contingent of twenty-two men joined the hard way. Led by Lt Robin Ross RM, they marched out of Eastney at 0930 Tuesday 12 November and marched into Barrow seventeen days later, the afternoon before commissioning.
30 th	1940	GC: Lt Harold Reginald Newgass, RNVR, for mine disposal at Garston Gasworks, Liverpool

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