



ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION



The Semaphore Circular

No 691

The Beating Heart of the RNA

July 2019



Shipmate Alf Lonsdale, Horley Branch, reflects on D Day during the commemoration event at Southsea Common. Shipmate Alf was the 'after gunner' in a Tug pulling over the Mulberry Harbour. He later saw service in the Far East.

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Glossary of terms

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

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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Dear Shipmates,

Well, what a month it's been! It has been dominated by our Annual Conference and D-Day 75 however, before I start, I must congratulate Admiral Tony Radakin on assuming the position of First Sea Lord relieving Admiral Phil Jones on Wednesday 19th June. We in the RNA wish you both well and hugely appreciate the support you gave and continue to give the RNA. Admiral Radakin will take the salute at the Biennial Parade at the Cenotaph on Sunday, 8 September and Admiral Jones, you will recall from the front cover of last month's Semaphore Circular, has signed up to our Flagship Transition Programme, *Shipmates and Oppos*, which, for those who need it, seeks to put an arm around those leaving the Service.

I must say, during my naval career, I believed I have been privileged to have experienced many things but to attend the event the BBC put together to mark the British national commemoration on Southsea Common on 5th July this year to mark the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, must be right up there. It was simply outstanding!

The National President, John McAnally, and I were fortunate to represent the RNA and apart from knowledge about HMS ST ALBANS's planned gun salute and the composition of the flypast we knew nothing more of the spectacle about to unfold other than we were to be seated by 1030 and that Her Majesty would arrive shortly thereafter. There then unfolded the most powerful production of the story of D-Day interspersed with military guards, entertainment of the era, personal accounts, and two scenes of a West End play depicting the intensity of Eisenhower's decision making process made so difficult by the poor weather experienced in early June 1944; but, what made this so special, was that the BBC had effectively enlisted the leaders of Canada, the US, France and the UK to be part of this production.

Justin Trudeau was first up and read the VC citation of Lt Col Charles Merritt who, during the Dieppe Raid in August '42, was Canada's fist VC winner of WW2. It was a big concert stage on Southsea Common and when Donald Trump appeared to read the words of the prayer which his predecessor President Franklyn D Roosevelt had hand written and delivered by radio 75 years previously, it took him fully 10 seconds to walk to the middle of the stage where a lone microphone was waiting. It struck me that although surrounded ultimately by hundreds of people in the bands and choirs and us in the audience, I'd never actually seen him without family, an aide or security in close proximity. And, whatever people think of President Trump, in that moment, he conveyed real humility.



Mick and Jean Arnold from Ferndown ably hosted by a youngster from the Portsmouth Flotilla

Later in the production when President Macron spoke, he departed from script briefly to simply say "On behalf of my nation - thank you" before reading an extremely moving letter which was penned by a 16 year old boy to his parents on the eve of his execution. The rendition in French of the song of the Resistance was powerfully delivered as we were reminded in images on the big screen of the huge sacrifices made behind enemy lines to sabotage and disrupt enemy logistics.

With Mrs May announcing the week previously that she would be stepping down from office on 07 June, we were left wondering no more why the delay. She delivered her part masterfully, reading a letter written on 3rd June by a soldier to his wife having no illusion about the enormity and violence of the task facing them in Normandy. He was killed on 6th June. The Queen too



The NP and GS shared some hospitality at the D-Day 75 commemoration in Southsea

added to the poignancy of the occasion using the words of her father King George VI to convey her depth of feeling.

I'm sure many of you watched it but, if you missed it, I cannot recommend it enough. It's still there on BBC iPlayer.



The Char La Las - D-Day 75

My D-Day week had actually started prior to that when I had been invited to the inauguration of the Memorial Flotilla in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard on Sunday 2nd June. The Property Trust had recently completed their project to put in an additional pontoon to harbour what they are calling the "Spitfires of the Sea" to display the impressive collection of small craft which saw wartime service. This was effectively the first event for the veterans of D-Day whom the RBL had gathered for a trip out to Normandy on the MV Boudica. Our own Chaplain of the Fleet, Martyn Gough, led the dedication and the rendition of *Abide With Me* by the three ladies of the Char La Las who were made up in the dresses of the period and hair tied into headscarves was the first in a week of lumps in the throat. I was fortunate enough to be sitting next to a fabulous old boy who had been a despatch rider running around on his bike behind the lines delivering comms from HQ to troops on the front line when it was too difficult to put in place secure radio. The Char La Las sang "You are my sunshine" causing yet another lump in my throat! I wanted to take them home but my wife wouldn't let me!! I wonder how they would compare with Stourbridge Branch's Habibi girls?! (See later).

Please also read the contribution from France Nord Branch later in this Circular as they were also heavily involved in D-Day 75 duty as the

Heads of State moved to Normandy for the 6th June commemorations.

And so to Conference the following weekend. After my concerns about representation, we actually did quite well – thank you. There were 72 delegates representing Branches and probably double that in numbers attending. The location at the Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre by St Neots meant that quite a few were able to travel on the day and the facilities were excellent. Indeed, I think the only reservation was that the beers were quite expensive but notwithstanding it was a great weekend and the No 6 Area team, led by their Project Manager, Geoff Apperley, did an outstanding job with the organisation and thoroughly deserve a huge BZ!

Conference itself got off to a significant start with Bob Coburn handing over custody of the National Standard to Dave Corrigan. Despite winning the Standard Bearers' Competition at HMS COLLINGWOOD again last year, Bob has kindly agreed to take on the position of National Ceremonial Advisor which became vacant earlier this year with the retirement of Mick Kieran. We can all stand-by at the Biennial Parade on 8th September as Bob gets as smartened up!

Our National President, introduced the Mayor of St Neots, Cllr Gordon Thorpe, who gave us a very warm and humorous welcome to St Neots and, needless to say, much fun was made of his previous military (if you can call it that) experience in the RAF. He was followed by our senior RN VIP guest Rear Admiral Mike Bath who is the current serving Naval Secretary (NAVSEC) and, as such, is now effectively responsible for all personnel policy within the RN.



Delegates at Conference - Anthony Bodrell dressed appropriately for summer in Bedfordshire!



RAdm Mike Bath, Naval Secretary,
addresses Conference

On one occasion in 2005, I was in Islamabad on the Queen's business and I found myself in a bar one night with the England Cricket Team – as one does! Well, I regret I'm not much of a cricket fan but I knew someone who was – Mike Bath. I duly phoned him and reported the situation confessing that I didn't recognise many of them although I thought I could make out Freddy Flintoff. "Well put him on then!" said Mike. So, I shuffled up, introduced myself and said my cricket mad chum would like a word. Freddy, good as gold, took the phone and he and Mike proceeded to have a chin wag like they were old oppos for the next 10 or 12 minutes. Thank goodness it was a Pusser's phone!!

Admiral Mike was kind enough to share with us his words and they can be accessed on the RNA website along with our National President's speech which came later in the day however, in essence, it was a valuable SITREP on where the Navy was and the ambitions for the near future. It's certainly an exciting time to be in the Navy.

He was followed by the RN Personnel Liaison Team who are established to brief to an internal audience within the RN primarily to assist with retention. What was rather fun was the technology they brought with them which allowed the audience to vote on the questions they posed. We've been trawling through the questions posed by the PLT and thought I would offer some comments on the feedback.

From the PLT questions the headlines are fairly predictable - 56% loved Travel/Runs Ashore/ Camaraderie and Fun. 96% pride at serving nation. 70% plus felt valued by RN and Fighting Arm - and actually sum up everything about being a mateLOT.

As we had the technology available, I then took the opportunity to pose a couple of questions about the relevancy of the RNA and Conference. The responses were interesting but perhaps raise more questions than answers and demand more interaction with members. For example, Is the RNA still relevant? Yes, but more could be done - 96% total. So what can be done? Answers on a postcard please, interaction from the membership is always welcome.



Have the needs of Shipmates changed? Yes 75%. So what are the new needs? In Central Office, we certainly believe that Welfare Support needs to be professionalised and I am in the process of bidding for charity money to allow this to happen with expanding Sarah Clewes' hours to full time to support Rita Lock with the Welfare task.

The questions on the current Conference format seemed to tease out some division in the ranks. Whilst 78% love it or feel it needs updating, one in five don't think the format is good. So how to accommodate all views? On why is there a reduced attendance; members are indeed getting older, are less mobile and Conference can be expensive. Recent venues for Conference (specifically Perth and Dublin) necessitated a lot of travel and were on the expensive side albeit they were both extremely enjoyable! Liverpool and Nottingham should be cheaper and will be more central.

How to improve Conference? 64 million dollar question. How about linking Conference weekend to a National Arboretum visit? Or hold it in Portsmouth in the Maritime Club? Or in Plymouth where the RM have a lot of real estate? We'll look into that and report to the National Council.

So overall there are probably more questions than answers! And I doubt if I've added much to the discussion but I do know that whilst RNA members may be knocking on in years and losing faculties here and there, they are still young sailors both at heart and in their minds!



Up Spirits!

The Gala Dinner in the evening was well attended and I can report absolutely no success with either the National or Area Raffles over the course of the weekend. Dave Corrigan's Sea Cadets did a star turn with their drill and Titch was suitably disciplined. Talking of Discipline, Nigel was summarily tried prior to dinner for breaking the No6 Area bell mounting and sentenced to return to Conference next year!

The weekend concluded with a Drum Head Service conducted by RNA Hon Chaplain, Martyn Gough. The National President noted that possibly one of the Chaplain of the Fleet's prayers regarding our sobriety might have been a tad ambitious!

Meanwhile, on the naval front HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH got off to sea last week to do some work up training in the Southern Exercise Areas and the brand-new Batch 2 OPV, HMS MEDWAY arrived in Portsmouth for the first time. She's the second of the class to arrive in Portsmouth and she is already been back out on trials. Early next month (03-06 July) sees the visit to Portsmouth of an Algerian sail training ship, the STC El Mallah which certainly cuts a fine jib. We also saw the return of the USCGC Eagle for the D-Day commemorations and she has an interesting history. Built by the Germans she actually has consecutive ship build numbers with the Bismark and was taken on by the US Coast Guard after WW2. I'm always a sucker for beautiful square-rigged ships - both pictured.



STC El Mallah visiting PNB 03-06 July



USCGC EAGLE departing Portsmouth

A final thank you and BZ to the team which did so well to contribute to the success of Field Gun Day at HMS COLLINGWOOD and also to the Portsmouth Branch for manning the RNA stand at Southsea Common for the remaining D-Day Commemorations while the Central Office Team deployed up country to St Neots for the Conference.

Finally, another great privilege this month was the opportunity to be introduced to Pip Harrison on the eve of his 104th Birthday. What an absolute star!! More about this visit from Andy later in this edition. Please also can I commend to you the obituary for Dave Cyril Davis of Sittingbourne Branch; clearly quite a character!

Best wishes from the Central Office Team ,

Bill

1. ★ Biennial Parade Sunday 08 September 2019

For information, Shipmates should be aware that the details for the 2019 Biennial Parade have been confirmed with the Metropolitan Police and that there will be no changes to the arrangements from the 2017 Parade. The new First Sea Lord has graciously accepted the invitation to take the Review. A range of VIPs and Commanding Officers have also been invited to witness this year's parade along with platoons from HMS Collingwood, HMS Sultan and Sea Cadets. A variety of other partner Naval Association representatives will also be in attendance. Specific details are available from Central Office but in summary the programme is as follows;

- 0900 Civil Service club open for coffee/toilets – Standard Bearer changing
- 0915 Parking for coaches and minibuses on the Mall. For those with mobility issues, drop off only at King Charles Street through Southern approach from Parliament Square. Pass required to pass through Police security barrier.
- 1025 Parade musters in King Charles Street and is briefed by Parade Commander.
- 1050 Parade formed at Cenotaph
- 1100 Service at Cenotaph
- 1140 Parade Reviewed by VIP
- O/c Standard Bearers 'Up Spirits'
- 1155 Bar open at Civil Service Club (Chips and Sandwiches served)

Remember this is an honour and privilege for the Royal Naval Association to Parade in Whitehall past the Cenotaph and is one of the RNA's key National events and displays the RNA at its best. The National Council, whilst appreciating that travel, cost and accommodation for Shipmates particularly, situated in the north making it difficult to attend, would like to encourage as many Shipmates as possible to try and attend this important event in our calendar.



If you are unable to march but would still like to take part, it is not an issue as shipmates can be positioned as part of the main body round the Cenotaph and wheelchairs are of course welcome. The Service will be conducted by the Chaplain of the Fleet, The Venerable Martyn Gough Royal Navy, who is also our Honorary Chaplain.

And don't forget on your way why not call in at RNA Uxbridge who would be delighted to see any Shipmates attending the Biennial Parade on Sunday 8th September. They are already hosting are already hosting 30 members from Waterlooville Branch after the parade with big eats, entertainment and of course Tots.

It is always nice to host visiting Shipmates as now a days they are in short supply at Uxbridge so if any other branches would like to be included after the parade please, or out and about visiting near London please come and visit us. We are conveniently situated just of the M40 at Hillingdon UB10 9PG. To arrange a visit please contact us via e mail rna.uxbridge@Hotmail.co.uk or by phone 01895 230071

Thank you and best wishes, Slinger Woods RNA Uxbridge Hon Secretary

2. ★ Attendance at Cenotaph Parade, Field of Remembrance and St Paul Seafarers Service

For Shipmates wishing to attend any of the events/services below, as you would appreciate, regrettably due to continued stringent security there is a requirement to provide more information than just your name and address for the RBL organised Cenotaph parade.

- ❖ 7 November 2019, **Westminster Abbey Field of Remembrance**.
Full name and address is required to send tickets to. Branches wishing to have a Field cross laid on the RNA Plot please send details to Nigel as usual. £5 each.
- ❖ 9 October 2019, **St Pauls Seafarers Service**. Late afternoon start. Details to follow.
Full name and address is required to send tickets to.
- ❖ 10 November 2019, **Cenotaph Parade**. Reflecting the current heightened security requirement and in order to maintain the continued protection afforded to those attending the Remembrance Sunday Parade in London a number of significant changes have had to be made to the process for obtaining a ticket to allow shipmates to march in the parade.



This will ensure that the Metropolitan Police continue to provide security at the current level. The changes below have been approved by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, whose responsibility it is for co-ordinating and managing the national remembrance parade and their delegated representatives: TRBL; MoD; HQ London District.

There will be a maximum of 10,000 places available, the intention being to achieve a balance of representation that accurately reflects the wider Veteran community, including the Commonwealth. It will seek to

include as many Veterans Associations and Military Charities as possible.

Due to the heightened security measures the Met Police will need to conduct individual security checks on all participants. Therefore, Basic Personal Information will be required in advance for each applicant and ticket holders will need to bring photo ID and a document showing proof of their address for access to the parade at Horse guards via manned Police entry points.

Finally, the criteria for participation have changed and are as follows;

Category 1 -	<i>Ex-Service Personnel holding a campaign medal</i>
Category 2 -	<i>Civilians deployed on operations in support of the Military</i>
Category 3 -	<i>Ex-Service Personnel with no campaign medal</i>
Category 4 -	<i>Bereaved Spouses (husband/wife/partner who died on operations)</i>
Category 5 -	<i>Veteran association representatives</i>
Category 6 -	<i>Military Charities and associated Civilian groups</i>

All Shipmates hoping to march in the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph **must** forward the following details to Nigel at Central Office (HQ) – nigel@royalnavalassoc.com by **Monday, 12 Aug 2019**

Title/Rank,
First Name (**This must be the name on the photo ID**),
Last Name,
Date of Birthday (DD/MM/YYYY),
Place of Birth,
First line of address, Town, Postcode,
Service number (Where applicable),
Criteria (As per list above)

Individually **Named** tickets will be despatched in October. Shipmates please be aware that there will be a **compulsory ‘no ticket no entry’** policy in operation on the day.

Please forward details for the attention of Nigel Huxtable at Central Office allowing plenty of time for administration purposes. Thank you for your assistance and forbearance.

3. ★ HMS Collingwood Open- Field Gun Day

Shipmate Soapy Watson, Area 3 Chairman reports from HMS Collingwood Open/Field Gun Day

The day went very well. The RNA Gazebo was positioned next to the RNRM Charity Stand in a very visible and good site. The Bikers Branch representatives, and a representative from ‘Pusser’s’ with some stock! Were also a member of the RNA team in the gazebo.

Soapy was heard to say” Hey ho, new it was going to be a very good day indeed as we were dispensing samples to old Matelots, along with



selling it. Shame I had to drive home at the end of the day!”.

The Gazebo had a visit from the General Secretary Bill and his wife, they spent quite a bit of time with us on the stand with us, and Bill joined in with the ‘up spirits’ as you would have expected from the General Secretary!



Shipmate Steve Caulfield the National Events Advisor, who was in a liaison role and had arranged the day came along with fellow Pendleton Branch Members, and 2 members with bikes, from the Bikers Branch.

The Gazebo was right in the spotlight to watch the field gun run from our stand, we all had a good day with lots of interest from the crowd, and we picked up 3 prospectus members. Steve said all being well, we will do it again in June 2020. Hopefully, ‘Pusser’s’ may join us, again!

Soapy Watson BEM

4. ★ ‘A Thousand Good Deeds’ – RNA Falmouth Branch

John Soanes, Chairman of Torbay Branch, recently received a telephone call from a 95 years old survivor John Eskdale, from the sinking during World War Two of HMS CHARYBDIS, who had just received a call from a friend of his who lives near Perros Guiras in France informing him that he had that day, visited the Memorial dedicated to HMS CHARYBDIS & HMS LIMBOURNE and saw a floral tribute had been laid by a member of the Torbay Branch.

John Eskdale wished to inform Torbay Branch how very much he and others appreciated the kind gesture. A message was forwarded to all members to establish the identity of the shipmate without a reply, until some two weeks later when S/M Brian Andrews returned from a holiday in France and advised it was him that laid the tribute, and the mystery was solved.!

5. ★ RNVC Series – Lieutenant Richard Douglas Sandford VC Royal Navy



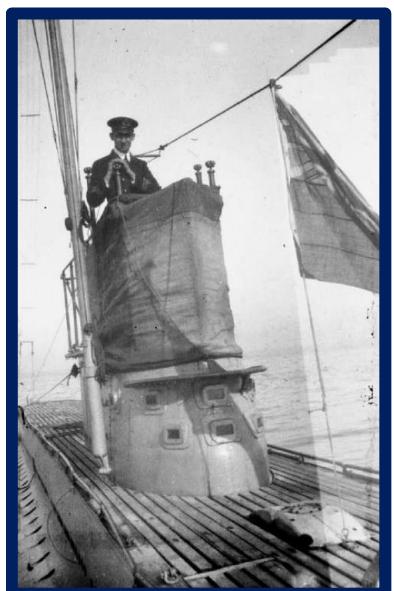
Lieutenant Richard Douglas “Baldy” Sandford (1891-1918) was born on 11th May 1891 in Exmouth. Richard was educated at Clifton College before going on to HMS Britannia at Dartmouth to start a career in the Royal Navy. He became a midshipman on 15th September 1908, serving on the battleship HMS Hibernia and then, from January 1910 until April 1911, on the torpedo-boat destroyer HMS Arab.

In January 1914 he was appointed to 2nd Submarine Flotilla based in HMS Dolphin for submarine training. Submarine service suited him staying in ‘boats’ for the rest of RN career. he moved to HMS Onyx (1st Submarine Flotilla) at Devonport in May, as a spare officer.

Richard Douglas served in number of Submarines until the ill fated K6 as a Lieutenant in February 1917. Very sadly the boat on 31 January 1918 got caught up in the Battle of May Island tragedy which saw many ships colliding with other in foggy weather conditions

Following an inquiry into the Battle of May Island, there were several changes in personnel. Among those who left Rosyth was Lt Dick Sandford, though he left the K-Class for the planned Zeebrugge Raid. He was sent to attend a “perisher course” for potential submarine commanders at HMS Dolphin and was put in temporary command of K2. But when his elder brother Francis, who was serving as demolitions officer on Keyes’ staff, approached him with the offer of commanding C3 on its mission to blow up the viaduct at Zeebrugge, he seized the opportunity to change his luck and rescue an otherwise undistinguished career.

On 22nd/23rd April 1918 at Zeebrugge, Belgium, Lieutenant Sandford commanding HM Submarine C.3, skilfully placing the vessel between the piles of the viaduct which connected the Mole with the shore, before laying his fuse and abandoning her. He disdained to use the gyro steering which would have enabled him



and his crew to abandon the submarine at a safe distance, but preferred to make sure that his mission would be successful.

His Citation, which was Gazetted on 23 July 1918 read;

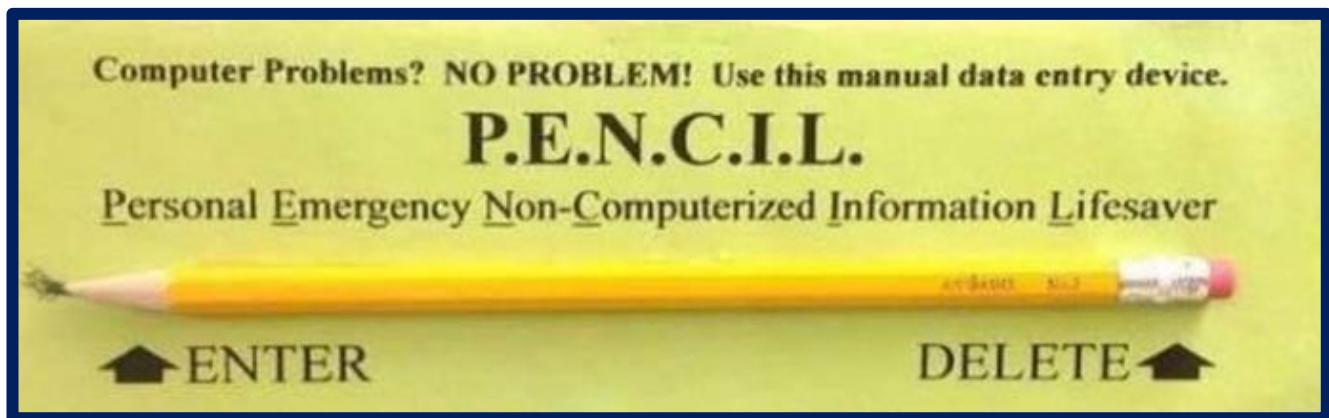
On 22/23 April 1918 at Zeebrugge, Belgium, Lieutenant Sandford Commanding HM Submarine C.3, skilfully placed the vessel between the piles of the viaduct which connected the Mole with the shore, before laying his fuse and abandoning her. He disdained to use the gyro steering which would have enabled him and his crew to abandon the submarine at a safe distance, but preferred to make sure that his mission would be successful.

Eight days after the announcement with his wounds healed, he went to Buckingham Palace to receive his VC from King George V. To this, the French added their Legion of Honour, which was gazetted on 28th August.

Very sadly, shortly afterwards he contracted typhoid fever and went into Cleveland House Naval Hospital, Grangetown, where he died on 23rd November 1918. He was just 27 and he had little time to bask in the glory of the VC.

He was buried in Eston Cemetery, near Middlesbrough, and is remembered on a number of memorials including at the Submarine Museum. His medals are held by the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, Devon.

6. ★ Computer Problems – The Cornish Solution!



7. World War Two - Veteran Documentary Enquiry

My name is Chloe Finnegan and I am a researcher working for a documentary production house based in Bristol, called Frank Films. We are at the very early stages of exploring the potential production of a multi-episode documentary series; centred on bringing to life the experiences of Second World War veterans during key battles. We hope to speak with veterans about what it felt like 'in the moment' and to capture as many different voices as possible, to bring to life their stories for a 21st century audience. I am reaching out to as many organisations as possible, in the hopes of making contact with surviving veterans who may wish to take part.

If it is possible for you to help us to make contact with relevant veterans, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information or wish to speak over the phone again, my number is 07872527543 or e-mail chloe@frank-films.co.uk

8. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment

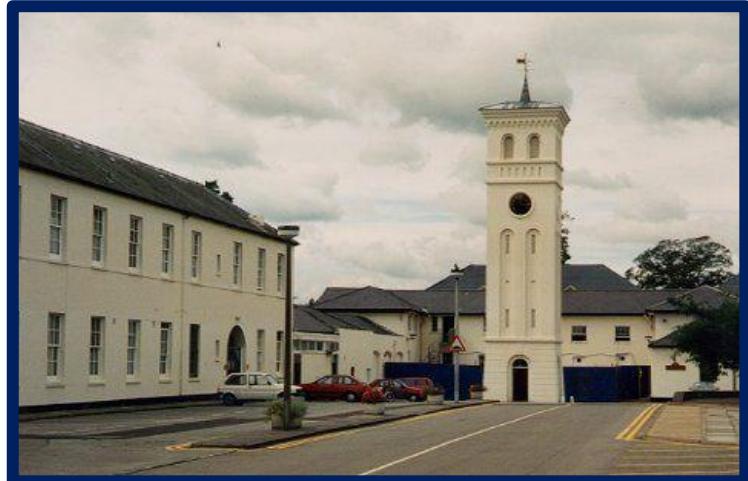
Good Luck with this is one

... The answer will be in next month's edition. Remember no hovering or looking in google or Wiki!!!

And so, the answer to June's Guess the Establishment.....

It was.....

HMS Heron / RNAS Yeovilton



9. ★ Victory Walker Update – Cdr Jane Allen RN

Shipmates I am sure will be very interested to know how Jane's walk is progressing round the UK. Sadly, in her words she "took a tumble" which stalled the walk for a while, however she is back up and running sorry walking!

Commander (Rtd) Jane Allen, the Victory Walker, set off from HMS Victory on 21 October 2017, to walk anticlockwise round the coast of mainland UK raising money for two naval charities, the WRNS BT and RNRMC. Her last update (Feb edition) reported that she had reached Wales in time for Christmas, ready to take on the Welsh Coast Path at the start of 2019. Since then she has had mixed fortunes and now provides an update.

The New Year saw me swing on my rucksack again to continue walking around the varied coastline of Wales. I knew the distance would be much shorter than Scotland and I hoped to cross back into England by about mid-March. Annoyingly, things didn't work out as I'd hoped.

Unlike Scotland that required me to navigate through 66 OS maps, Wales looked slightly easier with a mere 18 OS maps and a bonus of 6 guide-books! Although called the Wales Coast Path, it is in fact seven long distance paths that have been linked together. I began with the North Wales path before moving onto the Llyn Peninsula path. Industrially, the reputation of Wales was built on metals, coal, slate, granite and stone – all of which I'd see during my Welsh travels.



today, I think static caravans compete for poll position! I quickly passed through Llandudno with its majestically long pier before moving on to Conwy with Thomas Telford's famous suspension

bridge and Conwy's large castle - the first of many that I'd see in Wales. Bangor, also with a pier, provided views up the Menai Strait towards the famous Menai bridge which links mainland Wales to Anglesey. Caernarfon followed before I headed out onto the remote and beautiful Llyn Peninsula; here I was delighted to clock 4,000 miles.

Shortly afterwards, near Pwllheli, a former PO Wren Cook, Jeannie Owen-Jones, a member of Llandudno RNA came to our rescue late one night: our planned overnight parking arrangements didn't materialise but with some quick thinking and a hurried phone call, Jeannie soon had us safely parked in a vast farm barn!

At Porthmadog I joined my third Welsh path, the Ceredigion, that took me through rough weather and tough terrain. During the early stages I experienced snow, but fine weather had returned by the time I got to Barmouth. Throughout, I frequently criss-crossed the Cambrian railway line which hugs that part of the coast.

Onward to Aberdovey in relentless rain, with sunnier weather arriving in time for Aberystwyth. En route to Aberystwyth I experienced some roller-coaster cliff walking and again towards New Quay further along the coast. The climbs were severe, followed by plunges into deep ravines, before yet another ascent and the sight of more hills ahead.

In Cardigan I picked up the Pembrokeshire coast path, one I'd been particularly looking forward to. It was here we received a generous donation from RNA Cardigan via Ricky Watson and his wife Christine. Christine is also a member of the local Association of Wrens group and together with Julie Ward (also a dual member) the AOW made another welcome donation to the Victory Walk.

Walking past Strumble Head and on towards Wales' famous St David's Head, I could see how the Irish Sea has caused cliff erosion, natural arches, jagged rocks, caves, cliff overhangs and much more. I kept well back from the edge!

After St David's I was soon tramping the sweep of St Brides Bay before rounding St Anne's Head and heading towards Milford Haven. This deep, busy port regularly receive vast tankers which replenish its oil and LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) terminals. Pembroke Dock, a former Sunderland flying boat base quickly followed and then it was on into Pembroke, home to yet another castle!



By now I'd clocked over 4,300 miles and things were going well, but it suddenly changed. On a sunny February afternoon, in a field outside Pembroke's oil refinery, my right boot clipped a small rock hidden in the grass; in a split second I tripped and was thrown downhill where I lay screaming with pain. I knew my right arm and shoulder were badly injured.

With no phone signal it was up to me to get back through the fields and seek help. Luckily a passing refinery worker saw me and summoned the refinery medics. Later I was transferred into a county ambulance where I was stabilised before being taken to Haverfordwest's A & E department.

In all, seven hazy and very painful hours passed by with the A & E team trying to solve the problem. Unable to take any more pain, I was eventually admitted to theatre under general

anaesthetic. Once there, my severely dislocated and chipped right shoulder was manipulated back into position. The surrounding tendons and muscles were left very badly shredded and bruised.

We both knew it could have been worse, but I also knew the Victory Walk was now 'on hold'. My right shoulder joint and its chipped bone needed 3 weeks to mesh together, after which the damaged soft tissues had to be given time to begin healing. This was all before any physio could start. Having been told my arm must stay immobile for the first 3 weeks, it was clear that living in the Victory Van was not practical. Therefore, we were forced to rent an apartment in Milford Haven while we waited to see how the situation unfolded. Ongoing pain, doubts, loss of confidence and much more happened during what turned out to be 10 weeks off the road because the soft tissue damage was more severe than first thought.

At the end of April I returned to walking, initially covering modest mileages and carrying a smaller rucksack as I completed the Pembrokeshire coast path. Just after Tenby I moved on to the Carmarthen Bay & Gower Coast Path (131 miles). That path led me to Swansea where 4,500 miles were clocked.

Reaching Swansea was a good feeling - I was about to start the final push to the iconic Severn Bridge. Finally, joining the South Wales Coast Path I passed through some of the great coal exporting ports of Wales, starting with Barry, followed by Penarth, Cardiff and Newport. My route along the south Wales coast to the old Severn Crossing offered a bit of everything: clifftop walking, a visit to Barry Island, dramatic limestone cliffs, numerous estuaries and grassy sea banks were all encountered before I walked across the Severn estuary and back into England with a great sigh of relief.



Finally, back in England, I headed down the Severn, stopping to meet Connie Gregory, a lively 95 year-old WWII Wren who still drives; she insisted on jumping into the Victory Van's driving seat! Musical Connie, who is a member of the RNA Bristol South branch, also invited me in for tea and serenaded me with various nautical tunes. It was a great way to finish my 722 miles around Wales.

At the time of writing I've recently clocked 4,800 miles, having passed Minehead where I started the 630-mile South West Coast Path. This National Trail will take

me around Land's End where I'll set my final easterly course for Pompey, and I look forward to meeting further RNA members along my route.

The Victory Walk is raising money for two Naval charities, WRNS BT and RNRMC. To donate go to www.Virginmoneygiving.com/victorywalk17-18. To find out more about Jane's Victory Walk go to www.victorywalk.uk

10. ★ Joke Time - One for the Grannies! Joke

After working most of her life Granny finally retired. At her next checkup, the new doctor told her to bring a list of all the medicines that had been prescribed for her.

As the young doctor was looking through these, his eyes grew wide as he realised she had a prescription for birth control pills. "Mrs. Smith, do you realise these are birth control pills?", the doctor asked.

"Yes, they help me sleep at night!" She replied. "Mrs. Smith, I assure you there is absolutely nothing in these that could possibly help you sleep!"

She reached out and patted the young Doctor's knee.

"Yes, dear, I know that. But every morning, I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16-year-old granddaughter drinks... and believe me, it helps me sleep at night!"

11. ★Assistance Please – S/M J Holloway – HQ Roll

S/M J Holloway has written to Central Office to assist him locate an old shipmate.

Hello Shipmates,

I was wondering if you could help me please? I have for some time now been trying to find Lt Cdr David Callister RN ex HMS Iron Duke.

I have just moved from Devon to West Sussex, and in packing I came across some old photos, one being from HMS Iron Duke Association of shipmates planting a tree in memory of shipmates past. This made me contact Malvern council to find out tree and memorial still existed. They kindly sent me a picture of a very large copper beech tree.

I have tried to contact all my old Dukes shipmates in Malvern, but I am afraid they have all past away. David was at one time Chairman of the Dukes. If any shipmates could assist, please let Central Office know or contact me direct on allthe888s@yahoo.com.

Thank you, Yours J Holloway

12. ★ RC Annual Naval Masses

Ian Crabtree the Pastoral Assistant to the RN Catholic Chaplaincy would like to inform Shipmates about the Annual Naval Masses. Please see below;

Shipmates, Ladies & Gentlemen,

You and your family and friends are invited to the **Annual Naval Masses** next month, in St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth at 1000 on Sunday 14 July, and in the Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Boniface, Plymouth at 1000 on Sunday 21 July.

Please take advantage of this opportunity for the Catholic community in the Naval Service to come together from their various parishes to mark their identity as both Catholic and serving in the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, RFA or Cadet Forces.

Fr David Conroy QHC RN, Principal Catholic Chaplain for the Royal Navy, will preside at the Portsmouth Mass and Bishop Paul Mason, Bishop of the Forces, will be the principal celebrant at the Plymouth Mass. During Mass, some of the artefacts we use in the Service will be woven into the prayers as a visual reminder of the ways service in uniform and faith are related.

Refreshments will be served after each Mass so please stay on and socialise.

Dress for serving personnel is 1B for the RN, Blues with medals for the RM.

Queries should be addressed to:

Portsmouth Mass: ian.crabtree277@mod.gov.uk or telephone 023 9272 3660

Plymouth Mass: Robert.Matau100@mod.gov.uk or telephone 01752 811225

13. ★ Shipmate Pip Harrison

Shipmate Pip Harrison received a 'surprise surprise' Birthday visit over Conference weekend. Not one Senior Officer but three! (Which could be termed BOGOF +) And the National Chairman too.

The National President, Vice Admiral John McAnally, General Secretary, Captain Bill Olyphant and recently retired ex General Secretary Captain Paul Quinn all called on Pip to wish him a very Happy **104th** Birthday and offer their joint congratulations.

Congratulations from the whole RNA.
BZ Pip.



14. ★ HMS Crane Association De-commissioned

Shipmate Peter Down wishes shipmates to be aware that the HMS Crane association has sadly de-commissioned. Please see the article below.



As often happens with ex-Services organisations, a declining and aging membership has regrettably caused the **HMS CRANE ASSOCIATION** (1943-62) to be wound up but the memory of this notable vessel continues to flourish, as the memorabilia of the Association, including two detailed models of the ship at different stages of her career, have found safe berths with Marshland Maritime Museum, near Kings Lynn and with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Old China Hands will fondly remember CRANE as the "*Wanchai Chicken*" due to her continuous service in the Far East between 1951–1963. She was the last of the Black Swan class of sloops operational in the Royal Navy. They distinguished themselves in the Battle of the Atlantic, operating as Hunter Killer Escort Groups, not tied to defence of convoys but proactively searching for U-boats in the areas where they congregated; near



their bases in the Bay of Biscay and in mid-Atlantic where convoy routes to and from North America crossed. CRANE participated in sinking two U-Boats as well as supporting the Allied landings in Sicily and Normandy.

CRANE is also believed to be the only ship to have brought down a jet fighter by gunfire that was not radar controlled [Bofors 40/60] when she was mistakenly attacked by Israeli Mystère aircraft during the Suez Campaign of 1956.



The Borough of Bethnal Green (now part of Tower Hamlets) adopted CRANE during Warship Week in 1943 [**see Note**]. In recent years the Association has presented the ship's bell and badge to the Borough and members of the Association regularly attend an Armistice Day service in the Town Hall.

The accurately detailed model, 37 inches long, was made by Peter Parkington of Ipswich, who served as an Able Seaman in CRANE in 1957-59. The model will join these artefacts as a focus for Remembrance in the new Town Hall (former Whitechapel Hospital) when that is inaugurated in 2021.

The photo shows Cllr Victoria Obaze, Speaker of the Council [Civic Mayor] and Mayor John Briggs, Mayor [Political Leader of the Council] at London Borough of Tower Hamlets receive the CRANE model from Peter Down (left) who served in the ship as a Sub Lieutenant in 1959-60.

Marshland Maritime Museum is a small privately-run award-winning museum in Clenchwarton near Kings Lynn, Norfolk. Owned by Mike and Jo Smith, Mike is a former Leading Seaman Quarters Armourer, who served in several Daring-class destroyers in the 1950's and also in a TON minesweeper. Not surprisingly, the D-Boats Association and the TON Class Association are among the enthusiastic supporters of the museum. With over 3000 exhibits dating from the Victorian Navy to the current RN, the museum is well worth a visit. Groups from RNA Branches, schools, Sea Cadets and trainee RN meteorologists stationed at nearby RAF Marham, are among frequent visitors. The website www.marshlandmaritimemuseum.com contains directions and contact details. It is advisable to book ahead so Mike and Jo can put the kettle on to welcome you.

Famous Black Swans included STARLING, Captain Frederic Walker DSO***, who pioneered the Escort Group concept and sank six U-boats in one patrol, MAGPIE, commanded by HRH Prince Philip in the Mediterranean in 1950-52 and AMETHYST of Yangtse incident fame. For further details please contact Peter Down e-mail: peter.avoca@gmail.com

Phone: 01449 721 235



Note - Warship Week was a Government Scheme, introduced during the dark days of World War II whereby communities could "sponsor" a warship by collecting money for the War Effort and exchange letters of friendship with the ship. Both ship and town hall received a bronze-coloured plaque about 12 inches square to acknowledge the relationship. Sometimes "pen-pal" links developed between families and individual sailors. Due to wartime censorship of Forces' Mail, such correspondence must have been quite limited, as the sailors were not allowed to disclose where they were, or had been, or their next destination, nor give details of

any activities or actions in which the ship had been engaged.

Ladies groups in the town, including the Girl Guides, would also knit scarves, balaclava helmets and gloves to provide additional warmth for the sailors of “their” ship. Since wool was a strategic material, so not widely available, these “comforts” were usually made of scraps of wool, re-cycled from older garments, hence often multi-coloured in a random assortment. They were much appreciated by sailors on watch in the North Atlantic, where keeping warm was a challenge and fashion was not.

There was a similar initiative called “Spitfire Week” whereby rich individuals, such as the Maharaja of Jaipur, would donate £25,000; the nominal cost to produce a Spitfire fighter aircraft, and have the aircraft named after them. Groups and communities would band together to raise money for this purpose and it was often linked with collection of aluminium saucepans and kettles etc to be melted down to make aircraft parts. Such collections were often run by the Boy Scout troops in an area.

The photo shows ‘Feathers Ruffled’ – In her Element -

Painting from a photograph of CRANE preparing to RAS (Refuel At Sea) off Pulau Tioman, east coast of Malaya, during the monsoon season in 1958.

There was a similar scheme to collect scrap iron, including the metal railings round churches, parks and public buildings, to generate raw material to produce munitions; all in the name of the War Effort. The shorn stumps of railings are still visible on some buildings even today. These initiatives made a great positive contribution to civilian morale and enabled people to feel that, in the phrase of the day, they were “doing their bit”.



2019	
25 Jul	Mid-year Budget Review - London
26 Jul	Open Day
03 Aug	Area 3 Meeting - Portsmouth
03 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly - Rayleigh
30 Aug	Open Day
07 Sep	National Council Meeting /AMC./FAC - UJC
08 Sep	Biennial Parade - Whitehall
21 Sep	Area 4 Meeting - Weymouth
11 Oct	Open Day
02 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
08 Nov	2020 Budget Meeting - London
15 Nov	FAC
16 Nov	AMC
23 Nov	Area 3 Meeting - Gosport
07 Dec	National Council Meeting
2020	
01 Feb	Area 5 Quarterly/AGM - Harwich
14 Feb	FAC / SOC
15 Feb	AMC
29 Feb	Area 3 Meeting - Netley
07 Mar	National Council Meeting
TBC Apr/May	National Standard Bearers Competition- HMS Collingwood
02 May	Area 5 Quarterly - Stowmarket
8/10 May	2020 Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations in Londonderry
05/07 Jun	National Conference – Liverpool (Area 10)
05 Jun	National Council / AMC/ FAC / SOC Meetings
01 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly - Norwich
21 Aug	FAC
22 Aug	AMC
12 Sep	National Council Meeting
31 Oct	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
20 Nov	FAC
21 Nov	AMC
05 Dec	National Council Meeting

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

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[RNA Port Phillip](#)

[RNA Ferndown](#)

[RNA Chard](#)

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RNA Malta and Ton Class Association

On 14-21st May ten members of the TON Class Association made a sentimental Journey to Malta and while there, renewed their friendships with members of the Malta Branch of the RNA who they had met on previous TCA visits to the island.

The TCA group comprised Chairman Cdr Peter Harrison, David Browne with his son Rory, who was born on Malta, Michael and Marcia Cox, Clive and Sue Dennison, Peter and Doreen Down, and Derek Potter. RNA Malta personnel were President, S/M Charlie Galea, Chairman, S/M Paul Briffa, Secretary S/M Elaine Zerafa and Shipmate Henry Vella. They presented TCA with their banner and TCA entertained them to lunch and a tot, while reminiscing about the days when the RN had a substantial presence in the Mediterranean. (The photo shows Elaine and Peter)



The following day Elaine conducted the TCA group on a tour of the new exhibition in St Angelo "*Behind Closed Doors*" which tells the story of the RN's occupation of that historic site, with many exhibits from Maltese sailors who had been based there.

The TCA programme included visits to Valetta, Gozo, Marsaxxlok and a tour of the harbours of Sliema, Msida and Grand Harbour - a great week but somewhat exhausting !

RNA City of Inverness Branch

On 30 April 2019 members of the branch were present at the unveiling of the “Jellicoe Express” plaque. Hon Secretary Shipmate Trevor Carnall and S/M Bob Coburn travelled to Forsinard Railway Station, near Thurso, for the final unveiling.

In attendance was, Captain Chris Smith Royal Navy, regional Naval Commander for Scotland and Jonnie Jellicoe (grandson of Lord Jellicoe), Lord Lieutenants of Caithness & Ross and Cromarty and other dignitaries and local school children in period dress. A very good buffet lunch was served in the RSPB Visitors Centre.



This was followed on 11 May 2019 when 10 RNA Members (plus 2 Standards) attended the annual “Russian Arctic Convoy” wreath laying ceremonial at Cove, Loch Ewe.

In attendance also was the Lord Lieutenant of Ross & Cromarty, Consul General Russian Federation, Consul General Federal Republic of Germany, 5 veterans from the Arctic Convoys, RBLS and others.

RNA Torbay Branch

On Sunday 28th April 2019, Torbay Branch held a service at the Memorial on Roundham Head, Paignton dedicated to Lieutenant Commander Arthur Leyland Harrison VC Royal Navy on Roundham Head Paignton to commemorate the 101st Anniversary of the Zeebrugge Raid during which, Torquay born, Arthur Leyland Harrison VC gallantly gave his life.

The service was conducted by the Branch Chaplain S/M Paul Lomas. Attending with Torbay Branch members were representatives of Torbay Council, The local Torbay Sea Cadet Unit with standards and many other veterans and supporters.

The original granite plaque which was commissioned and dedicated by the branch in 2000 had become almost unreadable by the effects of the weather, bearing in mind Roundham Head is quite high and open to the winds, the branch decided in 2017 to raise funds to have it replaced with a bronze plate prior to the 100th Anniversary in 2018. This was dedicated in 2018.



RNA Port Phillips Branch

These were taken yesterday at the RNA Port Phillip Bay Branch 'Queens' Birthday Party', when we honoured our own D Day Veterans with a full table service lunch and 'Up Spirits'!

The D Day veterans in the photographs are: (from left to Right viewing).

S/M Tom Murdon RN .

S/M Cyril Handoll RM Commando, Legion Of Honour. –

S/M Albert Attwood RN, Legion of Honour –

S/M Charles Jenkinson RN, Legion of Honour –

S/M Charles Winter RN, Legion of Honour kneeling - Mr Brian Cunliffe son of the late

S/M Albion (Albie) Bright Cunliffe RN Legion of Honour. - Albie 'crossed the bar' on 19th May 2019



RNA Ferndown Branch

Shipmates from Ferndown branch attending a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace last year.



Shipmates Back Row (Left to Right) - Ian Scraggs, Tony Amos, Norman Drake, Bob Tremble, Mick Arnold. Front Row Sandra Scraggs, Jocelyn Jenkins, Lynda Drake, Sandra Amos, Jean Arnold. Incredibly Tony Amos who is second from left in the back row took this photo!

RNA Chard Branch

Thanks to Shipmate Dick Moon who reports on the latest 'happenings' in deepest Somerset at Chard Branch

Chard branch members spent a weekend up North to visit the National Memorial Arboretum and, on their return, back South broke their journey by visiting the Leyster Hospital in Warwick.



The trip North was slow as the group joined everyone else heading home for the weekend amongst the rain and miserable conditions. Fed, watered and rested the next day was spend visiting the arboretum in weather that turned out to be wet and miserable although it never dampened members spirit and after the road train they made their own way to pay individual pilgrimages at the many memorials.

The following day the group headed back South in glorious sunshine and an hour and a half later called in at Warwick to visit Leyster Hospital the home for ex-servicemen known as brothers and who live in the hospital which is older than the RH Chelsea.

The group was welcome by Brother Peter 'Buck' Taylor and S/M of Warwick RNA as well as being a S/M of the HMS Ulster Association alongside Chard's very own Press office S/M Dick Moon. Buck gave a very informative guided walk around the grounds and buildings ending in the great hall where the group had pre ordered lunch.

To their surprise Buck had arranged for members of his RNA branch attend and to give an 'Up spirits' to all present, this went down well with old salts but also found some converts to rum during the issue, lady not partaking were given wine. The lunch was taken and was of the highest quality and all found themselves fully refreshed.



Warwick RNA Chairman raised a toast to both Warwick and Chard RNA branches, Chard Branch Chairman then thanked the Warwick branch members for their hospitality, supply of rum (old sea salts) (Rum Rats!) and wine (fruit based drink) for the ladies.

Shortly after the Chard branch headed home arriving back late afternoon after a smooth drive back by the driver and member S/M James Kirkland.

I would like to say to any Branch out there that a visit to the Leyster Hospital is well worth it, the food supplied is excellent and the Brother's most accommodating we would thoroughly recommend it.

RNA France Nord Branch

Two very busy days for France Nord Branch during the 75th D Day commemorations.



5th June 2019: France Nord President, Ray Yeowell attended the Rose Garden, by the Caen Peace Museum, to lay a Poppy Wreath at the Navy memorial there on behalf of the RNA.

The ceremony commenced promptly at 1530 with F.N. Standard Bearers alongside many French ones. The VIP's were piped to their places by a lone piper, who later in the service played the lament "Flowers of the Forest" as he circuited past the Navy, Army and Air Force memorials.

S/M Ray was joined at the Navy memorial by a 96 year old Admiral, in a wheelchair unable to stand but still managed to place his wreath, a representative of Dover and District RNA, Merchant Navy representatives from Weymouth Branch, plus two Australian Naval Officers who had attended since their Grandfather had taken part in the D day landings.

6th June 2019

Below is an article written by a France Nord Shipmate describing the 1100 Sword Beach ceremony and 1630 Gold Beach ceremony with President Macron, the First Sea Lord Sir Philip Jones, American Chief of Naval Force, the second Sea Lord and the Naval Attaché to the British Ambassador Paris.



At 0731 on 6th June 1944, 177 members of 1er Bataillon de Fusiliers Marins Commandos landed on Sword beach, where in accordance with tradition they were given the honour of firing the first shots on their return to their homeland. These brave men were led by the newly appointed Lieutenant de Vaisseau (Captain) Philippe Kieffer of the Free French Navy, and 75 years later six members of the Royal Navy Association France Nord were present to remember and honour their Bravery.



At the Flamme Memorial to the Kieffer Commandos as they were to become known, a statue to Capitaine Phillippe Kieffer was unveiled by his daughter, Dominique Kieffer and the mayor of Ouistreheim-Riva Bella, Romain Bail before a huge crowd including one of the last three surviving commandos from that fateful day, Leon Gautier.

For a long time, these Frenchmen, the only ones in uniform to participate in D-Day on the Normandy coasts, have been forgotten by history. "Now we talk a lot about them, all the Normans know them but it's true that they were recognized late, they had the legion of honour late," said Ms. Kieffer. Some survivors of the commando received the Legion of Honour only in 2004.

There was even a guard of honour by ex Kieffer commandos who are now part of a Kieffer biker group. In the afternoon at Colleville-Montgomery we also attended a ceremony to remember the 177 Kieffer Commandos who participated and gave their lives on 6th June. Kieffer and his men paid their commitment with their

blood. Two officers and eight men were killed on Sword Beach. At the end of the day, they managed to make the junction with the British paratroopers who seized the bridge of Bénouville (Pegasus Bridge)

The ceremony was held by French President, Emmanuel Macron accompanied by the first lady. During the ceremony a new standard was presented to 1er Bataillon de Fusiliers Marins, along with the presentation of medals to current serving members of the battalion.



RNA St Neots Branch

As the National conference was on the St Neots Branch doorstep this year, branch members turned out in force to support the event.

S/Ms turned up for Stewardship duties on both days and S/M Ian Cameron helped-out with the registration process.

S/M Keith Ridley turned out in his position as National Chairman of the RNA and S/M Mike Milne, as St Neots Branch Chairman and John Gibbs, Branch President, also attended.



Shipmates in the photo are – L-R Peter Lodge, Jayne Miller, John Gibbs, Maureen Ridley, Keith Ridley (Also National Chairman) and Helen Patterson



S/Ms staving off the threat of dehydration at the Gala dinner-from left, Pete Horner, Peter Plant, Geoff Patterson (Branch Delegate), John Gibbs, Mike Milne and Jim Lawson.

BZ to S/Ms Maureen Ridley, Helen Patterson, plus Moira and Jane Barltrop for decorating the tables prior to the evening festivities.

On 15/16 June the Branch collection for local good causes got a real boost after two days at Tesco in St Neots. The public, as usual, were generous with their contributions and very complimentary on the turnout of Shipmates manning the stand.

It also helped that previous good causes in the area which the branch had supported, were exhibited on the stand. RNA Sailors hats were a great hit with the kiddies and the Branch were asked to hand out leaflets for the St Neots Armed Forces Day the following weekend. The funds collected will significantly bolster the branch funds for good causes for 2019. The St Neots branch will be manning a stand at that event on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd June. Once again it will be all hands-on deck!



Starring in the accompanying photo are Shipmates Tony Webley, Helen Patterson, Jayne Miller, Yvonne Webley & Geoff Patterson putting their best buckets forward.

RNA Tyne Branch

Shipmate Roslyn Hastie-Murray forwarded this dispatch from Tyne Branch which over the last few months has been a period of various challenges for the Branch.

In April after what started as a challenge from the cadets of TS Leviathan (Gateshead SCC) to the veterans of RNA Tyne developed into to a rowing race on the River Tyne.

The Mayor of Gateshead, Councillor Jill Green, took up the idea and it became a three mile race from Derwenthough to the Millennium Bridge to raise funds for the Mayor's charities for 2018-19 with the theme of "The Royal Navy - past, present and future".



The photo shows S/Ms Ziggie Bowie, Tony Knock White, Eddie Chambers, Ian Strong, Kirk Douglass



RNA Tyne came in second place to the team from HMS Calliope, followed by TS Leviathan and the Mayor's Civic team. HMS Calliope kindly hosted refreshments and hospitality for the teams and their supporters at the end of the Race

£480 was raised in sponsorship for TS Leviathan by RNA Tyne who are looking forward to a rematch next year.

May saw our Branch President, George Laverick, celebrated his 94th birthday with shipmates at the RBL Club at Jesmond and took part in a dedication ceremony for a Memorial Bench with other veterans.

Photo - Shipmates: Lou Armstrong, Kirk Douglass, Bri Brooke, Stretch Armstrong, Eddie Chambers and George Laverick



Very sadly in June following a year's battle with illness and treatment Chris Rich, our Branch Secretary, died at the beginning of the month. His funeral was well attended by family, friends and shipmates from across Area 11 as well as our own Branch and the Submariners Association. His long service with our Branch (and the former Gateshead Branch) included Standard Bearer and Rum Bosun as well as Secretary and he will be very much missed by us all.

RNA Plymouth Branch

A Gentle Reminder from Social Sec Sue. Trafalgar Dinner, Plymouth Branch are holding their 12th Biennial Trafalgar Weekend 2019 at the 'The Livermead House Hotel', Torquay on the weekend 11th to 13th October 2019. The branch would like to invite shipmates to join them.

"An exceptional weekend, fine cuisine at an outstanding venue"

Bed, Breakfast, Evening Meal with a formal Saturday Night. 3 nights £190, 2 nights £130, 1 night £65.
Deposit £20 (non- returnable). Balance August 2019.
Details from: Sue Gutteridge (Social Sec)
suzanne5571@virginmedia.com or T. (01752) 849176



RNA Stourbridge Branch



On Saturday 15th June 2019, Stourbridge and District Branch laid up the old branch Standard and dedicated a new one.

The service was held in the Parish Church of St Thomas, in Stourbridge, conducted by the Rev. Andrew SILLIS. In attendance was the National President, Vice Admiral John McAnally.



The event was well supported by Shipmates from Stourbridge and branches from No.8 Area, including Shipmate Peter Godwin, No.8

area NCM, and the Royal Marines Association. Staff and Cadets from T.S. Centaur S.C.C., (Dudley Unit), assisted in keeping things running smoothly. Standards were paraded by The Association of Royal Yachtsmen, Birmingham Central and Tewksbury branches of the R.N.A., The Royal British Legion, (Stourbridge Branch) and T.S. Centaur

Following the service Shipmates retired to the Royal British Legion Club in Stourbridge for a well-deserved Tot and light refreshment. Also included as an added bonus was a demonstration of Belly Dancing by a group of ladies called 'Habibi'!

A very enjoyable day!!.



RNA Portland Branch

At 1315 on February 15th 2019 nine members of the Portland Branch with two members of the Weymouth Branch of the Royal Naval Association and two members of the Merchant Navy Association joined with members of the public to pay their respects to Petty Officer Asayoshi Harada of the Imperial Japanese Navy who was interned, with full military honours, in the Naval Cemetery on Portland exactly 100 years ago.



It was initiated by Jed Grant who, with his father, has regularly visited the Cemetery. He knew of the headstone and wished to inform any surviving members of Asayoshi's family that his last resting place was still being well tended.

After much research he discovered that PO Harada had fallen overboard from his ship

while it was in Portland port; his body being recovered from the sea several months later. To discover more information, he contacted the Japanese Embassy who assisted to trace his descendants.

After fitting tributes were spoken by Jed Grant and Commander Holroyd RN the gathering lowered their heads in silent tribute whilst a personal wreath was laid by Jed Grant, followed by wreaths on behalf of the Japanese Nation by Captain Toshihide Noma Japan Maritime Self Defence Force and on behalf of the Royal Navy by Commander Jon Holroyd RN.



RNA Huntingdon Branch



Murray carried the Huntingdon RNA and RBL Standards, our Branch President, S/M Victor Lucas attended as a Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire and former High Sheriff, our Branch Padre, S/M Revd Clifford Owen and S/Ms Andrew Bish and Martin Girvan proudly wore their Green Berets.

Photographs shows five of our shipmates on completion of the service, and with the Mayor of Huntingdon and other guests outside of Huntingdon's Town Hall.

On Thursday 6th June 2019, a flag-raising ceremony and wreath laying service took place in Huntingdon. Shipmates from Huntingdon RNA attended the service wearing several hats.

S/M Karl Webb was there as Deputy Mayor of Huntingdon, S/Ms Bill Small and Graham



RNA Christchurch Branch



Shipmate Rick Squibb Christchurch Branch Chairman reports that the first outing of the branches new Gazebo has occurred.

It had a starring role at the Friends of the Red House Museum Christchurch Garden Party and is looking forward to further appearances in The Naval Village at the Bournemouth Air Festival in late August. Also, at Highcliffe and at the Quomps events

Dave Cyril Davis
Cerdric Hollands
Gerard Fisher
Thomas Ralph Naish

Dave Cyril Davis – Sittingbourne Branch

Sittingbourne Branch are sad to report that Shipmate Dave Cyril Davis, affectionately known as Longboat, has recently crossed the bar.

He was born 1921 and joined the RN 1939 at the outbreak of the war. He trained at Skegness and then Pembroke. His first ship in 1940 was the corvette Primula (K14) and on a Russian convoy he was dozing on messdeck when with an almighty crash the bow of a merchant ship came through the ships side, just missed him! They managed to bring the ship back to the royal Albert Dock for repair.

Longboat then volunteered for the Submarines Service in 1942.....'cos he thought it would be safer! Later in 1942 he was drafted to the depot ship Medway as spare crew for mainly 'T' boats. Medway was based in Alexandria. He sailed in Thunderbolt, the salvaged Thetis which was tragically lost on trials in the Liverpool Bay in 1938. He was lucky not to be on her when she was later lost with all hands in the Mediterranean.

In June of 1942 it was feared that Rommel was about to overrun Alexandria, so Medway was ordered to sail for Haifa. S/M Dave had just returned to Medway on the Tiger and was down below having a shower as she was leaving harbour. He said there were three almighty explosions which lifted the ship and then fell back and immediately listed to port. A German sub, U372, had been waiting outside the harbour. He and his mate were running along a passageway when some 45-gallon drums broke loose, one of which hit Dave in the face. They struggled on to the upper deck where his oppo found a rope hanging over the side, but as his mate swung on the rope he fell into the sea as it wasn't attached. Dave found himself in the sea and then climbing a net onto the destroyer Packenham.

He though he'd passed out and the next think he knew he was lying naked on deck with two WRENS standing over him. (They were being transferred from Alex to Haifa) (where have I heard that one before!) The hospital in Haifa found his jaw was broken in three places and he had lost one tooth. He was wired up with nuts and bolts which were tightened now and again to straighten his jaw. He was fed for weeks through the hole left by the missing tooth. He was shipped home via Suez and the Cape for, as he thought survivors leave, however he ended up living in a tent in Peters Marisburgh, Durban! He was there for nearly a year and on leaving for home left a son, who was born after he left. He saw the rest of the war and then left the RN in 1951.

He will be much missed.

Cedric Hollands – Ashford Branch

It is with great sadness that that Ashford Branch wish to inform Shipmates that S/M Cedric ‘Ced’ Hollands crossed the bar aged 94 on Friday 24 May 2019. Ced joined the RN in 1939 aged 15 and served for fourteen years before being discharged in 1954.

As an Able Seaman, guns and radar, he saw action in HMS Warspite in the Mediterranean, Burma, Sumatra and Pacific and spending six months in America while the ship underwent extensive repairs. On return to the UK he was drafted to HMS Kempenfelt serving again in the Med and service at D Day. The ship then deployed out to the Far East driving off several Kamikaze attacks and on VJ day assisted in the re-occupation of Hong Kong and Kowloon.



Ced remained in service until 1954 when, on discharge he worked at Ashford’s Railway Works, then car repairs and at a plastics factory. He retired aged 82, due to deteriorating eyesight and by 2008 was being assisted by Blind Veterans UK.

In 2015 he was chosen to headline the Blind Veterans national advertising campaign and in November 2016 was presented with the ‘Legion d’Honneur’ by the honorary French Consul James Ryeland.

The Father of two boys and three girls, he was also Grandfather to 18 Grandchildren and 20 Great Grandchildren.

Gerard Fisher – City of Glasgow Branch

Gerard Fisher crossed the bar aged 93.

He was a D Day veteran and pathfinder. He went ashore on 5th June to clear mines and when asked what he did there. He said he sent coded signals back and played hide and seek with the Germans.

Gerald received the Legion D'Honour in 2016 for his part in the landings. His funeral was well attended with over 100 veterans attending. He was a long-term member of The City of Glasgow RNA.

Thomas Ralph Naish – Bridgend Branch

Thomas Ralph Naish has crossed the bar.

He was the President of Bridgend RNA which de-commissioned some time ago. Tom served in HMS Whitesand Bay during the Korean War and also served on HMS Ocean, Anson and Osprey. He was a gunner.

The Standards of Rhondda Branch and the Type 42 Association were in attendance at his funeral along with a bugler played the Last post.

Originally from Somerset, Tom moved to Wales after marrying his wife Maureen (Mo) who thanked the Standard Bearers and Bugler for their attendance.

RNA Members Benefits

UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

- Variety of special deals for both Groups and Individuals. 1% of turnover thorough CONA Holiday Service is returned to the RNA. <http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/news/323/members-holidays-service>

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- 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!.

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Organisers of Reunions should be aware the CONA Travel will match or better any other 'like for like' Reunion/Group Trips bookings so why not give them an opportunity to impress you. 0844 264 2122

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

I would be very grateful if organisers of reunions would oblige me by obtaining a quote from the CONA Travel Service, who will not be beaten on like for like price. CONA Travel Service donate 1% of their CONA business back into the Conference totalling to date £2,400 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh and by the way their service is first class as well.

Sat 7th Sep 2019	847 NAS HMS SIMBANG 69 - 71 Association cliff.jones1948@gmail.com	Aztec Hotel Bristol
Fri 20/23 Sep 2019	HMS Ulster Reunion in Torquay. Details can be found at - https://www.candoo.com/ulsternorrie/reunions.html .	TLH Toorak Hotel, Torquay
Fri 20 /22 Sep 2019	RNCCA Reunion (50 th Anniversary) – RNCCA (50th Anniversary) Annual Reunion, Dinner Dance and AGM. Royal Beach Hotel Southsea, Hants honsec@rncca.org.uk < mailto:honsec@rncca.org.uk >	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
Fri 04 Oct 2019	HMS Lowestoft Association	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
Fri 04 Oct 2019	HMS Troubridge (Final Commission 66/69)	Adelphi Liverpool
Fri 04-7 Oct 2019	HMS Ajax & River Plate Veterans Association 2019 Reunion. Annual reunion for all who served on WW2 cruiser and F114 frigate. All are welcome including wives/partners/guests AGM, Up Spirits & Gala Dinner on Saturday Visit Chatham Historical Dockyard on Sunday Book through Isle of Wight Tours - enquires@iowtours.com or Contact Malcolm Collis - malcolm.collis@gmail.com	Holiday Inn Coniston, Sittingbourne, Kent
11/12 Oct 2019	Type 21 -10 th Anniversary Reunion . Friday 11 Oct – Venue TBC Saturday 12 Oct - Saturday 12th October, RBL Crownhill, Tailyour Rd, Plymouth PL6 5DH, AM AGM, followed by main event from 1900 - 2345 great raffle prizes, a hot buffet will be laid on and a tot. Cost will be £22 via Eventbrite details to follow. For further information please email Paul Gower at type21clubpro@gmail.com 07446 196733	RBL Crownhill Plymouth

11-14 Oct 2019	HMS Llandaff Association Reunion will take place in Eastbourne. Please contact kevin.wood@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 01895 230071	Eastbourne
Fri 25/Mon 28 th Oct 2019	The Survey Ships Association will be holding its twenty fifth reunion at the Mecure Chester North, Woodhey House Hotel Cheshire. From the W/E Friday 25th October – Monday 28 th October 2019. For information on membership and reunion please send a SAE to: The Secretary SSA 16 Quay Ostend Cliff Park Great Yarmouth Norfolk NR31 6TP. E mail: secretary@surveyships.org.uk Phone number 07974156996	Mercure Chester North
Sat 09 Nov 2019	Fisgard Association AGM and Lunch	Portsmouth, RMC
22/25 Nov 2019	The 2019 Reunion of the HMS Relentless Association will be held over the weekend of 22nd - 25th November 2019 at the Hotel Royale, Bournemouth. All ex- 'Rusty R' members 1942-1968 are very welcome. For more information please contact the Association Secretary (email) <mailto:Secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk> (Tel: 02392 599640), or book direct with SFEVENTS (email) <mailto:hmsrelentlessreunion@sarahfletcherevents.co.uk> (Tel: 01452 813173)	Hotel Royale Bournemouth
Sun 1st Dec 2019	H.M.S. Ajax & River Plate Veterans malcolm.collis@gmail.com	Trip to South America
8/9/10 May 2020	VE Bank Holiday	

Swinging the Lamp – July 2019

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	1831	'Weeovil Yard' renamed Royal Clarence Victualling Yard Portsmouth.
2 nd	1950	The start of United Nations operations in Korea. The light cruiser <i>Jamaica</i> , Capt. J.S.C. Salter RN, in company with US cruiser <i>Juneau</i> (flag) and sloop <i>Black Swan</i> , destroyed five enemy MTBs off Imwon-jin, E. coast of Korea in the first naval action of the campaign. Battle Honour: Korea 1950–3.
3rd	1970	Admiral Sir Michael Le Fanu promoted Admiral of the Fleet on retiring early as First Sea Lord. In that post, the ginger-haired admiral presided over the demise of the Tot; his biography by Richard Baker was consequently entitled <i>Dry Ginger</i> . Admiral Le Fanu was mortally ill and died later that year.
4 th	1940	VC: A/LS Jack Foreman Mantle in <i>Foylebank</i> , sunk by German Aircraft at Portland.
5 th	1969	Frigates <i>Arethusa</i> and <i>Mohawk</i> , with Royal Marines embarked, arrived in Bermuda on a routine visit coincident with start of a three day international Black Power conference held in the Island.
6 th	1918	First recorded use of 'Asdic', in memorandum from Admiralty research establishment at Harwich.
7th	1988	Frigate <i>Phoebe</i> and MCMV <i>Blackwater</i> led SAR operation at Piper Alpha oil rig explosion, 120 miles N.E. of Aberdeen.
8th	1944	Light cruiser <i>Dragon</i> (Pol) damaged and minesweeper <i>Pylades</i> sunk by German one-man submarines in Juno area, Seine Bay. <i>Dragon</i> became blockship. Operation Neptune.
9th	1794	Captains' Servants re-mustered as Boys, in three grades.
10th	1911	King George V granted the title of Royal Australian Navy to the Permanent Naval Forces and the Citizen Naval Forces (Reserves) of Australia, which had been formed in 1901 at a federation of the individual state navies, thus creating the RAN and RANR. Royal Assent signed in October 1911.
11 th	1941	Destroyer <i>Defender</i> , returning to Alexandria after running supplies into Tobruk, damaged by a heavy bomb in bright moonlight which exploded under her engine room and broke her back in Gulf of Sollum 7 miles N. of Sidi Barrani. <i>Defender</i> taken in tow by destroyer HMAS <i>Vendetta</i> but had to be torpedoed by <i>Vendetta</i> (31.45N, 35.31E). No casualties.
12th	2001	The Captain General Royal Marines, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, presented new Queen's and Regimental Colours to 40 Cdo (Lt-Col David Capewell RM), 42 Cdo (Lt-Col David Hook RM) and to 45 Cdo (Lt-Col Tim Chicken RM) at a parade on Plymouth Hoe. The three units had last received colours at Malta in 1952.

13 th	1965	Submarine <i>Tiptoe</i> , Lt-Cdr Charles Henry Pope RN, in collision with frigate <i>Yarmouth</i> , off Portland Bill. Flag Officer Flotillas, Home Fleet, Rear-Admiral J.O.C. Hayes, was embarked in the frigate. Court martial CO <i>Tiptoe</i> at Portsmouth 8 September: Severe Reprimand.
14 th	1749	Execution by 'a file of musketeers' of Lt Samuel Couchman and Lieutenant of Marines John Morgan on board <i>Chesterfield</i> (40) in Portsmouth Harbour for having led a mutiny in that ship off Cape Coast Castle, West Africa, the year before. The ship's former carpenter and three men were hanged.
15 th	1971	Submarine Service dolphin badges first issued at ceremonial divisions. FOSM made presentations at <i>Dolphin</i> . Other divisions held at Faslane; Vickers, Barrow; Dounreay; Birkenhead; Chatham and Devonport.
16 th	2003	<i>Anglesey</i> , Island-class fisheries patrol vessel, entered Portsmouth for the last time to pay off after twenty-four years' service. She had steamed 644,000 miles since joining the Fleet in 1979.
17th	1945	First combined attack on the Japanese mainland (Hitachi area of Honshu) by the British Pacific Fleet and US battleships. Task Force 37. Ships: <i>King George V</i> , <i>Formidable</i> , <i>Black Prince</i> and <i>Newfoundland</i> with five destroyers.
18th	1961	45 and 42 Cdo's RM relieved on station in Kuwait where they had been landed by 845 NAS (Whirlwinds) from <i>Bulwark</i> (supported by Sea Vixens of 892 and 893 NAS, <i>Centaur</i> and <i>Victorious</i>). 42 Cdo left on 20 July.
19th	1545	<i>Mary Rose</i> capsized and sank at Spithead when sailing to engage the French. Raised 11 October 1982.
20th	1918	Submarine E 34 lost, probably mined, off Vrieland in Heligoland Bight, the last of twenty-eight E-class submarines lost in First World War. The body of her Captain, Lt Richard Pulleyne, was washed ashore in the West Friesian Islands. He had been the sole survivor from B 2, lost in collision with the Hamburg-Amerika liner <i>Amerika</i> on 4 October 1912.
21st	1995	Rear-Admiral John Tolhurst, Flag Officer Sea Training, hauled down his flag at Portland and embarked in the frigate <i>Argyll</i> , the last ship to leave Portland before the closure of the base. The last ship to do OST at Portland was <i>London</i> . Sea Training HQ transferred to Devonport where FOST flies his flag in <i>Drake</i> . DCI(RN) 266/95.
22 nd	1942	10th S/M flotilla returned to Malta from ten week exile up the Mediterranean, to find its piggery in maximum production and to prepare for Operation Pedestal.
23 rd	1964	HM The Queen, principal guest at a Royal Marines Tercentenary dinner at RNC Greenwich presided over by the Captain General, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, directed that in future the Loyal Toast should be drunk seated in all Royal Marines officers' and non-commissioned officers' messes ashore and afloat. The Queen further directed that the health of the Captain General should also be drunk seated. The decisions were probably unplanned: Earl Mountbatten wrote the suggestion on his menu at the dinner and passed it to the Queen. Royal Marines Routine Order 201/64 dated 28 August 1964 made it so.

24 th	1915	The first success by a RN surface Q-ship deployed in anti-submarine operations. The 400-ton auxiliary fleet collier <i>Prince Charles</i> (Lt W.P. Mark-Wardlaw, seconded from the staff of Admiral Hon. Sir Stanley Colville, Flag Officer Orkneys and Shetlands, and whose merchant service crew had volunteered to a man), armed with concealed two 6-pdrs and two 3-pdrs, sank U-36 (Kapitanleutnant Ernst Graeff) off North Rona Island, 100 miles W. of Scapa (59.07N, 05.30W).
25 th	1797	Nelson's right arm, shattered in the repulsed attack on Santa Cruz in Tenerife in the Canary Islands, amputated on board <i>Theseus</i> by French surgeon M. Ronicet, a French Royalist refugee from Toulon.
26 th	1953	Aircraft maintenance carrier <i>Unicorn</i> liberated SS <i>Inchkilda</i> , which had been taken by three Chinese pirate gunboats and which she surprised off Ockseu Roads.
27 th	1973	Fleet Laundry Training Unit at <i>Drake</i> closed due to lack of use following the employment of Chinese laundrymen in home waters. DCI(RN)T.238/73.
28 th	1914	British fleets ordered to their war bases.
29th	1943	Wellington G/172 sank U-614 in S.W. Approaches (46.42N, 11.03W).
30th	1943	RMS <i>Queen Mary</i> , in her wartime troopship role, arrived on the Clyde from New York with 16,683 souls on board, the greatest number of people ever embarked in one vessel. Had departed New York 25 July; 3,353 miles covered in 4 days 20 hours 42 minutes at average speed of 28.173 knots.
31st	1987	HRH Don Juan de Borbon y Battenberg, Count of Barcelona, appointed an honorary admiral in Her Majesty's Fleet. He was the son and designated heir of King Alfonso XIII of Spain and Victoria Eugenie of Battenberg; his father was replaced when the Second Spanish Republic was declared on 14 April 1931. Don Juan died 1 April 1993. His son is His Majesty King Don Juan Carlos I of Spain.

**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**

RNA 2020 BOOKING FORM
4TH – 7TH June 2020 (Fri – Sun) The Adelphi Hotel
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ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY POST/EMAIL USING THIS FORM – NO TELEPHONE BOOKINGS

Please note the first person listed in the '**Accommodation Requirements**' should be the **Lead Name** on the booking form to whom all correspondence will be sent.

Accommodation Requirements: (The first person named should be the '**Lead Name**' to whom all correspondence will be sent)

Note : * A limited number of rooms are available for single occupancy without supplement.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Arrival Day</u>	<u>Depart Day</u>	<u>Double</u>	<u>Twin</u>	<u>Accommodation Type Single Occupancy</u>
1							
2							

Prices: Please tick package required

- 1) 5th – 6th June (Fri - Sun) 2 Nights, Dinner Bed and Breakfast, Includes Gala Dinner: £130 per person _____
- 2) 5th – 7th June (Fri – Mon) 3 Nights, Dinner Bed and Breakfast, Includes Gala Dinner: £168 per person _____
- 3) 4th – 6th June (Thu – Sun) 3 Nights, Dinner Bed and Breakfast, Includes Gala Dinner: £168 per person _____
- 4) 4th – 7th June (Thu – Mon) 4 Nights, Dinner Bed and Breakfast, includes Gala Dinner £198 per person _____
- 5) 6th – 7th June (Sat – Sun) 1 Night, Dinner Bed and Breakfast, Includes Gala Dinner £80 per person _____
- 6) 6th June (Sat) Gala Dinner only, No Accommodation, £27.50 per person _____

Special Requirements: (Not Guaranteed) Including special needs / mobility issues, accommodation, [parking and dietary requirements. Parking is £12 per car for the whole weekend (subject to availability).

Lead Name & Address

Post Code: _____

Telephone: _____

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Credit card details are required to guarantee booking only. Please supply these below

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If you prefer not to give credit card details, please send in a deposit of £50.00 per person by cheque with the booking form . Please make cheques payable to 'Britannia Adelphi Hotel'

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Please return this application to:

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Join the JST for a 5-day voyage around the west coast of Scotland, scheduled from **Thursday 12th - Monday 16th Sept 2019**. The voyage embarks from and returns to Greenock. This voyage is a special opportunity for Scottish veterans and OTC service members to collaborate, share experience of the world and the sea, and function as a team in a challenging environment.



What is the JST?

The Jubilee Sailing Trust is a UN-accredited charity with the unique mission to give people of mixed abilities and circumstances the freedom to explore their ability, potential and place in the world through inclusive adventures at sea. For more than 40 years, the JST has opened the possibility of the sea to mixed-ability crews aboard its iconic tall ships, *STS Lord Nelson* and *STS Tenacious*.

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With your service number, you can benefit from reduced cost! The sailing experience normally costs £1,000, yet thanks to the generosity of LIBOR funding, 75% (£750) can be accessed through your service number. This means you are only responsible for paying or fundraising for £250. The JST will provide you with a fundraising toolkit to support your efforts.

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£250

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To book your place on this unique opportunity, please click on the booking link below to fill in a booking form. Please use the promotional code **VETSCOT19** when requested.

[Click to be directed to the booking form for Voyage TNS545](#)

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A national charity since 1911



Aged Veterans Project

Supporting older veterans
with hearing loss and/or tinnitus

Are you an Armed Forces veteran born before 1950? Do you find it difficult to hear the TV, radio, doorbell or phone? Do you struggle to hear conversations in social gatherings? Or perhaps you have tinnitus? If so, we can help.

What is the Aged Veterans Project?

The Aged Veterans Project is a service provided by Action on Hearing Loss. We offer information and support to veterans with hearing loss and tinnitus, and their families and carers.

The project is funded by the Chancellor, using LIBOR Funds, and will run until March 2020.

Why do we need to support veterans with hearing loss?

Hearing loss is a common health issue in the Armed Forces. Many veterans have been repeatedly exposed to loud noise from small arms fire, artillery, engines and other machinery, and explosions.

What do we do?

Our outreach workers offer information and support in easy-to-access local community settings and people's homes throughout England. We make sure veterans, their families, and their carers get the support they need to address their concerns about their hearing loss and tinnitus.



Specifically, we offer:

- basic hearing checks
- information and support
- support before and after hearing aids have been fitted
- equipment demonstrations
- talks to community groups
- referrals to other sources of support
- volunteering opportunities

Action on Hearing Loss also provides:

- tinnitus support
- hearing aid user support
- information
- employment support
- deaf awareness training

For more information about our Aged Veterans Project, or to make a referral, please get in touch:

London and the South East

✉ sukhbir.bains@hearingloss.org.uk
📞 07391016893 (SMS only)

Central Region (The Midlands)

✉ Deborah.hill@hearingloss.org.uk
📞 07939169157

Northern England

✉ helen.williams@hearingloss.org.uk
📞 07741078068

South West England

✉ kim.harbut@hearingloss.org.uk
📞 07769976266 (SMS only)

🌐 actiononhearingloss.org.uk/agedveterans

Action on Hearing Loss (formerly RNID) is the largest UK charity helping people who are confronting deafness, tinnitus and hearing loss.

We give support and care, develop technology and treatments, and campaign for equality. We rely on donations to continue our vital work.

To find out more, visit actiononhearingloss.org.uk

Questions about deafness, tinnitus or hearing loss?

Contact our free, confidential Information Line

Telephone **0808 808 0123**

Textphone **0808 808 9000**

SMS **0780 000 0360**

(standard text message rates apply)

Email information@hearingloss.org.uk

Address **1-3 Highbury Station Road, London N1 1SE**

Join us

 Action on hearing loss

 @ActionOnHearing

Aged Veterans Fund
funded by the Chancellor
using LIBOR funds.

First published: April 2018.

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