



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



The Semaphore Circular

No 692

The Beating Heart of the RNA

August 2019



HMS MEDWAY seen arriving Portsmouth. She is the second of five new River Class offshore patrol vessels. She is following on from her sister HMS FORTH and weighs 2,000 tonnes and is 90.5 meters in length. She is capable of supporting a Merlin sized aircraft or a detachment of RM which will allow her to carry out a variety of duties. She'll be followed by TRENT, TAMAR and SPEY.

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

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Glossary of terms

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



indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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Central Office Team (L to R) - Bill Oliphant, Chrissie Hughes, Andy Christie, Mike Gray, Sarah Clewes, Julie Royston, Michelle Bainbridge, Nigel Huxtable and the late Alan Magrath.

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Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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From the General Secretary

Dear Shipmates,

I regret I have to start this month's editorial with some desperately sad news. We lost Shipmate Alan Magrath who crossed the bar suddenly with a heart attack in late June. At the tender age of 69, Alan was very much a member of what Andy Christie describes as the "Youth Wing" of the Association. He was known to us in Central Office for the role he played in Project Semaphore where he covered the north of England, Scotland and Ireland connecting the older generation to the wonders of the Internet through the iPad initiative. He was also the co-ordinator for the northern minibus. Entirely selfless and always willing and able to assist, the rest of us will need to pull up our socks if we are to continue to be able to claim our 1000 good deeds a day across the RNA as I know that Alan contributed to that total daily. Our thoughts are very much with you Nicki; we feel your loss. Clearly, one of our tasks will be to renew our staff photograph next month but I thought we would use the version with Alan in remembrance. I'm dedicating my charity cycle ride in September from London to Paris to Alan – more of this later.

On a much happier note the AFPRB recommendation of a 2.9% pay rise has been approved across the board apart from those most junior of personnel who, on completion of training, will earn £20k pa which equates to a 6% rise. Back dated to April too – I wonder if they'll do the same with the pension? I think I'll have to join up again....I hear they're looking for Chefs and I can turn out a mean cheesy, hammy, eggy!

Stand by for a galley dit. I recall an amusing episode in HMS EDINBURGH in 1988 when I was a young Midshipman doing my Task Book. Prince Andrew was in the Ship then and his then wife, Sarah Ferguson, was visiting when we were alongside in Rosyth. It was my week with the S&S and I was in the Ship's Galley that day. Having met HRH during standeasy coffee in the Wardroom, I was back in my chefs' whites in the galley a little later when she dropped in on a ship tour. "Haven't we met somewhere before?" she asked. "Yes Ma'am. About an hour ago in the Wardroom." To wit, she replied, "Ah, I didn't recognise you with your clothes on!"

Interesting times in the Straits of Hormuz too which will no doubt be familiar to many of us. I wonder if our new PM, Boris Johnson, will have an ear to the calls from politicians as well as academics and military chiefs, that the Royal Navy is currently too small for the tasks it is being asked to do? Indeed, our President, VAdm John McAnally, had a letter published in the Times recently adding his weight to the argument. Meanwhile, HMS DUNCAN has been despatched early East of Suez to support MONTROSE with KENT to follow later this year.

As reported on BBC2 last night (no OPSEC breach!), they join an LSDA and 4 x MCMVs which are already deployed to the Gulf Region. We've received the Galaxy notice (some would remember it as a Fleet Temporary Memorandum) regarding the new First Sea Lord's supersession and his vision for the Naval Service. It's published in full after this note so you can see his ambition for the RN.



HMS MONTROSE on patrol in the Gulf



QUEEN ELIZABETH basking in the sunshine at PNB

In other naval news, the reports of the flood in QUEEN ELIZABETH seem to have been blown out of all proportion on a quiet news day. She's currently sitting alongside at Pompey in the more unusual bows south position in order to do some outboard maintenance. She normally rests stbd side too as all the logistics are normally conducted through the aircraft lifts which are both on the stbd side. I must say she looks good facing south as her great bulbous ski jump is all you can see as you drive along the main drag into the Base.

More good news. Greenwich Hospital have very kindly agreed to fund Sarah Clewes for an

additional couple of days a week to bring her up to full time in Central Office so that she can support our National Welfare Advisor Rita Lock in the co-ordination of Welfare Support. If the database in Central Office was sufficiently switched on (which it's not!) I'd be interested to ask it the average age of our membership. My gut feeling is that this figure sits around the 75-80 age group and is only increasing. The natural corollary of this assumption is that, as our membership ages, we are in greater need of support and although the RNA is not established for benevolence, there are plenty of charities out there who are and we are seeking to provide a better understanding of this complex web of charities so that Central Office can assist members requiring support to find the right assistance for their particular need. Sarah is the obvious person to take this on as she has already seen some of the travails our members are stoically enduring whilst out doing her Project Semaphore piece.

I know I've mentioned this before but it's important so I'll say it again; our part (your part!) in the web of charities is to act as Naval Intelligence and look out for shipmates who might not be as blessed as ourselves physically and of course it's often a sensitive issue especially for our typical member who has spent all his or her life at the service of others and is often reluctant to accept that they might now be in need of a bit of assistance themselves. And also, don't forget that Naval Benevolence is available to widows/widowers of those who served.

Meanwhile, on a personal basis, training for the Heroes Cycle Challenge is well underway. The "heroes" of course being the brave souls who fought in Normandy and north France 75 years ago rather than the sorry lot who are dragging themselves round on bikes from London to Paris to raise money for the RNRMC. I've bought a new bike as I everyone was telling me that the bike I delivered my newspapers on when I was 15 probably wouldn't do. Anyway, the new bike is amazing and I'm now a regular weekend visitor to the top of Portsdown Hill; a feat which would only have occurred with my old bike had I had it strapped to a bike rack on the car!! I've just started a just giving page so if anyone cares to donate to RNRMC the link is below – many thanks. <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-portal/fundraiserPage?pageId=1084251#>

Great to see so much going on around the Branches. Congrats to Christchurch on the blessing of their new standard and well done to S/M David Griggs MBE, No7 Area President, who has been awarded the Bronze Award as Volunteer of the Year at the recent Veterans Awards in S Wales and S/M George Hockney BEM, of Peterborough Branch who was presented a Norwegian Commemorative Medal for the role he played in the Norwegian Campaign by Norwegian Defence Attaché Colonel John Andreas Olsen on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Heartiest congrats to you Sir! And finally, congrats to S/Ms Chris & Liz Lewarne from Spennymoor for their award from the Town Mayor for their services to the community.



S/M David Griggs MBE

Parish Notices

Black Tot. For those attending the Black Tot commemoration in HMS BELFAST on Tuesday 30 July, Rig is RNA Rig (medals optional) although we may opt to relax jackets should it be as hot next week as it is now. Dining Room opens at 1200.

Biennial Parade. The new First Sea Lord, Admiral Tony Radakin, will take the Review at the Cenotaph. The Parade this year is on Sunday, 08 September and don't forget it is open to all as it is the Parade of Naval Associations so if you are a member of the HMS FIFE, 3rd Commission, what a run ashore in Kirkcaldy Association, then you will be equally welcome. Muster point this year is the same as 2017 in King Charles Street, and Andy tells me we've to be "fell in" by 0930 with medals polished.

CONA Conference. The Conference of Naval Associations (CONA) is meeting this year in the Royal Maritime Club in Portsmouth on 20 September. Sarah is leading on this and it will be themed more towards the requirements of our respective memberships. She already has Rob Bosshardt from the RNBT signed up to present and also Prostate Cancer UK.

D-Day 75 Booklet. As well as a fully stocked slops cupboard, Nigel also has several copies of the excellent commemorative D-Day 75 booklet which we are able to offer at £5 which is half price on the cover price.

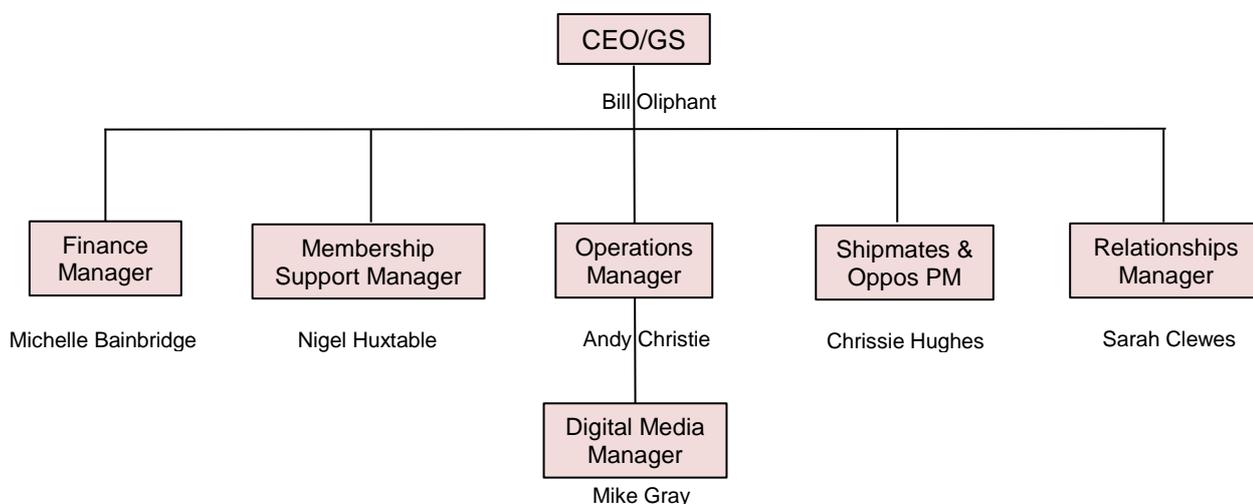
Open days. These have proven very popular this year with another full group of 40 due on Friday 26 July. October is already full but there are still spaces available on Fri 30 August if you want to come down. Please call Andy or Nigel on 02392 723747 to reserve spaces.



Semaphore Circular. Just a reminder that there is no Semaphore Circular next month as the office is at minimal manning for the summer break.

Central Office. In the office, we've had a review of tasks and responsibilities which has included a review of staff titles. We now look like this....

RNA Central Office Staff Structure



Best wishes from the Central Office Team, Bill

Shipmates here is the very interesting article from the First Sea Lord that Bill mentioned above .

PERSONAL FROM ADMIRAL TONY RADAKIN CB ADC FIRST SEA LORD'S SUPERSESSION 2019

It's with an enormous sense of pride and optimism that I write to you as the First Sea Lord and to outline my vision for our Service of:

A world class, global Navy, with inspired and inspiring people, working as one team to be highly efficient, innovative and productive, to play our part for the people of the United Kingdom, protecting them, preventing conflict and ready to fight our enemies whenever and wherever needed.



Thanks to your hard work and success, we are already well on the way to achieving that vision. I want to build on that momentum and the work of my predecessors to get us there more quickly and be even better. That means playing to our many strengths, especially our continued success on operations and everything that underpins that success, but also doing some things differently: being faster at introducing new equipment; being far more willing to challenge the traditional way that we have always done our business; and giving more authority to people lower down the chain of command. I am committed to this, as are the Second Sea Lord and the Fleet Commander: we want to be bolder about what we can achieve and how quickly we can do it. And we'll be working with the rest of Defence to: **Mobilise** – getting the most out of what we have to fight tonight; **Modernise** – embrace new technologies to make us better able to fight tomorrow; and **Transform** – radically improve the way we do our business.

We need to change because the world is changing: the prospect of State on State conflict, the rise of sub-conflict threshold threats, phenomenal technological changes and the need to play our part for Global Britain are all themes with a direct bearing on us and we need to respond to them.

We will change by: investing in the North Atlantic to maintain the freedom of manoeuvre for the nuclear deterrent; becoming a Carrier Task Group Navy again capable of deploying around the world; establishing a Future Commando Force that returns our commandos to their maritime roots but with modern technology to be better able to deliver humanitarian assistance, intelligence and reconnaissance, and to strike from the sea; establishing increased Forward Presence with more of our ships forward deployed around the world. And really embrace Technology and Innovation.

How we will do this is described in our Command Plan. The backdrop is that we are growing as a Navy for the first time in 70 years; the nation is investing in us with a fantastic recapitalisation programme and our manpower recovery plan is beginning to take effect, helped in part by having more people who want to join the Navy than we have had for at least a decade. That's not all: we are on a better financial footing than we have been for years and, as the last 18 months has showed, we are very much back in the game of truly global operations. And there's more to come: a second aircraft carrier, more Astute submarines, the Dreadnought programme, F35B jets, more Batch 2 OPVs, Future Support Ships, our next generation Type 26 and Type 31e frigates and an ambition for Littoral Strike Ships to have more of our Royal Marine commandos deployed and ready for operations all the time.

You may think you have heard this sort of thing before. I'm not so sure. The challenges that threaten our national security today and the government objectives in response are very much aligned with a strong maritime case; it's now up to us to seize this responsibility and the opportunities that come with it. It stands to reason though that the way we operate a growing Navy needs to be fundamentally different to the way we have been managing a Navy that was gradually getting smaller. It demands an approach that is more assertive, more opportunistic and less constrained. And we have no time to waste. It's about delivering on outcomes. It is about spending money wisely, rather than counting our money. It's about driving rapid change in the way we do our business.

Some elements of this change will be clear for all to see: continuing to improve our ship and submarine availability; fixing our failing infrastructure, whether it be your workplace, your accommodation or your sports facilities; changing the way we crew the Fleet to improve predictability for those on the front line, whilst being prepared to restructure our headquarters and shore jobs in favour of sea going posts. Other elements may be less tangible but are just as important to our continued success; crucially, on my watch we will not be governed by the status quo and I am determined that we create an environment within the Service that makes the most of everyone's experience, abilities and ideas. I am convinced that if we can do all of that then we as a Service will become more operationally effective and, just as importantly, we will improve the lived experience for you and your families too.

And that's just the start. Because for all our successes I recognise the daily grind many of you face to keep the show on the road. I know there is plenty more out there that needs fixing, plenty more that we could be doing better. So, you can expect to see the Second Sea Lord, Fleet Commander and me visiting naval bases and Royal Marine bases and air stations around the country in the very near future. We will tell you more about our plans then, and we will we want to hear what you think and your ideas about how we as a Service can improve. We have been appointed together. We each have three years to do our bit. We will work together to lead the Service. But we will also be looking to you to deliver on this responsibility too, because it will take all of us to realise our full potential.

I absolutely believe that ours is a world class Navy, full of brilliant people that are doing great things. As 1SL, it's my job to lead the Service and make us even better still. Starting today, that's exactly what I'll be doing.

1SL

Chairman's chat

It is with sadness that I report the untimely passing of S/M Alan McGrath on 28th June. The Funeral took place on 16th July at a packed and overflowing Accrington Crematorium. The Association was represented at the funeral by our National President, myself, Andy Christie, numerous Shipmates and many former Stores Accountants who served with Alan throughout his long association with the Royal Navy. The National Standard was Paraded by S/M Bob Coburn. Some years back Alan volunteered to be a Branch Support Officer giving assistance to Branches as and when requested. He later volunteered to assist in the delivery of Project Semaphore whilst at the same time volunteering not only to be the Northern Libor Minibus Coordinator, but on many occasions being the driver transporting Shipmates here, there and everywhere. Alan represented the best the RNA has to offer. Watch Over, Stand down Shipmate, your Duty is done. Our thoughts are with S/M's Alan's family and his wife Nicki.

My apologies S/Ms for my absence since the March Circular after which on 10 April I became a Sick Bay Ranger following a Hip Replacement under the Veterans Medical Service. Trying to sit at my wife's PC was unbearable and none too good for my recovery. With that and a busy time nationally, as a member of the 2019 National Conference Working Group and Chairman of my Town's Armed Forces Day Committee a 25 hour day has been the norm.

My thanks go to Lt. Col Carl Meyer, his team and the wonderful staff of the Robert Jones & Angus Hunt NHS Orthopedic Hospital Oswestry and my wife, Maureen who was a superb nurse in my time of need and support. Humorous Military banter before, during and after the operation in a relaxed hospital atmosphere was a super tonic. Referral by my GP to undergoing the knife was just 14 weeks. Due to previous medical problems I was given an epidural so was able to view broadside on through a reflecting glass this interesting 75-minute operation. Lt.Col Meyer who specializes in Hips & Knees welcomes referrals via your GP from the Veterans Community. He is a great surgeon with a great personality. Interested? For details please get in touch with me at RNAStneots@gmail.com

It was pleasing to see so many Branch Delegates at this year's National Conference hosted by No 6 Area in my home Town of St. Neots. The Project was Managed and delivered by S/M Geoff Apperley of Royston & District Branch. Geoff has had a tough year having experienced a serious medical set back 12 months ago but has made a remarkable recovery. For his outstanding dedication to his own Branch, the Area over many years and Project Managing Conference, he was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation which was presented by the National President at the Gala Dinner. Congratulations and well done Geoff. Browsing through Facebook and with summer upon us I congratulate the many Branches who are out and about promoting the Association at numerous public events in towns and villages. Most notable have been No 10 Area, Pendleton, Wrexham, Shrewsbury & Oswestry Branches to name just a few. Well done those Branches. We must not forget that whilst Central Office is the



main administration base of our Association, it is we the members who are the sales team responsible for recruiting new members. Online applications along with those from the Shipmates & Oppos Programme continue to arrive at CO. Please try and remember to carry an application form in your pocket ready to gain a new member.

Project Semaphore under the leadership of Sarah Clewes assisted by Julie Royston and the late Alan McGrath continues to be busy with the distribution of the iPads. Applications from digitally isolated naval veterans are still invited. So if you know of any likely candidates please let Sarah know at Central Office. Sarah Clewes & Julie Royston have been organising Group Training Sessions. My thanks go to all volunteer trainers who give their time to support the project by the ongoing training of iPad recipients.

I thank the Lincoln Branch for inviting me on 30 May to unveil the restored Ensign of the Destroyer HMS MAENAD which took part in the Battle of Jutland and survived. Two days later I attended and enjoyed a well packed HMS COLLINGWOOD Families & Field Gun Run Day. The RNA /PUSSER'S Rum Gazebo attracted great interest from the Part 2 Trainees and Old Hands alike. By invitation of the TRBL (Republic of Ireland) on Saturday 13 July I attended a very moving Annual Ceremony of Remembrance at the Irish National War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge, Dublin where I laid a Wreath on behalf of the RNA. On Parade were the Standards of No12 Area, Dublin, Limavady & Londonderry Branches and how smart they looked. Well done S/Ms. The following day by invitation of the Taoiseach (Irish Prime Minister) I attended the Irish National Day of Commemoration Ceremony at which I was introduced to the Irish President Michael D Higgins. Both ceremonies commemorated the 60,000 Irish Servicemen both North & South who lost their lives during WW1 & WW2. My thanks go to our National Vice Chairman & NCM of No 12 Area (Ireland) S/M Paul Stephenson for organising matters on behalf of the Association and to both him and his wife Mary for hosting me over the weekend.

On Sunday 8th September the Association will hold its Biennial Parade & Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. Details of this were circulated in the July Circular and elsewhere in this edition. I urge Branches to do their utmost to support this important event and I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can.

To our serving Shipmates in the Fleet, which includes the Royal Marines, all Shore Establishments and Naval Units, please let Andy Christie andy@royalnavalassoc.com at Central Office have any dits you have, or better still submit news from your Ship or Establishment for inclusion in the Association's Semaphore Circular as we want to hear from you. To those on Deployment may you have safe passage and a safe return.

Yours aye

Keith Ridley

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, RNR 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 home 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 off 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 early action. 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. ★ RNVC Series – Lieutenant Commander Charles Henry Cowley VC Royal Navy



Lieutenant-Commander Charles Henry Cowley VC was born in Baghdad in 1872. He was educated in Liverpool he joined the training ship HMS Worcester as a Cadet in 1885. After the death of his father he returned to Baghdad and worked for the Steamship Navigation eventually becoming a Captain.

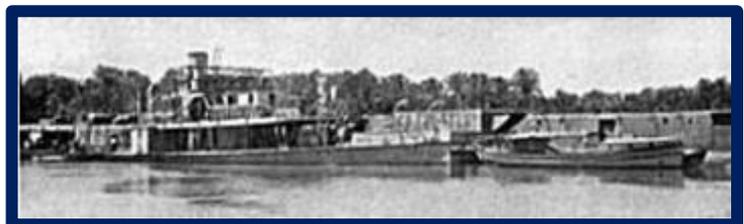
When WW1 broke out, he was 44 years old and a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

On the night of 24 April / 25 April 1916 in Mesopotamia, an attempt was made to re-provision the force besieged at Kut-el-Amara. HMS Julnar with Lt Cdr Cowley, Lt Firman VC, who was the Commanding officer of SS Julnar, a S/Lt and 12 ratings plus 270 tons of stores and supplies onboard, deployed up the River

Tigris.

Unfortunately, Julnar was attacked almost at immediately by Turkish machine-guns and artillery.

At Magasis, steel hawsers stretched across the river halting the expedition, allowing the enemy to open fire at point-blank range and during this engagement smashed Julnar's bridge. The ships CO, Lt Firman VC, was killed along with several of his crew. Regrettably, Lt Cdr Cowley was taken prisoner with the other survivors and almost certainly executed by the Turks.



His body was said to have been buried at Fallahiya near the scene of his murder, although no grave was ever found. His Victoria Cross was presented to his Mother by Rear Admiral Drury Wake, Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf, in Basra, on 25th August 1917, by which time she was

well aware of the rumours surrounding her son's death. Investigations continued until 1920, when it was wound up. Sadly no one was ever prosecuted for the murder.

The citation for recommendation for VC read as follows;

The leaders of this brave attempt Lieutenant H O B Firman Royal Navy and his assistant Lieutenant Commander C H Cowley Royal Naval Voluntary Reserve – the latter of whom throughout the campaign in Mesopotamia performed magnificent service in command of the 'Mejidieh' – have been reported by the Turks to have been killed ; the remainder of the gallant crew, including five wounded, are prisoners of war.

"knowing well the chances against them, all the gallant Officers and men who manned the 'Julnar' for the occasion were volunteers. I trust that the services in this connection of Lieutenant H O B Firman RN and Lieutenant Commander CH Covey RNVR his assistant, both of whom were unfortunately killed, may be recognised by the posthumous grant of some suitable honour"

4. ★ Bootie and Wren Joke !

Dan was a single man who joined the Royal Marines. He came from a well to do family and he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly widower father died.

He decided he needed a wife with which to share his fortune. He hoped that a Wren would make an ideal spouse. They were hard working, practical, resourceful and 'worldly'. One evening on a run ashore he spotted the most beautiful Wren he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away.

After a few beers he couldn't stop himself. "I may look like just an ordinary Booty" he said to her, "but in just a few years, my father will die, and I'll inherit over 20 million pounds."

Impressed, the Wren took him home that night.

And guess what a few week later, she became his stepmother.....

5. Armed Forces Pension Scheme – Life Certificate Communication

Shipmates may be very interested in the information below provided by Captain John Lavery CEO of the White Ensign Association.

Living Overseas and in receipt of an Armed Forces Pension?

If you are an overseas member of the Armed Forces Pension Schemes (AFPS) and are in receipt of regular pension payments from Veterans UK, it is really important you keep them up to date with any changes of circumstances that may affect the amount of pension paid to you. If your pension payments have recently stopped and you are not sure why, it may be because Veterans UK did not receive a response from you following their recent exercise to contact overseas members to confirm personal details and ensure you are receiving the right payments.

Between August and November last year, Veterans UK wrote to approximately 23,000 overseas AFPS members asking them to sign a declaration and return it to confirm ongoing entitlement.

While most members signed and returned the declaration, some have not responded to their letter or to a recent reminder.

To ensure that the right payments are made to the right people, the Pension Authority have begun placing pensions on hold if no response has been received. The pension payments will be held in trust until on-going entitlement is confirmed.

If you think this affects you please contact Equiniti, the paying agent and they will send you a duplicate declaration for completion. Once the completed declaration is received your pension payments will start again and any arrears paid.

Equiniti can be contacted by telephone on +44 1903 768 625. Completed declarations, should be sent to the following address:

Equiniti Paymaster
Project Team (4th Floor)
Sutherland House
Russell Way
Crawley
RH10 1UH

If in doubt don't hesitate to give the WEA a shout – 0207 4078658 or office @whiteensign.co.uk

6. ★ 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 the July Guess the Establishment.....

It was.....

HMS Dryad



7. ★ 21st July RN Day by Day

To commemorate the historic landing on the Moon 21st July 1969 I wondered if Shipmates would like to write/e-mail in what they were up to on that day.

Here is a gentle reminder of what was going on 50 years ago. you it was a Monday and No 1 in the charts was Thunderclap Newman with "Something in the Air!" also this chart featured Elvis - In the Ghetto, Rolling Stones – Honky Tonk Woman

On Television that July was - Lulu the Elephant running amok on Blue Peter, Morecombe and Wise, Randall and Hopkirk (deceased) and in October that year Monty Pythons Flying Circus made its debut, Coronation Street in colour also Benny Hill Show and the Clangers also made

their debut. Earlier in June the first documentary about the Royal Family was aired and attracted 30.6 million viewers *and in Sport* ;

Football

- Newcastle actually won something! 'The Inter Cities Fairs Cup' BZ the Toon
- FA Cup winners Man *Citeh* beat Leicester 1-0
- 1st Division Champions Dirty Leeds Utd

Cricket

- England beat West Indies in the 3rd Test (that must have been rare)
- England's tour of Pakistan Abandoned after rioting at final match.

Cycling

- Good Old Eddie Merckx won the Tour De France

Golf

- Open – Tony Jacklin

Ryder Cup –

- Ended in a draw - 16 all

Rugby

- 5 Nations – Welsh Wales 'is nt it'

Tennis

- Wimbledon Mens – Rod Laver
- Wimbeldon Womens – Margaret Court

Finally, the Royal Navy 'Day by Day' revealed no mention of any RN activity on 21st July 2019. Although it was 50 years ago since the first deterrent patrol by HMS Resolution.

8. ★ Joke Time - HMQ and the Vatican Joke



9. ★ Government Cash – Don't miss out !

Shipmates please read the article below with some important information from Shipmate Rita Lock the National Welfare Advisor.

Too many pensioners are missing out on money which is rightfully theirs. This is not charity; it is something you have all worked and paid taxes for so I urge you all to run a check on your entitlements with regard to benefits.

You may not be entitled to all of them, probably not, but even if it is just one benefit which helps to enhance your life then go for it!!

The benefits I am referring to are as follows:

Pension Credit (this is the one that could affect your TV license.) To pay or not to pay!

Council Tax benefit

Housing benefit

Disability benefits such as DLA , Carers Allowance (Are you helping your partner with many everyday functions? You might qualify)

Winter Fuel Allowance, 0800 731 0160

Most of the above cannot be back dated so if you delay in claiming you have lost money for good.

Pension Credit is a weekly means tested top-up, guaranteeing a basic minimum of £167.25 for singles and £255.25 for couples who are living together. **You can have a certain amount of savings and possibly still claim this benefit.** You might even get savings credit which is a certain amount added to your pension credit because you have saved. It depends on your total savings.

The severely disabled, carers and people who still have mortgage repayments can sometimes claim even if their income is higher than the figures stated.

Disability Living Allowance/Attendance Allowance/Christmas Bonus/Housing Benefit/Council Tax Reduction and Personal Independence Payment are not included in certain calculations so it is always worth asking.

How to apply

Call the pension service on 0800 99 1234 lines are open Monday – Friday 0800-2000 and Saturdays 0900-1300

email www.thepensionsservice.gov.uk where you will find a pension calculator

Age UK have an excellent service for pension advice just call 0800 678 1602 they are manned **every day of the year** from 0800-1900

You can also visit your local Citizens Advice.

If or when you contact any of these agencies you will, need to have with you the following;

Your National Insurance Number

Your total income details and all information on any savings or investments you may have. The amount you may get will depend on your age, income, savings or state benefits you may already have.

Any of the agencies I have mentioned will help you to complete the forms and advise on Council Tax .

If you have savings try to ensure they are in an ISA (tax free) or a higher savings account. If you do not pay tax and find that tax has been deducted from your interest then call your tax office and ask for a tax rebate form. That can be back dated.

Now I have explained to you how to check your lawful entitlement and the only form you really need to complete yourself **(if you pay tax)** is the Gift Aid Form for the RNA.

I can assure you that there is NO invasion of privacy and the Inland Revenue will NOT be checking your details if you pay tax and complete that form. It will bring added income to your Association and help to keep the subs down.

A reminder about the very good Travel Insurance through the Forces Pension Society. Have you got your bus pass or taxi vouchers?

That just leaves me to remind you to make a will so what you've got goes where you want it to go when you Cross the Bar. Its free with the TRBL just ring them on 020 3207 2253 or freewills@britishlegion.org.uk

For Northern Ireland and pensions you need to contact:
Northern Ireland Pension Centre
POBox 42
Limavady
BT49 4AN 0808 100 6165 or pensionservice@nissa.gsi.gov.uk

That's it shipmates, if just one of you takes this up and gets a result then I shall be a happy bunny. If you let me know, just the result not the sum.
Thank you.

Shipmate Rita can be contacted by phone 07934 775087 or e-mail ritalock@sky.com

10. ★ The Military Diver Memorial

Shipmates may be interested to know that the Military Diver Memorial is being installed at the National Memorial Arboretum.

The Memorial will be jointly owned by the Royal Navy Clearance Divers Association and the British Army Divers Association but it is intended for it to remember ALL military Divers Past, Present and Future.

A 'flyer' is attached at the rear of this Circular with a more detailed article.



11. ★ Assistance Please – Arctic Convoy Veterans

Mr Hugh Sebag-Montefiore is currently researching a book that he is writing about the Arctic Convoys of World War 2, which has been commissioned by Harper Collins.

Unfortunately, due to GDPR restrictions he is encountering difficulties in obtaining details of veterans to enhance his research and asks that shipmates would kindly contact arctic convoy veterans they know to consider getting in touch with him.

Specifically, Hugh would like to speak to veterans who can tell him about their experiences on arctic convoys where several ships were sunk, or to families of arctic convoy veterans who hold vivid accounts of experiences on such convoys where several ships were sunk.

Hugh says “The arctic convoy veterans have received so little credit for their bravery during the War, which is particularly galling given the attention rightly given recently to Normandy vets. It would be nice if by writing a good book mentioning the exploits of as many of them as possible, I could play my part in putting this right”.

Hugh can be contacted by mail, phone or e-mail –

Mail - 37, Tanza Road, London NW3 2UA Phone – 020 7 435 1035 or 07726 131941
e-mail – sebags@hsmontefiore.com

12. ★ Op Banner 50 – Accreditation Amendment

The Royal British Legion launched its accreditation and registration for its Op Banner 50 event at the National Memorial Arboretum on 14th August 2019 in March this year.

Following feedback from Associations, we have decided to amend the registration process to minimise the administrative burden for Associations and allow better outreach to eligible individuals. All eligible individuals wishing to attend can now register their interest via the [Commemorative Events Team](#).

Registration

When registering their interest, individuals will be asked for their full name, email and relevant Service Association, and will be sent a registration link via the existing Association accreditation portal. Associations will still have access to their account and will still be able to issue invites, should they wish to do so. Associations are encouraged to log in to their account to monitor registrations for their accounts.

Upon registration, individuals will also be asked to provide basic details of service, dates served in Northern Ireland, service number and rank. As before, invitations are currently restricted to one per person. Two representatives from families of British Armed Forces and Civilian service personnel killed as a result of operations in Northern Ireland or paramilitary actions in other countries will be eligible to attend.

Promotion

We kindly ask Associations to promote the event on all their channels including newsletters, website, Facebook, Twitter and mailings. Please check out the [Royal British Legion's Facebook Page](#) for updates. If you have any queries or need help promoting the event please contact the [Commemorative Events Team](#).

Carers

Allowances will be made for attendees requiring a carer. Individuals requiring a carer should email opbanner@britishlegion.org.uk once registered to request a carer place.

Association Standard Bearers

Association Standards are invited to represent their regiment at the event. Please contact the [Commemorative Events Team](#) if you wish register a Standard Bearer.

Host activity at your memorial at the NMA

There is still an opportunity for units and Associations with memorials at the Arboretum to host their own activity. Associations intending to take advantage of this opportunity are asked to register their intent with the Arboretum directly: www.thenma.org.uk/events-at-the-arboretum/op-banner-50-register-your-event/

Please note all people attending the memorial or representing the Standard will also need to register for the event

Event FAQs - We encourage all associations to leads to read our events FAQs available on our [website](#) If you have any additional queries, please contact the Commemorative Events Team at opbanner@britishlegion.org.uk

RNA Longcast

2019	
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
20 Sep	CONA Conference – Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth
21 Sep	Area 4 Meeting - Weymouth
11 Oct	Open Day (full)
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
25 Apr	Welfare Seminar – RMC Portsmouth
02 May	Area 5 Quarterly - Stowmarket
8/10 May	2020 Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations in Londonderry
16 May	National Standard Bearers Competition – HMS Collingwood
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.....

[RNA Rushden](#)
[RNA Warwick](#)
[RNA Newport](#)
[RNA Chatham](#)
[RNA Christchurch](#)
[RNA Spalding](#)
[Area 7](#)
[RNA Huntingdon](#)
[RNA Bracknell](#)
[RNA St Neots](#)
[RNA Peterborough](#)
[RNA Reigate](#)
[RNA Plymouth](#)
[Type 42 Association](#)

RNA Rushden Branch



Rushden Branch recognised Shipmate Barry Smith's 26 years of service to Royal Naval Association. To celebrate this achievement Branch Chairman Steve Nye presented him with an engraved tankard.

During his service the 'ex-field gunner' worked tirelessly as the branch secretary, only recently retiring from that role due to poor health.

He is now on the road to recovery it was a joy to see him last night and we very much look forward to seeing him again at future meetings.

RNA Warwick Branch

Warwick RNA members had a really full day out to Southampton. We started at the Seacity Museum featuring the history of the city, Titanic Exhibition and Gateway to the World (which was about immigration)

This was followed by a walking tour which included viewing the main War Memorial, the Engineer Officers Memorial for Titanic, the musician's memorial for Titanic and many of the hotels and suppliers used by those on Titanic.





Finally, we set sail on SS Shieldhall, a steamship, for a three hour trip. During our 'sea-time' Shipmates visited the bridge and engine room.

There were four cruise ships alongside in harbour, and set sail, P&O's Britannia and Oriana, Sapphire Princess and Royal Caribbean's Independence of the Seas.

What a fabulous day!

RNA Newport Branch

Shipmates from Newport RNA attended the annual D Day Parade and Service which took place on Monday 6th June in Newport City Centre.

The S/Ms were led by Chairman Ken Lowe and also in attendance were Shipmates Paul Kenward, Roy Smith, Doug Piddington, Bob Woodward, Charlie Walton, Ken Perryman, Secretary Peter Grey (front right) and ex-Chairman George Blackborow (sitting)

Other Associations featured members of the



104 Regiment Royal Artillery, under instruction from the Regimental Sergeant Major and in conjunction with Phil Taylor, branch secretary of the Newport branch of the Royal Welsh Comrades Association, also took part.

Parade participants gathered outside Wetherspoons in Cambrian Road from 12.30pm, with the Parade starting at 12.45pm.



The parade continued down Cambrian Road, turned left onto Bridge Street then left onto High Street to the D-Day Memorial where a short service took place.

The Mayor of Newport Councillor David Atwell laid a wreath on behalf of the Council. Other dignitaries attending were the Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff together with MPs and AMs.

RNA Chatham Branch

AFD Great Lines in Chatham was well attended, with thousands of the general public turning up, Chatham branch Gazebo was visited by many of the public who enjoyed the ambiance and Gizzits 'hand out', it was organised excellently by Shipmates Valerie Ide, Jim and Chris Stout.

Many Shipmates and Associates volunteered, such as Michelle, to meet and greet and assist the public with enquiries.

The branch had many ex Royal and Merchant Navy veterans visiting and all of them swinging the light and spinning dits from past times, which everyone really enjoyed.



Furthermore, they confirmed once and for all that that Shipmate Dennis Potter did indeed serve in Victory as a Powder Monkey! You can see in the photo opposite S/M Dennis trying to convince Rochester MP Kelly Tolhurst that it is not true!

The photo above shows Area Ceremonial Officer Steven Susan's leading the Standard Bearers onto the Parade,



RNA Christchurch Branch

Christchurch Branch have had their new Standard blessed by their very own 'Bish' - Padre Rev Richard Partridge. Rev Richard very kindly officiated at the ceremony for the Blessing of the Standard so that it can be now be used at parades etc.

The new Standard will have a Full Dedication Service at a later date. Chairman Rick Squibb wanted to thank Shipmates who attended the service.



RNA Portland Branch

Shipmates from Portland Branch attended the HMS Sidon Memorial Service. The 16th June 2019 marked the 64th Anniversary of the HM Submarine Sidon Disaster in Portland Harbour.

A short wreath laying service took place at the Memorial near Portland Heights in the morning. Survivors and families were joined by the Mayor of Portland Councillor Susan Cocking, members of the RNA and Submariners Association, and other Veterans.



Standards from Portland, Weymouth and Dorchester RNA Branches were paraded, as were those from HMS Ganges and HMS Ajax Associations. Alex Oswald, Chairman, RNA Portland Branch”

RNA Spalding Branch

With very little or no singing experience, a group of likeminded men from the Peterborough area including Spalding's Branch Secretary Terry Day, got together, to rehearse once per week for ten weeks under the name of **Men United In Song 2019**, culminating in giving a concert backed by Peterborough Male Voice choir and Peterborough Boys choir at The Cresset Theatre, Peterborough to a packed audience of 800, in aid of Prostate Cancer



It proved to be a very successful evening that was enjoyed by everyone.

It took a couple of weeks to finalize all donations and everyone concerned are delighted to announce that the total of £5898.78 was raised for Prostate Cancer.

Terry would like to thank everyone who publicised and sponsored the event and said that it was one of the most worthwhile things that he had ever done, except for having to learn nine songs word for word as well as learning to sing.

The Photo shows the Men United in Song 2019 including S/M Terry Day (second row, second from the right) celebrating after an extremely successful concert.

RNA Area 7 Branch

Area 7 President Shipmate David Griggs MBE has been awarded the Bronze Award as Volunteer of the Year at the recent Veterans Awards. S/M David has been connected to SSAFA for 25 years and is currently Chairman of Dyfed Branch.

BZ David.

RNA Huntingdon Branch

Shipmate Karl Webb has kindly sent us an update on happenings in deepest Huntingdon and District.



On Sunday 14th July 2019, shipmates from Huntingdon Branch held a Sea Sunday Service in Huntingdon. Sea Sunday is a religious service to remember those who have or are serving at Sea.

In the past, the Merchant Naval Association (MNA) have organised this event but due to age and ability, no service was held in Huntingdon last year, so Huntingdon RNA stepped in this year.

Shipmates from Huntingdon Branch, RNA and MNA and Huntingdon Sea Cadets

were joined by the Chairman of Huntingdonshire District Council, members of Huntingdon Male Voice Choir and the Rotary Club.

A successful day which also means we will be carrying out the service again next year. BZ to S/M Reverend Clifford Owen for conducting the service and enlisting vocal support for the hymns.

Later in the month, on Saturday 20th July, S/M Karl Webb attended a Napoleonic re-enactment in Huntingdon. One of the groups performing over the weekend were the Portsmouth based 'Deeds of Arms' re-enactors, who had set up camp and put on a canon display for everyone to see.

Photographs show shipmates during the Sea Sunday Service, and S/M Karl Webb with the Deeds of Arms, Royal Naval re-enactors.



RNA Bracknell Branch

"Where does the time go"?? Everybody says the same ...

The year started with the always pleasurable, though difficult, task of choosing which maritime and service charities we should support through the year. To date we have donated £800, most recently sending £150 to ensure that the Jubilee Sailing Trust was able to continue its important work.



Bracknell RNA Shipmates have had a very busy first half of year with some most entertaining speakers and a variety of topics. These have included the incredible loss of life when HMS Victoria was rammed by HMS Camperdown in 1893 (nobody was brave enough to tell the Admiral that his order was wrong!!); the history of the Royal Household Cavalry through the years; the story of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; a Quiz (we are fortunate to have a Shipmate who enjoys cudgelling our brains!!); the experiences of a local Town Crier, who arrived in full regalia and, most recently, an account by her Commanding Officer of the near-loss of HMS Endurance following the flooding of her engine room in 20018 - nail-biting stuff!!!!



We have continued our relationship with the Maidenhead Sea Cadets, with representative Shipmates attending their recent Royal Naval Parade/Biannual Inspection, where the Cadets were praised by the Southern Area Officer - an RN Commander - awarded the top prize of a Burgee and told they were in the top 7 Units (out of 78)!

Good company was enjoyed in March at a St George's Day Dinner at a local golf club where tales were shared with many laughs.

Two outings have been made so far - to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard to see the sights, including HMS Victory and the splendid Mary Rose Museum - to name but two - and a tour of Combermere Barracks in Windsor to see the excellent Royal Household Cavalry Museum, the stables, training grounds and forge - all featured on the recent television programme, but enjoyed by Shipmates at first hand.

Bracknell Branch has also been represented at the Jutland Wood planting in Langley Vale in March; the D-Day Parade in Portsmouth on 6th June; the RNA Conference at St Neots and the always moving Falkland Islands Annual Remembrance Service at Pangbourne College on 16th June.



Shipmates now number 43, which is very much healthier than a couple of years ago, with two new members joining this year. We're looking forward to the next six months

RNA St Neots Branch

The St Neots Branch took part in the town's Armed Forces Day gala on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd June.

All branches of the armed services, present and past were represented, as were all cadet branches.

As usual the St Neots public responded enthusiastically to the event and the weather helpfully stayed fine and sunny. The RNA stand was a great favourite with both adults and children.





The photo above shows S/Ms Helen Patterson, Mick Noble, John Gibbs, Geoff Patterson, Yvonne Webley, Ian Cameron, and Tony Webley were among S/Ms who made the event a very successful fund raiser. S/M Mike Milne, Branch Chairman, was also present and correct.

A certain member, who will be nameless, managed to break a considerable percentage of the rum ration so S/Ms Geoff Patterson and Paul Main decided to make their own bubbly! (Innovative or what?)

Finally, due to a miscommunication concerning the AFD Flag raising Ceremony in St Neots, no one else turned up for the ceremony, on the 26th June so the RNA stepped into the breach and the three Amigos, S/Ms from Left John Gibbs, Tony Webley and Mike Milne ably fulfilled the mission.

It could have been the three (almost) Lone Rangers but S/Ms Keith and Maureen Ridley turned up to give support but disgracefully were not in rig of the day! To be fair, they had been on sea boat crew duty (On the river)



(Editor Comment - Typical Stoker!!!!)

RNA Peterborough Branch

On 10th July, George W. Hockney BEM, a resident of Park House Nursing Home in Peterborough, was the subject of a very special presentation, held by Defence Attaché Colonel John Andreas Olsen from the Norwegian Embassy.

A Norwegian Commemorative Medal has been presented to George, 100, in honour of the role he played in the Norwegian Campaign, which was the first Allied sea, air and land campaign of World War II. As the 80th anniversary of the Norway Campaign approaches, the presentation recognises the service George and his comrades provided whilst on board *HMS Auckland*.

The presentation, attended by family, friends, RNA members, staff and fellow residence of Park House, came as a result of the personal efforts of Tim Kundu, a historian and lecturer who has been campaigning for greater recognition of the role of the British Armed Forces in the Norway Campaign.



Tim is a member of the Romford and Hornchurch Branch of the Royal Naval Association and had read an article from the Peterborough and District Branch about George's 100 birthday in the March 2019 edition of the Semaphore Circular. This mentioned that George took part in the Norwegian Campaign.

Having met George and his son Michael to discuss the Campaign, Tim contacted the Norwegian Embassy and was thrilled that they agreed to hold this special presentation to honour the services Mr Hockney gave in Alesund, Namsos and Andalsnes.

George, who was born in Peterborough in 1919, joined the Royal Navy as an Engine Room Artificer. His naval career earned him a number of prestigious medals including the British Empire Medal, 1945 Star, Africa Star, Burma Star, Palestine Medal, Malta Medal, War Medal and Defence Medal.

George is a Life Member of the Peterborough and District Branch of the Royal Naval Association and Shipmates from the Branch attended the celebratory event to recognise and thank George for his dedicated service to the Navy.

Talking about the presentation, George Hockney said: "I vividly remember my days in the Royal Navy and was very surprised to hear that the Norwegian Embassy wanted to meet me. I feel very proud to receive the medal on behalf of all my comrades; it's an honour and a privilege. Thank you to Tim Kundu who made this happen."



Historian and lecturer Tim Kundu has been campaigning for better recognition of Britain's role in the Norway Campaign and was delighted to receive acknowledgment from the Norwegian Embassy, as he explains: "During a post graduate research degree I studied British wartime strategies between 1939 and 1940 and was asked to give a lecture on the Norwegian Campaign. It was here that I became fascinated by the subject, however at each major anniversary of World War II, I noticed no major commemorative service was held to mark the first air, sea and land campaign of the War that took

place in Norway.

"I felt that the servicemen should be honoured, so took it upon myself to find veterans who had been involved. I feel privileged to have traced and met Mr Hockney – I have had such a wonderful time interviewing him about his experiences. His recollections are so fresh and vivid and he enabled me to learn so much more about the Norwegian Campaign. Mr Hockney is a truly outstanding and remarkable person; his wonderful nature, inner strength and fine sense of humour have made a profound impression on me.



"I believe firmly that all the British veterans of the Norwegian Campaign and their comrades should be honoured officially and that their role in World War Two deserves to be widely acknowledged in Britain. Congratulations to George on receiving the well-deserved medal and recognition – I am overjoyed at this outcome."

Added Mungwaluku Mupatu, Park House Nursing Home's manager, "Today has been a day of absolute celebration and we are all very happy and proud of George. He thoroughly deserves all the recognition he has received for what he did in the Royal Navy all those years ago. He is very happy to today accept the medal on behalf of all those that played a role in this monumental campaign."

RNA Reigate Branch

30 July 2019 sees the 70th anniversary of HMS Amethyst's legendary escape down the River Yangtse to rejoin the fleet.

On Sunday 21 July Reigate Branch commemorated this event and the life of her Captain, Cdr John Kerans DSO RN at a ceremony at St Peter's Church, Tandridge, where Cdr Kerans is buried. Members of the Branch with buglers from TS Ark Royal, friends, families and representatives from the Amethyst Association gathered at Cdr Kerans' graveside where prayers for the fallen and for reconciliation were followed by the last post, a minute's silence, the exhortation and reveille. The Branch standard was paraded, and the Chairman laid a wreath.



Cdr Kerans' daughters, Charmian and Melanie, his grand-daughter Leonie and great grand-daughter Eliza Kerans were present, together with Gilly O'Reilly from the Amethyst Association, who was also representing her father Lt Cdr Stewart Hett MBE RN who was an officer on board Amethyst during her escape and who currently serves as President of the Association.

Reigate Branch continues its tradition of commemorating notable events and service and the Amethyst anniversary will now become part of their annual calendar of events. After the commemoration members moved to the Barley Mow in Tandridge where the Secretary presented the landlord with a print of HMS Amethyst and an accompanying account of the incident which is now displayed in the bar.

The previous evening the Branch held a film night, preceded by a curry supper, where a showing of the 'Yangtse Incident', starring Richard Todd, helped to prepare members for the following day's events.

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 Spennymoor Branch

S/M Chris Lewarne & Liz Lewarne got a Surprise at the Drumhead Service on Spennymoor Town's Armed Forces Day on Saturday 22nd June.

The Town Mayor Councillor, Elizabeth Wood presented them with Spennymoor's top honour for service to the community, an illuminated scroll.

Congratulations and BZ from Central Office.



Type 42 Association – Charity Cycle Ride

Type 42 Association leading light Chris Smith kindly forwarded the article below.

The T42 Association Charity bike ride was the brainchild of Adrian Netherwood one of our members who felt he needed to do something for our charity RNRMC and one close to his heart, Combat Stress.



The T42 Committee and we voted unanimously to support him. The first task was to ask the RNA for the loan of a Minibus, which was approved. It was collected early on Friday 28th July by me (support manager) and Simon Thomas (support team) and driven to Rosyth where we overnighed in Rosyth (The Gladyer Inn) no expense spared by the association!

We mustered at the Dockyard gates early on the Saturday morning to start this epic journey. We saw Ade on his way and set off in the minibus to the arranged RV point.

This is how the ride progressed for the rest of the week.

- Day 1 overnighed at Berwick-upon-Tweed, over 85 miles done on the bike.
- Day 2 overnight at Newcastle again over 80 miles on the bike.
- Day 3 overnight in York. We were all interviewed by BBC Radio York.
- Day 4 Sheffield (my hometown) - Adrian and a couple of friends who had joined him for this leg were met on the outskirts by representatives of Sheffield Council and escorted in to the Town Hall to be met by the Lord Mayor.

- Day 5 the long leg to Coventry where we were again met by the Lord Mayor at Holy Trinity church band representatives of the Type 42 Association Leicester and Coventry branch RNA and Hinckley RNA with Standards from Type 42 Association and Hinckley. We were then wined and dined at the expense of Coventry RNA and they paid for our overnight accommodation as there contribution to the cause. BZ Coventry RNA.
- DAY 6 Overnight in Newbury many miles now done and one leg to go
- Day 6 Southampton & Portsmouth and arrived at HMS Excellent for our AGM and quite a few deserved refreshments!



CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

Alan Magrath
Chris Rich
Albert Attwood

Alan Magrath – Central Office Staff

Central Office have the sad duty to inform shipmates that one of our own, Shipmate Alan Magrath has crossed the bar aged 69.

Alan was RNA through and through; pivotal in delivering Project Semaphore, he has presented at Conference and loved being around like-minded folk. Alan was also responsible for looking after the Northern RNA Minibus.

Alan joined the Royal Navy in 1965 at HMS Ganges. Initially a Junior Assistant Stores Accountant Alan worked his way up the promotion ladder and became a Warrant Officer in 1986. Sea time was accumulated along the way on board HMS Argonaut (Leander Class), HMS Tiger (Converted Cruiser), HMS London (County Class Destroyer) and the Aircraft Carrier HMS Invincible.

Opportunity came calling in 1995 when he was promoted to Sub Lieutenant. He became the Supply Officer (Stores) in HMS Sultan quickly followed by further promotion to Lieutenant and an appointment as Executive Officer of HMS Forest Moor near Harrogate in 1998. Further Officer service within FLEET HQ (latterly called Navy Command HQ) on Whale Island ensued as Alan worked as the Executive Assistant within the Personnel Organisation supporting two Commodores and three Captains over a period of 4 years.

Several years working in the Navy Command Information Hub followed, initially as a Lieutenant and then as a Contractor, and saw him take a leading role in the adoption of a new computer system within Navy Command. After working in or for the Royal Navy for 48 years retirement beckoned in 2013.

Our thoughts are with his family and in particular his wife Nicki, son Dave and Daughter Nikki and his Grandchildren. He will be much missed by his family colleagues and friends.

Live every day as if it's going to be your last, and one day, you'll be right....



Chris Rich– Tyne Branch

Tyne Branch of the Royal Naval Association are very grieved by the untimely death of our much-valued Secretary, Shipmate Chris Rich, on 4 June 2019, aged 71. In spite of his illness, Chris struggled on with his duties for many months, only asking others to step in at his lowest periods.

Chris was a member of the RNA for forty years, joining after Royal Navy service in nuclear submarines, including service on HMS Plymouth and HMS Courageous. In due course, following in the footsteps of his much-loved father-in-law, Dave Williams, he proudly took over as Standard Bearer and is also fondly remembered as Rum Bosun. Later on, as Secretary for many years, by

his enthusiasm, hard work, discipline and good sense of humour, he not only held the Tyne Branch together but recruited many more members.

On top of his numerous duties as Secretary he found time to give consideration to older and less active members, initiating and making home visits and organising transport, often at his own expense. More recently, he had patiently been giving iPad instruction under the Project Semaphore scheme.

But his interests were not solely confined to the RNA. He was an active member of the Fellowship of Servicemen and a key player in his local bowling club and even more, a much loved husband, father and grandfather. Although very mindful of his duties towards the organisations which he supported, his motto, which he also conveyed to their members, was always, 'Family first'.

He leaves his wife, Margaret, two daughters and their husbands and five grandchildren. All Tyne Branch RNA members will wish to send them their deepest sympathy. Rest in Peace, Chris.

Albert 'Bert' Attwood – Port Phillip Branch

Dear shipmates and friends of the RNA,

It is my sad duty to report I have just spoken to Shipmate Margaret Attwood (Bert's Daughter-in-Law) and she informed me that that our esteemed Shipmate, Past Branch Chairman and All Round Bloody Great Oppo Albert (Bert) Attwood sailed on his final journey at approximately 0400 Sunday 7th June 2019, quietly whilst he was asleep, a patient of Box Hill Hospital.

Bert was one of our D Day Veterans, a recipient of the Frances Highest Order 'The Legion of Honour' - The *Legion of Honour* (French: *Légion d'honneur*, is the highest French order of merit for military and civil merits, established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte and retained by all later French governments and regimes. Bert served with distinction in the Royal Navy during the second World War as a member of the Fleet Air Arm, including seeing service on HMS Victorious, the aircraft carrier that launch the aircraft which detected and crippled the Battleship Bismark.

I visited Bert last Thursday; he was fully conscious and in full control of his faculties, he enjoyed reading his copy of Port Phillip Papers, and the sippers of the Lambs Navy Rum in a cup of coffee – That twinkle was still in his eye and he was 'on form' joking with me.

Per Bert's wishes, and as confirmed by Margaret Attwood, there will not be a funeral. There will be a private cremation and Bert's ashes will be later committed to eternity.

I have asked Margaret's permission to include a tribute in a forthcoming copy of the Melbourne Herald Sun newspaper from the RNA, to which she agreed.

Farewell Bert, our dear friend and shipmate, may your final journey be on calm waters as you sail onto your final patrol. 'Lest We Forget'



Bert (3rd from Left) commemorating the 75th Anniversary with the other Port Phillip Branch D Day Veteran Shipmates.

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Shortcast

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
11 Oct 2019	Royal Naval Clearance Divers Association AGM, Memorial Service and Annual Dinner; RNCDA AGM & Memorial Service - Horsea Island - Officers and Senior Rates Dining Room RNCDA Annual Dinner at 'The Gaiety Bar', South Parade Pier, Southsea. For details and timings visit – www.rncda.com or contact WO1 Diver John Ravenhall chairman@rncda.com or Glyn Holgate events@rncda.com	Portsmouth
Fri 25/Mon 28 th Oct 2019	The Survey Ships Association will be holding its twenty fifth reunion at the Mercure Chester North, Woodhey House Hotel Cheshire. From the W/E Friday 25 th 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 22 nd - 25 th 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) Secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk < mailto:Secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk > (Tel: 02392 599640), or book direct with SFEVENTS (email) hmsrelentlessreunion@sarahfletcherevents.co.uk < 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 May 2020	VE Bank Holiday	

Swinging the Lamp – August 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	2005	<i>Invincible</i> entered Portsmouth for the last time to pay off.
2 nd	1999	Final performance of the Royal Tournament at Earl's Court, in which the Royal Navy had participated since 1887. The centrepiece since 1907 was the annual naval field gun competition, a relic of the Naval Brigades in the Boer War, between the Home Ports, later joined by the Fleet Air Arm. Devonport was the last winner.
3rd	1941	First operational success by a Fighter Catapult Ship. Hurricane fighter W/9277 launched by <i>Maplin</i> , formerly the Morant Steamship Company's <i>Erin</i> , shot down a Focke Wulf 200 Kondor attacking Convoy SL 81 from Freetown (50.33N, 19.40W). Pilot, Lt (A) R.W.H. Everett RNVR, bailed out, was rescued. Awarded DSO.
4 th	1960	<i>Vanguard</i> , Britain's last twentieth-century battleship, towed from Fareham Creek bound for shipbreakers at Faslane and briefly went aground off the Customs Watch House in Old Portsmouth near the Still and West tavern on Portsmouth Point. Similar reluctance displayed by battleship <i>Warspite</i> .
5 th	1915	One of the first naval courts martial held on shore. Skipper James Sadler RNR of HM Trawler <i>Vale of Leven</i> dismissed the Service at RNB Devonport for being drunk on board to the prejudice of good order and naval discipline, for bringing on board two women 'of loose character and behaviour' and keeping them in his cabin until the afternoon of the following day. Things had changed since Prince William Henry commanded <i>Andromeda</i> .
6 th	1944	Frigate <i>Loch Killin</i> and <i>Starling</i> , sloop, sank U-736 in the Bay of Biscay
7th	1980	<i>Scylla</i> began five days of hurricane relief work in Cayman Islands. Hurricane Allen.
8th	1914	U-13 made first submerged attack of First World War, firing a torpedo which missed battleship <i>Monarch</i> off Fair Isle.
9th	1968	Leander-class frigate <i>Scylla</i> launched at Plymouth, the last ship to be built in a Royal Yard.
10th	1678	Royal Observatory, Greenwich founded.
11 th	1942	The old carrier <i>Eagle</i> , covering the Operation Pedestal convoy to Malta, torpedoed 65 miles S. of Majorca and 584 miles W. of Malta (38.05N, 03.02E) by U-73, Kapitänleutnant Helmut Rosenbaum, operating from La Spezia. Capt. L.D. Mackintosh and 927 of her 1,160 ship's company rescued by destroyers <i>Laforey</i> and <i>Lookout</i> , and tug <i>Jaunty</i> . Four Sea Hurricanes of 801 NAS airborne were recovered to <i>Indomitable</i> and <i>Victorious</i> . 'The faithful old carrier, which had made no less than nine aircraft ferry trips and had despatched 183 Spitfires to Malta in 1942, sank in eight minutes. If we had to lose her it was

		appropriate that her grave should be in the Mediterranean, whose waters she had known so well' – Capt. S.W. Roskill RN, <i>The War at Sea</i> , vol.2 p.304.
12th	2000	Russian Oscar II-class cruise missile submarine <i>Kursk</i> destroyed in explosion in Barents Sea. Cdre David Russell, DFOSM, led RN assistance party.
13th	1934	Metropolitan Police, hitherto responsible for establishment security, withdrawn at midnight from Devonport Dockyard.
14th	1816	Party landed from the frigate <i>Falmouth</i> , Capt. Robert Festing RN, to take possession of Tristan da Cunha to prevent its possible use by French republicans to rescue Napoleon from St Helena. The frigate's First Lieutenant, Lt David Rice RN, became the first Governor and, with Lt Archibald Dunlop RM, three midshipmen, the Assistant Surgeon and thirteen men, he held the island until relieved on 28 November by Capt (later General Sir) Abraham Josias Cloete, 21st Dragoons, with forty soldiers sent from the Cape to garrison the island.
15th	1945	VJ Day. Japanese surrender. End of the Second World War. From C-in-C Fifth Fleet to Fifth Fleet Pacific: 'The war with Japan will end at 12.00 on 15 August. It is likely that Kamikazes will attack the fleet after this time as a final fling. Any ex-enemy aircraft attacking the fleet is to be shot down in a friendly manner.'
16th	1956	Frigate <i>Loch Killisport</i> , Cdr G.C. Hathaway RN, left Portsmouth for the Gulf and the East Indies Station with a Royal Marines detachment of twenty men embarked as part of the ship's company. The Royals had hitherto served only in warships of cruiser size and above.
17th	1997	Destroyer <i>Liverpool</i> and RFA <i>Black Rover</i> assisted in evacuation of Montserrat following major volcanic eruptions. Operation Caxton.
18th	1923	Submarine L 9 foundered in hurricane at Hong Kong. Salvaged but scrapped.
19th	1941	Convoy OG 71, which left the Mersey on 13 August carrying military supplies for Gibraltar, attacked by a German U-boat pack W. of Ireland. The commodore's ship, the Yeoward liner SS <i>Aguila</i> , with ninety service personnel including twenty-two wrens (twelve cypher officers and ten chief wren W/T special operators), torpedoed and sunk by U-201 (49.23N, 17.56W); Cdre P.E. Parker (Vice-Admiral, rtd) and 156 souls lost. Master and nine others rescued by corvette <i>Wallflower</i> , another six by tug <i>Empire Oak</i> which was herself torpedoed and sunk with all hands by U-564 on 22 August. The convoy escort included the corvette <i>Campanula</i> , whose First Lieutenant, Lt-Cdr Nicholas Monsarrat, remembered the loss of the Wrens in his fictional character Third Officer Julie Hallam in <i>The Cruel Sea</i> in 1951. Future WRNS drafts were permitted passage in HM ships.
20th	1896	First RN wireless transmission (<i>Defiance</i>). <i>Defiance</i> , a wooden ship of the line, at Devonport, was the first ship to receive a morse transmission. Her captain, Capt. H.B. Jackson, later Admiral of the Fleet FRS, developed the device, and worked with Marconi in his trials. Marconi's first major trials of radio in Britain were not carried out until the autumn of that year. On 20 May 1897, the radio was demonstrated at ranges up to 2 miles by the <i>Defiance</i> at anchor, and <i>Scourge</i> under way.
21st	1915	Crew of sunken <i>Ruel</i> , while in their boats, fired on by U-38 (S.S.W. of Bishop Rock). First authenticated case of such behaviour.

22 nd	1940	Three Swordfish of 824 Sqn (<i>Eagle</i>) sank the depot ship <i>Monte Gargano</i> , a destroyer and the S/M <i>Iride</i> in the Gulf of Bomba, bound for a 'chariot' raid on Alexandria.
23 rd	1993	<i>Opossum</i> , Lt-Cdr J.R.G. Drummond RN, last of the Royal Navy's thirteen Oberon-class diesel-electric submarines, paid off at Gosport. Earlier that month the thirty-year-old boat was the first Western submarine since the Second World War to visit Severomorsk, the Russian Northern Fleet base.
24 th	1867	The murder of child Fanny Adams at Alton, Hampshire (which led to Winchester's last public hanging). Macabre and grisly details of how her body had been dismembered were given in court and widely reported. The introduction of tinned meat in the Fleet that year led to lower deck concerns about its provenance. The tins, however, became useful containers, hence 'fannies' for mess traps.
25 th	1944	Battleship <i>Warspite</i> bombarded Brest
26 th	1914	Cruiser <i>Highflyer</i> sank the German armed merchant cruiser <i>Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse</i> off Rio de Oro, Spanish West Africa, only ten days out from Bremen.
27 th	1979	Murder of Admiral of the Fleet the Earl Mountbatten of Burma.
28 th	1595	Drake and Hawkins left Plymouth on what turned out to be their last voyage, since neither returned. Drake died of yellow fever and Hawkins of dysentery
29 th	1985	HM Air Force Vessels <i>Sunderland (Crabfat 1)</i> and <i>Stirling (Crabfat 2)</i> transferred from RAF to RN, renamed <i>Cormorant</i> and <i>Hart</i> and, and commissioned at Gibraltar to form the Gibraltar Squadron.
30 th	1954	The Royal Naval Association – 'Unity, Loyalty, Patriotism and Comradeship' – formed in 1950, received its Royal Charter from HM The Queen. Its purposes 'to further the efficiency of the Service in which members of the Association have served or are serving, by fostering esprit de corps and preserving the traditions of the Service and thus to achieve those ideals for which Our Naval Forces have fought and perpetuate the memory of those members who have died in the service of their country; to relieve members of the Association who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress'.
31 st	1908	Final day of trials of Col Cody's man-lifting kite off Isle of Wight, with battleship <i>Revenge</i> (tender to <i>Excellent</i>) and TBDs <i>Fervent</i> and <i>Recruit</i> . Strong winds, searches for submerged mines outside St Helens Bay and occasional immersions – 'the aeronauts have got up satisfactorily but were finding difficulty in getting down'.

ADVICE UPDATE

3rd Quarter 2019

ADVICE AREA	SUBJECT	WHAT'S HAPPENING
Benefits	Universal Credit UC	UC problems are very common among former seafarers contacting SAIL. Some positive changes have been made, but problems remain. There have been lots of negative headlines - UC scams, misleading UC adverts, and a 20% reduction in DWP staff.
Debt	Overdraft reforms	The Financial Conduct Authority announced reforms to make the cost of overdrafts fairer and simpler to understand, with one APR rate to be advertised. Over 26 million people in the UK used an overdraft in 2018.
Consumer	Holiday problems	Citizens Advice reported almost 1 million people looking for help with lost luggage or delayed flights. SAIL can help if you think you should be compensated. Holiday scams are on the increase too.
Finance	PPI	The deadline for claiming PPI compensation is 29 th August. The annoying adverts should finish then.
Consumer	TV Licences	The BBC announced that free TV licences will end for over 75s from June 2020. Those claiming Pension Credit (PC) are exempt. SAIL hopes this will encourage people to claim PC, as it's one of the most underclaimed benefits. Contact SAIL for advice.
Consumer	Loyalty penalty	To help avoid the loyalty penalty, OFCOM announced all broadband, pay-TV, mobile and landline customers must be notified when their contract is about to end. They must be given their provider's best alternative price. This will come in to force from February 2020.
Debt	Breathing space	The Treasury announced problem debtors will get a 60 day breathing space with interest and charges frozen. This is only to be implemented in 2021 though.

NEED MORE INFORMATION? CALL SAIL NOW.

SAIL gives free advice to working and retired seafarers and their families on a wide range of issues, including debt, benefits and housing problems. We can help fishermen, merchant seafarers, Royal Navy and Royal Marine personnel. We also provide advice and training to other agencies working with seafarers.



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ALDRSHOT RNA

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