



ROYAL NAVAL PATROL SERVICE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 65 Winter 2008

POSTAL ADDRESS and HEADQUARTERS

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Greetings to all Shipmates

Here we go with another helping of dits from "The Nest" which we hope will keep you up to speed with what is happening in the world of the RNPSA.

Reunion

The reunion this year was one of very mixed weather. During the week leading up to the parade we had a lot of rain and cold winds and I must admit we were all getting a bit worried about what to do on the actual parade day if this weather persisted. On the Thursday we had the interment of the ashes of Shipmate Jack Fisk from North London and it rained, except for about 15 minutes while we actually had the service but after that it poured down, on the Friday we had the interment of the ashes of Midlands member Shipmate W Christie and it was bitterly cold. At lunch time we went to the United Reform Church for the AGM and it started raining again but during the meeting the noise of the rain on the roof was very loud and when we came out after the meeting there were floods on all the roads and worry for the Saturday was really starting to set in. Surprise of all surprises, Saturday dawned with bright sun and although it clouded slightly it was still a full overcoat warmer than the previous few days. After the parade was dismissed in the Sparrows Nest Gardens it was still pleasant enough for people to sit around and enjoy a drink and a chat – but – and there always has to be a but after the dinner and dance at the Ocean Rooms on the Saturday evening it started raining again and on the Sunday it just never stopped causing a lot of serious flooding on roads in the area.



Lt Cdr Ted Thompson in charge
Photo courtesy of Archant Press



Sunset



Standards dip in homage
Photo courtesy of Archant Press

The events for the week started on the Wednesday and Thursday evenings with a social at the Beaconsfield Club with music and entertainment by "Harbour Lights" but unfortunately the attendance was not that high on the Wednesday and we may have to re-think this for next year but Thursday was a lot better and a few games of "stand up" bingo and "play your cards right" got the evening going well. The AGM on the Friday went off well with no contentious items. The Committee was re-elected for another year and the various officers gave their annual reports. John Hodge from the Midlands Branch gave an update on the new memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire and showed a drawing of how it will look. We are indebted to the Midlands Branch for all their help in this project and because of their close proximity to the Arboretum and the stone masons have made the job a lot easier to manage by their personal contact. The memorial will be unveiled and dedicated on Sunday 23rd August 2009 which is exactly 70 years to the day that the Sparrows Nest was requisitioned. More detailed information will be in the next Newsletter. The big social on the Friday night was again at the Ocean Rooms in Gorleston and music was by "K-Syl-R" and the raffle was well supported for which we are very grateful for all who donated prizes. The main reunion day on the Saturday was, as I have mentioned, a pleasant change in the weather and a good crowd turned out for the event. Our National Padre, Jim Izzard, came over from the Isle of Wight to take the service assisted by our local Padre, Tim Jenkins. The official party consisted of Our President, Cdr. Gary Titmus, Vice Presidents Capt. Jon Scoles and Cdr. David Braybrooke, Guest of Honour Cdr Liz Spencer, Chief of Staff to the Naval Regional Commander Eastern England and her Husband Capt. Greg Spencer, the Mayor of Lowestoft Cllr. Frank Mortimer and Chairman of Waveney District Council Cllr. George Hawes. The Band of the Lowestoft Squadron of the Air Training Corps led the Standards into Belle Vue Park and Yarmouth Brass Band played for the hymns, Last Post and Reveille. After the service the parade formed up for the march

down to the Sparrows Nest for those who felt they were able to do so. Our President took the salute at the march past at the band stand before addressing the gathering. This year there was a slight change to proceedings as two Branch Standards were being laid up as their branches had closed, these were North London and Fleetwood. The two were marched to the front of the band stand and handed over to our President where they were guarded and then marched off to the Museum for safe keeping by two cadets from our adopted Sea Cadet unit, TS Europa. This was a sad but fitting finale for two of our branches. The dinner dance on the Saturday evening went off well with the customary speeches, annual prize draw and music with "K-Syl-R".



The parade turns to go down The Ravine



So ended another good reunion, numbers were, understandably, down but the spirit of those who attended was certainly up beat. Thank you to all who came to support us and to those who could not attend but sent their messages of good wishes and, God willing, we will do it all again next year.

From the Secretary, John Dunn

Well Shipmates, once again the time has come round to bash out another piece for the Newsletter to bring you all up to date. I am sorry to say that once again the big part of my little contribution is the obituary and there are some well known Shipmates among them.

The annual reunion went off very well and the weather was in our favour again with a nice bit of sunshine for the service of remembrance and the march past in the Sparrows Nest with the salute again being taken by our President Cdr. G Titmus RN. A notable part being the "laying up" of the Standards of North London and Fleetwood at the end of the march past and these Standards are now in the HQ Museum. The dinner dance was a great success once again with the number sitting down was just over 200. So long as we can keep this number at the dinner each year we can carry on using the Ocean Room, but like everything else it must be kept under review as to the cost etc.

Early in September I was called out at 10.30pm because the alarm was ringing and on arrival found the back door of the downstairs part of the museum had been forced off its hinges but as the donation box had been forced off its shelf their luck was out as it had been emptied a few days previously. Result is that the Council fitted a new door and frame so we hope it will not be vandalised.

New book

The following has been received from John Riddle, Cormorant Publishing Hartlepool, 5 Teesdale Avenue, Hartlepool TS26 9QD Tel: 01429 865066 Web site www.riddlewrites.co.uk

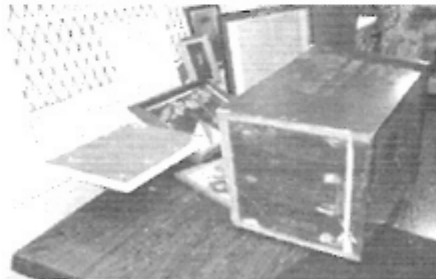
On 11th November we shall be publishing a book by Ernest Cleveland, a former Fisheries Officer with the North East Fisheries Committee and a member of "Harry Tate's Navy". We have received two manuscripts written by a former employee of the North East Fisheries Committee and a member of "Harry Tate's Navy". We aim to publish the first on 11th November, which is about St. Vincent's Orphanage in Hull, where the author Ernest Cleveland was placed after his mother died when he was just 8 years of age. His father, (and Ernest comes from four generations of fisherman who originated from Margate in Kent in the mid 19th century) was working on minesweepers at the time and Ernest was placed in the orphanage. When he left aged 14 he signed as a "deckie learner" on a deep sea trawler which headed for Iceland. He spent 15 years in the fishing industry and achieved his boatswain's ticket in 1930. At the outbreak of war in 1939 Ernest moved into the Merchant Navy fishing section and eventually the Royal Navy (Harry Tate's Navy), mostly doing escort duties in the Indian Ocean. After the war he went back to the fishing fleet until 1950 when he was appointed Fishery Officer with the North East Sea Fisheries Committee which involved a move to Hartlepool. He retired in 1975 and devoted his time to painting and writing his memoirs. He died in 1985 and his book lay gathering dust in a suitcase in his daughter Margaret's loft until 2007. Margaret and her brother Barrie then edited the memoirs, completed further research and now Ernest Cleveland's memoirs will be published. The first book "St. Vincent's Home Boys" is due for release on 11th November and I am sure will be of great interest to your members especially any from the Hull, Lowestoft and Hartlepool areas. Ernest Cleveland served on Steam Trawlers with the forename "Cape - Barfleur, Griznes, Barracouta to name but a few and during the war on the Europa in 1940, Edwina Badger in 1941, Jana, Ferella Porcupine and Bacchante.

The first book is to be released on 11th November and already we have advanced orders from WH Smith's and Pocket Papers, Navigation Point, Hartlepool Marina. The book will also be sold in the "Los Cristianos Library" located in The Devon Arms in that port, a popular watering hole with local fishermen and visitors to Tenerife. I will be there from 7th December giving a talk on the most recent books we have published. Ernest's second book "Trawlers and Trawler Folk" is being favourably considered and will form the lead book in our 2009 season.

Museum break-in

September 9th is a date I have good reason to remember as it is my wedding anniversary. This year being no different from any other, Bonnie & I went out for a couple of quiet drinks and got home at about 10.45pm to find a message on our answer phone from the CCTV unit in Lowestoft asking me to attend at the museum because of a break in. When I got down there I found two Park Wardens outside and John Dunn and Ted Smith inside, who incidentally, had only got back from 4 days in France ½ hour earlier. The back door to the lower Museum was completely off its hinges and large parts of the door frame had been broken off, the donation box had been forced off its base but fortunately is a self contained box and was empty, given this and the fact that the burglar alarm was going off our miscreants left without any further damage – apart from Jack in his tropical whites who had his head twisted round.

It was obvious that both John and Ted were tired as they had been travelling all day and so Bonnie and I told them to get off home and we would stay, after all the man who was going to board up the door was on his way -WRONG John and Ted left, the Park Wardens then left and we waited for the repairer and waited. He eventually turned up but found that the board he had brought with him was too small and so had to go back for a bigger one (round trip of 30miles), on his return he found that he had left the screws behind so off he went again. Now years ago the idea of being in a park alone at night with a girl would have been quite attractive but all I could think of was getting home in the warm and having a cup of tea – how things change. Eventually the job was made safe and we got away at 1.30am – happy anniversary dear!



The damaged door (left) and the donation box (above) and "Jack" with a twisted neck!



The troubles did not end there, apart from forensics coming down and dusting for prints, which proved fruitless, they also discovered that the CCTV cameras were either dummies, turned off or pointing in a different direction, so nothing there.

The highlight of the evening was when a family of foxes came through the park about 10yards in front of us and seemed totally un phased by us being there. When I whistled at them they stopped, looked and started to come towards us before moving off into the bushes.

The Council eventually got around to repairing the door frame and door the week after our reunion – a month later.

Welfare

We have been advised by Waveney District Council that a plot in our Patrol Service cemetery in Belle Vue Park that had been purchased, but not used, by a member has been relinquished by the family but they have requested that the plot be donated to our Association to be used by a family who feel that they cannot afford the extra expense to fulfil their relatives last wishes. All applications must be made through the Association and we will not consider any unless the member in question is already deceased, i.e. no pre booking.

We have been able to advise on grants that are available and of other bodies that offer both actual and financial help to ex-service men and women. Bonnie Whisstock is just a phone call or letter away and can offer help in starting the ball rolling. The various funds that are out there are not just there to help out with a few pounds. If, for example, a disability means that alterations have to be made to your house then this is something that some of the charities can assist with, providing the work or medical treatment etc. has not already been done and paid for.

There is no shame in asking for help and your details and circumstances are strictly confidential and go no further than the case worker dealing with your case.

Bonnie's contact details are - Mrs Bonnie Whisstock, 133 Corton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4PR. Tel. 01502 584555 or via e-mail at bonnie@theharbour.fsbusiness.co.uk

Membership Renewals

The membership rate for this year is £8 and our Treasurer will be overjoyed to receive renewals. This next part is VERY IMPORTANT. Since the changes to the postal system, we have had to collect some member's subscriptions and books from the Post Office and pay an extra £1.06 because they were too thick for the 5mm slot and therefore the ordinary postage did not cover it. We cannot sustain these extra costs. SUGGESTION. When sending in your subs, please remove the plastic cover and open up the insert and lay it flat, then enclose your

stamped addressed envelope (6½" x 4½") laid flat. Send to HQ in a (7½" x 5") envelope, or in new money, (190mm x 127mm). In the last Newsletter we mentioned that we had deleted a lot of members who were in arrears on their subscription for about three years, so if you are reading this article and you are not a Life member then you will need to renew your subscription unless of course you are one of the keen ones who paid up at the reunion.

Plaque dedication

On Sunday 29th June a group of us from Lowestoft travelled up to Boston in Lincolnshire for the dedication of 24 plaques in the Boston Memorial Gardens in Central Park. These plaques represent various Regiments, Associations and branches of the Armed Forces and form an avenue in the garden. When we arrived in Boston it was gloriously warm and shirt sleeve order. We sat in the main park having a cup of tea and generally enjoying the day. As the hour approached we got blazers on and the Standards assembled and ambled up to the start point, moaning that we were going to sweat in this weather. Like most ex-service parades they seemed to fall us in far too early and while we stood there chatting the sky started to get darker. We eventually marched off and into the park taking up our places either side of the avenue with the Standards positioned behind their respective stones. The service started, albeit with interference from a radio microphone at a nearby children's party, and then it rained and boy did it rain. Although the rain did not last that long it was enough to get everyone soaked through. After the service was over we were marched through Boston to the Town Hall for the customary speeches and tea and biscuits but unfortunately the occasion was vaguely similar to a Chinese laundry with the smell of wet clothes. After the pleasantries were over we started to make our way back to the cars in the main park. Half way back it came down again like stair rods so what had dried off in the Town Hall was now wet again. In spite of all this we would like to thank the local RNPSA members who turned up to support the event and in particular the member who paid for the plaque himself. If you are ever in the Boston area the Memorial Avenue is well worth seeing and is not hard to find as it is in the middle of Boston by the car parks.



Museum visits

For information, the Museum and office are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings until about 11.30 (ish). What we do recommend is that if you are travelling some distance that you telephone a few days beforehand to either the office on 01502 586250 or my home on 01502 584555 and we can arrange, if necessary, to open up for you at a suitable time. When you do arrive at the top room of the Museum please turn to your right and wave!! as you will be on our internal CCTV. This new "toy" helps us when we are busy in the office as we can see when someone comes in and we can then go out to them and offer them assistance and our vast wealth of knowledge.

Curator

The two Standards that were laid up at the reunion are now in their new permanent home in the top museum room bringing the total now to four. We hope soon to replace the plastic floor runners in the top room with carpet tiles which will make it look a bit neater and also remove a trip hazard. The work that Alf and his staff are doing in the museum is moving along nicely and the present work is to copy and log all the photographs – this goes into thousands but it will mean that we should be able to preserve the originals and display copies. If you need to contact Alf direct he can be found by using the e-mail address:- rnps_mus@lowestoft.org.uk

Christmas & Birthday cards



Original

We have for some time been selling Christmas cards from slops but the buy in cost and the number we had to buy were getting prohibitive – that was until James, our new volunteer, came on the scene. James is a computer whiz and decided that he could produce the cards "in house" at a lower cost and all we would have to buy were the envelopes. The two styles we now do are shown here and



Clean sweep

inside have a verse about the Patrol Service and "Best wishes for Christmas and good new year". These two cards are also available as Birthday cards and can be ordered on the slops list at the end of this Newsletter. Whilst we are talking about slops, you may notice that we have not listed the gold wire badges, this is because we are in the process of getting some new ones and are not 100% sure of the new costs.

Web sites

Don't forget, if you have access to a computer, to keep checking the 2 web sites connected to our Association which are: www.rnps.lowestoft.org.uk run by Mike Sims and www.harry-tates.org.uk run by Nick Clark. Both offer a wealth of information. There are also plenty of other sites where you can search for old oppos or look for things to do with the war and the Royal Navy. Nick is looking for anyone who can supply a story for his "Veterans Stories" section. Take a look at some of the photos, how did they get their hats to stay on "flat aback"?

HMS Penelope memorial

There is one thing I have learnt from being around Patrol Service men and that is they are very proud of being "small ship" men but recently whilst doing some research into the casualty list of a war time Cruiser I came across a Patrol Service man. In the late 1960s I was involved with the frigate HMS Penelope on SONAR trials at the Naval base at Portland. A few years ago I discovered that there was a HMS Penelope Association which I have become involved in. From this I have learnt a lot about the previous ships to bear the name Penelope, nine in all, with the most famous being the Cruiser Penelope that was sunk during the Second World War on 18th February 1944 off Anzio with a



The dedication service

loss of 418 lives out of a compliment of 623. She had acquired the nickname HMS Pepperpot due to earlier incidents where she sustained enormous damage and came back to port with hundreds of holes in her. Each year we have a ship's reunion at Blackpool, the ship's adopted town and a service of remembrance at the local church. Two years ago I decided to produce a small book about the various Penelope ships and the various odds and ends I had come across relating to them. Whilst looking at the casualty figures I realised it varied depending on which report you read. I contacted the Penelope Association President who is the son of the Captain that was lost with the ship and he agreed that he had found the same. We further discovered that the memorial in St Annes Church in the dockyard at Portsmouth which lists all the names had some errors. In order to try and set the records straight the Association agreed to research and produce a new bronze plaque for St Annes. With the help of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the war casualty lists and other references we were able to produce an accurate list (as far as we are aware) and

this is where I came across Telegraphist H A Wenman with the service number LT/JX 194189 and listed as being recorded on Lowestoft memorial panel 15 column 1. How he came to be on the cruiser is a mystery, perhaps they were short of a Telegraphist and he was spare at the time. In September this year we dedicated the new memorial in Portsmouth with three of the survivors present. We had two Standards on parade, the Portsea Royal Naval Association, which I was given the honour of carrying, and the Portsmouth Royal Marines Association in honour of the large number of Royal Marines lost with the ship.

Time for a laugh

1. I was going through some of the articles that have been sent to me for the Newsletter but have not yet had space for and this bit made me chuckle, it concerns Grimsby and the Base Commander -

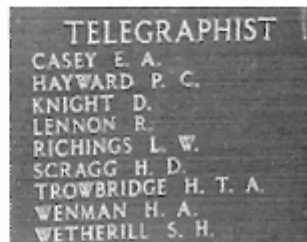
The base was commanded by a Captain Minesweepers whose name evades me, but was quite a character and fond of the bottle. There was a story going round the base that a young newly promoted Sub Lt RNVR was walking along Freeman Street one afternoon when he was confronted by three ratings, who had been peacetime fishermen and following tradition, when ashore, had a good drink. They failed to salute the officer so he took them to ask about this, only to have one put his arm round the officer's shoulders in a brotherly hug and advised him not to get upset, but if he liked to go with them to a club they would be only too glad to buy him a drink. He was horrified at this behaviour, took their names and duly reported the incident. The Captain M/S sent for the officer, tore the report up and threw it in the waste paper basket and told him that these men had been engaged in minesweeping from the day war was declared and on merit the officer should have saluted them!

2. This next small snippet came to light in a booklet called Six Christmases written by one of our members - The next day I had an interview with a Navy Commander responsible for training radio mechanics, who asked me why I wanted to do this training. I told him that for the past two years I had been operating a simple Mk 1 radar on my trawler and felt that I could become a competent radio mechanic. He then asked me about my school training. I had been very good at mathematics and similar subjects and he agreed I had all the qualifications needed. Then he enquired how long I had been an Ordinary Seaman. I replied "Three years". "Three years!" he barked back, "why did you stay a seaman so long?" "Because I liked being on my ship and being a Seaman" I answered. "We don't pay you to like what you are doing; you should have applied for this course two years ago. We'll put you on one as soon as possible" and with that he dismissed me.

3. The modern Royal Navy / Inter Service Field Gun Competition is not like it used to be at the Royal Tournament. They are no longer allowed to do the original type of run and go over walls and ravines in case they hurt themselves (civilian teams are still allowed to) but now the much tamer and Health & Safety concious "Brickwoods run" is under fire from the H&S people because they think the bang from the small pistol blank



HMS Pepperpot (Penelope) showing all the holes in her side



Horace Wenman on our Memorial at Lowestoft

inserted into the larger shell casing is too loud and they should wear ear defenders – one quick witted field gunner replied that if they were wearing ear defenders how could they tell if they had a miss fire! Health & Safety are re-thinking that one!!

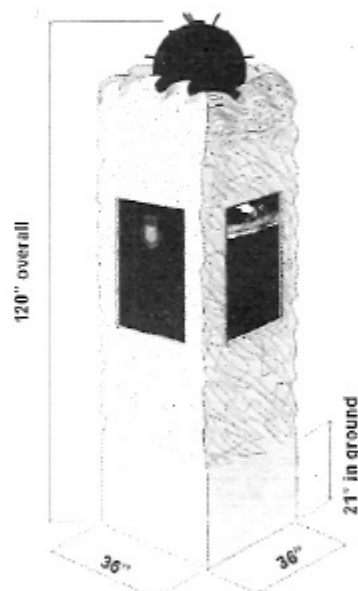
When I was growing up we used to work on the idea that if it hurt you did not do it again but now the rule seems to be don't do it in case it hurts. Whatever happened to common sense? It never did us any harm (except a conker over the knuckles – those were the days!).

National Memorial Arboretum

As I mentioned earlier, the new RNPS memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire was discussed at the AGM and artists impressions of the finished article were passed round for members to see and comment on. The initial idea of incorporating a full size mine into the memorial was discounted as the on going maintenance costs could be a problem. The stone is light grey granite with the top carved to look like waves surmounted with a mine in polished black granite. On each of the four sides will be a 3' x 2' panel in polished black granite. On the front panel will be a copy of the Silver Badge with "In Imis Petimus" underneath and the other panels will have representations of various types of RNPS ships and associated wording. Just as the Patrol Service went all over the world, so this stone will be well travelled. It is starting its life in India, being shipped to China where it will be carved engraved and finished and then shipped in a container to the UK.

At the moment about £10,000 has been raised and S/M Arthur Young, the Standard bearer for the Midlands branch has raised about half of this amount himself by doing sponsored walks and other fund raising events so all congratulations to Arthur for his selfless efforts.

The next Newsletter will have all the precise details of the unveiling and dedication but as a "heads up" the date will be Sunday 23rd August 2009 at 10.00am (this coincides with the usual Sunday service in the Arboretum Chapel). As I mentioned in the earlier report on the reunion, this is the actual date that the Sparrow's Nest was requisitioned as Pembroke X and from looking at the official records, things moved pretty swiftly as you will see:- Site requisitioned 23.08.39, staff arrived 25.08.39, 1st recruits arrive 26.08.39, 1st draft out 27.08.39, White Ensign aloft 29.08.39. The name changed from Pembroke X to Romola 07.11.39 then to Europa 14.04.40 and paid off 01.06.46 then re-commissioned as tender to Pembroke 1V (accounting base, Chatham) finally closing on 27.08.46.



Namsos revisited - abridged version of an article in Navy News.

Three members of the Royal Naval Patrol Service Association, Midlands branch joined a group of British veterans who travelled to Norway to pay homage to those who took part in the Norwegian campaign in 1940. The trio, Branch Secretary John Hodge, Alf Baker and Arthur Young were among the 13 who were invited by the Mayor of Mansos to commemorate the destruction of the town in April 1940 by German bombers. The party took a boat trip down the Namsenfjord and on the return journey the boat stopped over the wrecks of the A/S Trawler HMT Aston Villa and HMT Gaul. A Short service was held over the wreck of HMT St Goran in which 5 men died before she was abandoned. The wrecks of HMT Rutlandshire and the sloop HMS Bittern were also acknowledged. Later that day, Alf Baker, on behalf of the RNPS, was invited to unveil the ship's bells of HMTs Aston Villa, Gaul and Rutlandshire which had been recovered from the Fjord. The veterans then took part in a parade in which they rode in a 1904 cadillac once owned by the King of Norway.

Veterans Day

As you are all probably aware, Veteran's Day is a national day held every year on the 27th June to commemorate veterans of all ages and to bring public awareness to the men and women who have served their Country not just in the two World Wars but all the years both before and after. The official definition of a service veteran is someone who has served at least 24hrs in any of the services and has not been dishonourably discharged and covers all ages right up to the present day. As this year the 27th was on a Friday, Lowestoft, along with a lot of other places, held a public event on Saturday 21st where various Associations and cadet units had stands and displays in the main shopping precinct.

Our Welfare Officer, Bonnie Whisstock had a Patrol Service Stand and was kept busy all day answering questions about the Association and generally swinging the lamp. The donations collected on our stand were passed to our Arboretum Memorial fund. There was a parade of Veterans and Standards with the Royal British Legion Band and the salute taken by Lord Somerleyton.



Bonnie "swinging the lamp"

If you have any items for inclusion in the next Newsletter or comments on this one, please send them to me at , Leo Whisstock, 133 Corton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4PR. Tel. 01502 584555 or via e-mail at rnpsa@theharbour.fsbusiness.co.uk

Yours Aye, The Duty Watch

Shipmates Corner

If you do not have access to e-mail or you have information on any of the following enquiries that do not have contact details, then you can pass the information to me (Leo) at the address above or to Nick Clark, 174 Manton Crescent, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2GA Tel: 07841 107641 info@rnpatrolservice.org.uk Please note this is a new address and telephone No. for Nick.

My father **James Gunn Shearer** served in the R N patrol service from June 1940 to August 1943. I have his certificate of service he was based at **Europa** and several other bases I would like to find the names of the boats he served on if somebody can give me help. Donald Shearer donandcathshearer@yahoo.co.uk

I am currently writing a biography of my father **Roland (Joe) Garrett** to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth. Hailing from South Wales he joined the RNPS in 1941 and served until 1945. It is unlikely that anyone reading this will remember him personally but I would be most grateful for any photographs, information or anecdotes about any of the following ships / shore bases on which he served, **Royal Arthur** (1941), **Stella Polaris** (1941-4), **Afrikanda** (1943), **Assegai** (1944), **Europa** (1944 & 45), **Brimnes** (1944) and **Godetia** (1945). Gill Garrett, 3 Chancel Way, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham GL53 7RR e-mail gill.garrett@tesco.net

I was a signalman aboard the **HMS Ailsa Craig** between 16th July 1944 and 9th January 1946. I would like to get any pictures of the ship or get in touch with any other crew members. **Victor Norgate** (Bunts!) C/O Nick Clark

Cecil Gordon Chudley Coombe Hello my name is Graham Evans, I am looking for information concerning my grandfather Cecil Coombe(1909-1954), who was in the RNPS from Sept 1939 to 1946.the vessels I know he served on were **HMS Rifsnes** which was sunk by enemy aircraft on the 20 May 1940 off Ostend, and the **251**. If anybody has any information on my grandfather's service or the vessels he served on, I would be most grateful. Graham Evans.

My father **Cyril Vincent** (87) and living in Barrie, Ontario, Canada. In 1940 he volunteered for the RNPS. He joined **HMT Indian star** and was based at Pollock Dock Belfast. After being promoted to Leading Seaman he was drafted to **MMS 8** and spent several months sweeping the mouth of the Thames for mines. He then joined **MMS 1006** at Lowestoft. Apparently MMS 8 was later sunk with only one survivor. He served with the American Task force at "D" day clearing the waters around Cherbourg. During this time he escorted a fleet carrying King Haakon and his family back to Oslo. Any information? Michael Vincent mjvincent@cogeco.ca

My late grandfather **James Bowman** served on minesweepers during WW2. Prior to the war he was a fisherman and lived in Pittenweem, Fife. As far as I am aware he was called up fairly early in the war. We are not sure which ships he served with but his late brother (Fergus Bowman) who also served on minesweepers mentioned the **Blackthorn**. He also mentioned that they were based in Lowestoft and served in the North Sea and presumably the Channel. If anyone can to provide any information I'd be very grateful. Graeme Hodge C/O Nick Clark

My Great Uncle **John Midwinter** from Islington, London served on board **H.M.S. Northern Wave** in PQ14 and **BYMS 75** in the Med during WWII. I have no idea what trade he was. Could you please help me to find any of his former shipmates who may remember him from either ship. Bertie Bassett C/O Nick Clark

John Roberts from London sends his best regards to anyone who served with him on **BYMS 2068** and **HMS Sir Agravalne** between 1942 and 1946.

Here is a photograph of my Dad **Jesse Ball**. I don't know where this was taken, or what the ship was, or who the other Sparrows are. He did service as an engineer on an MMS on its long voyage from Shelburne in Nova Scotia, where it was built. He never made it to England, being injured and hospitalised in the US Naval Hospital in Brooklyn. On recovery he did return and was at St Lukes helping to train stokers (shovelling coal through a hole!). I think he was involved in the "D" Day sweeping and went to help liberate Norway at the end of the war. I would be very interested if anyone knows where this was, or recognises themselves or a relative! Greg Ball, 104 Castle Road, Tipton DY4 8EA

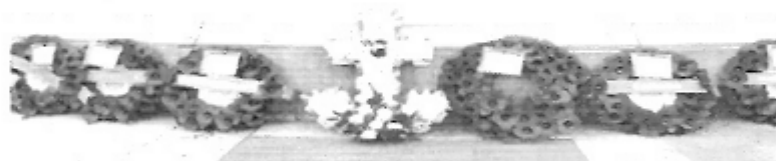


Rescue Tugs Thank you to the 3 members who contacted me with information on the paintwork on Assurance Class Rescue Tugs. The information was of great assistance as were the great stories that accompanied the information.

Nick Clark is always on the look out for stories for the Harry Tates Web site and has so far collected over 30 stories (this may encourage more to put pen to paper or fingers to key board!) It is very encouraging to see a lot of ex-sparrows using e-mail and the internet and joining the the ever growing band of "Silver Surfers"

Obituary for Winter 2008

S/M R Atkinson	Fleetwood	Lancashire	S/M F Parsons	Newton Abbot	Devon
S/M W Craze	Southend on Sea	Essex	S/M F Phillipson	Newcastle	Tyne & Wear
S/M W Christie	Glenrothes	Fife	S/M N Pettitt	Redhill	Surrey
S/M Davis	Kilburn	London	S/M A Reed	Taunton	Somerset
S/M D Dobson	Reading	Berkshire	S/M E Richards	Scarborough	Staffordshire
S/M J Elliot	Shelburne	Canada	S/M C Oldman	Fleetwood	Yorkshire
S/M A Evans	Leamington Spa	Warwickshire	S/M T Rodgeason	Rochdale	Lancashire
S/M F Featherby	Hythe	Kent	S/M J Sambrook	Hatfield Paverall	Essex
S/M F Hall	Salisbury	Cheshire	S/M D Staples	Bristol	Avon
S/M P Henderson	Whalsay	Shetland Isle	S/M J Tayloe	Sowerby Bridge	Yorkshire
S/M F Holland	Ipswich	Suffolk	S/M S Upton	Kings Lynn	Norfolk
S/M J Langran	Edmonton	London	S/M G Walter	Llanelli	Dyfed
S/M L Miller	Northampton	Northampton	S/M M Wooley	Poulton le Fylde	Lancashire
S/M G Dean	Eastleigh	Hampshire	S/M W Philp	Leigh on Sea	Essex



Reunion 2008 – Reunion Draw Results

Ticket	Winner	Ticket	Winner
1 21310	J K Scruton, Beverley, Yorkshire	8 21163	R Smith, Ivybridge, Devon
2 14042	Mrs V Whitwick, Andover, Hampshire	9 15951	D Braidwood, London SW15
3 00206	J Knock, Bedford, Middlesex	10 22414	D Simpson, Thurmaston, Leicestershire
4 13837	I Whitbread, Burnham on Crouch, Essex	11 02257	T Gamble, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire
5 27011	Donated to RNPSA	12 22787	T J Watson, Ascot, Berkshire
6 20712	Daphne Pharoah, New Malden, Surrey	13 24167	T Simons, Havant, Hampshire
7 15541	G Brown, Hertford	Congratulations to all our winners	

Cut ✂ -----

Slops Items for Sale from HQ (Winter 2008)

Item / Title	£	Qty	£	Item / Title	£	Qty	£
Europa Plaque	27.00			Sparrows Nest Post Card	0.10		
Lg. Blazer Badge, Woven	6.50			RNPSA Colouring Poster	0.30		
Jumper / Cap Badges, Woven	4.00			RNPSA Multi Tool Key Ring	2.95		
RNPSA Crested Tie	8.50			Trafalgar Board Game	10.00		
Tie Tack, Chrome crested	6.00			Christmas / Birthday cards			
Lapel Badge, Blue enamel	7.00			Original	0.50		
White Ensign Badge	2.00			Harry Tate's Clean Sweep	0.50		
White Ensign Car Sticker	0.50			Publications			
RNPSA Car Sticker	0.60			Dawn Always Breaks	5.00		
RNPSA Bookmark	0.75			Churchill's Pirates Pt.1	5.25		
RNPSA Coin purse	1.00			Churchill's Pirates Pt.2	4.50		
RNPSA Pocket Address book	1.00			Harry Tate's Navy	6.95		
RNPSA Stamped pen	0.20			HMS Europa Booklet	1.00		
RNPSA pen (Hologram new)	0.75			Total			
RNPSA Ladies Head Square	10.00			P & P Small items	0.75		
RNPS Memorial Post Card	0.10			P & P Large / Heavy items	1.75		

Amount Submitted £

Name _____ Membership No. _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ Tel. No. _____

Please send payment and completed order form to:-

Royal Naval Patrol Service Association, Naval Museum, Sparrows Nest, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 1XG