



ROYAL NAVAL PATROL SERVICE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 68

Spring 2010

POSTAL ADDRESS and HEADQUARTERS

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

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Greetings to all Shipmates

Editor's log

Date 23/4/2010 Time 14.28hrs Position 52° 29' 50.33" N, 1° 45' 05.14" E. Snow clearing completed. Visibility reduced due to volcanic ash. Boiler out of action, awaiting replacement (my central heating boiler).

From the Secretary, John Dunn

Well folks here we go again, to bring you the news of the last few months. I am sorry to say that the obituary is the longest one we have ever had but I suppose that is to be expected as we are all fighting Old Father Time. Due to the drop in numbers we have had to drastically alter the annual reunion.

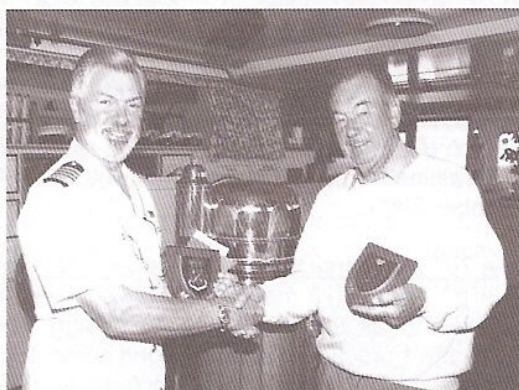
1. The service of remembrance will NOT be changed, this remains at 11.00 on Sat. 9th Oct. (muster 10.45)
2. The rest of the reunion will be as follows, nothing booked for Monday to Thursday.
3. Friday 8th the AGM will be held at the Trinity Methodist Church, Park Road at 1.30
4. The annual Dinner will be held on Friday 8th at the Brown Boat Suit, Wherry Hotel, Oulton Broad, 6.30 for 7.00 and the cost will be £23 per head. There will be no coach transport this year due to the costs but there is a good car park on site. See booking form at the end of the newsletter to make your menu choice.
5. The reunion will end after the service on Saturday with "Sunset" outside the museum by the mast. If there are enough people and Standard Bearers who feel they are able to then there will be a march from the memorial down to the Nest.

Draw books

If you live in the UK and have indicated to HQ that you wish to receive the annual reunion draw books then there will be 5 books included with this Newsletter. The cost is £1 per book and the counterfoils, money and any unsold tickets should be sent back to the Secretary as soon as possible. It has always been Association policy that the annual reunion is funded from the sale of the draw books and does not draw on general funds, with this in mind and our slowly decreasing number of members, please do your best to sell / buy the tickets to help the Association.

The saga of Saga

In September 2005 I was privileged to present to the captain of the MV Saga Ruby cruise ship one of the HMS Europa plaques as at the time I was on a North Atlantic, Canada and American pleasure cruise (no standby duty stations this time thank you). On a later cruise aboard the Saga Ruby I wondered what had happened to this plaque. Enquiring and some help from the cruise staff I was guided to a bulkhead on the most upper deck to see it covered all over with plaques and decorative shields from all over the world that Saga Ruby had sailed and visited. The enormous number of these various items cover this bulkhead area from Port to Starboard. The introduction to this wonderful show was certainly exciting with my thought, was it possible for the Europa plaque to be among this fantastic collection. First I decided my best plan would be to navigate my seek and search system by working from Port to Starboard and with the ship sailing on a calm sea, I was a little calm and excited myself although I must admit I did not have much hope of seeing any sign of the Europa plaque among this display of very important countries colourful commemorative items but I was determined to carry out my seek and search exercise completely, regardless.



Capt. David Warden-Owen & S/M Sim Mayou



MV Saga Ruby

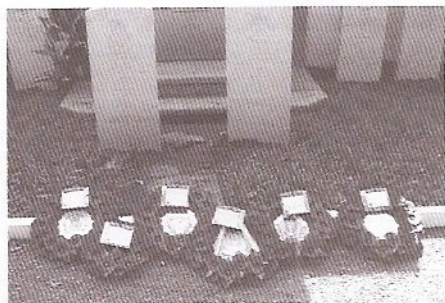
After progressing along on a steady course my radar eyes focused on a plaque bearing the name HMS Europa, I just could not believe my find, it was very emotional to see the plaque displayed amongst the great pride collection from around the world. I have also presented to the Captain and Officers of Saga Ruby a copy of the HMS Europa booklet to complete the history of "The Nest"

Roger and Out, Shipmate Sim Mayou.

RNPS honoured in South America

Peter Mulvany, one of our Honorary Life Members, formerly an Associate member of Fleetwood Branch, runs the Irish Seamen's Relatives Association and makes various trips abroad to honour lost seamen. This March he made his first trip to Argentina during which he laid wreaths on our behalf at the British War Memorial, La Chacarita, Buenos Aires and at the Malvinas Memorial Buenos Aires. With the assistance of the British Military Attaché memorial events were organised comprising of a piper, speeches in English, Irish and Spanish and Guards of Honour. The wreaths laid were RBL (Republic of Ireland), RNA (Birkenhead), RNPSA (HQ), Merchant Navy Assn.(Wirral Branch) and the Irish Seamen's Relatives Association. This was the first time that poppy wreaths had ever been formally laid in Buenos Aires.

See Peter's site at www.irishseamensrelativesassociation.org



Poppy wreaths at the British War Memorial, Buenos Aires.

The RNPSA wreath is on the far left

Poppy wreaths with Argentine Naval Guard at the Malvinas Memorial, Buenos Aires



Reunion Guest of Honour 2010

Captain M T G Durkin Royal Navy, Captain Mine Warfare and Patrol Vessels, Diving and Fishery Protection



Mark Durkin joined the Royal Navy in 1984 having graduated from Oxford Brooks University with a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Biology and from Loughborough University with a Post Graduate Certificate of Education.

Following initial training in HM Ships Cottesmore and Cardiff he served as a Bridge Watchkeeper in HMS Starling (Hong Kong Squadron) before returning to the UK to complete the Long Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Officer's Course. An appointment to HMS Iveston followed, which included a 6 month NATO deployment, before joining the staff at Britannia Royal Naval College. He then qualified as Principal Warfare Officer and was appointed on exchange to the Royal Australian Navy. He served in HMA Ships Adelaide and Canberra and deployed to Japan and circumnavigated Australia. Returning to the UK he served as a Career Manager before being selected to take command of HMS Atherstone. The ship completed the inaugural deployment of NATO's Mine Counter Measures Force Mediterranean to the Adriatic, in support of Operation Allied Harvest, and also a Royal Navy Task Group deployment to the Gulf.

Promoted Commander in 2001, Mark Durkin completed staff training at Shrivenham before taking command of HMS Exeter which culminated in a deployment to the Far East. He then joined the Maritime Warfare School where he had responsibility for training all warfare officers from first tour watchkeepers to those taking command. A tour in the MOD Media Directorate followed, as the Royal Navy Spokesman, before a short spell at Navy Command HQ on the Destroyer force generation desk. He was selected for promotion to Captain in 2008.

Mark Durkin has completed 3 operational tours ashore; firstly to US Central Command in 2001 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, secondly as Officer Commanding Hampshire and Isle of Wight during Operation Fresco (fireman's strike) 2002/3 and more recently as Chief Public Affairs Officer to the US General in Command of Coalition Forces in Afghanistan, returning August 2009. He took up his current appointment as Captain MFP in October 2009.

The 70th Anniversary of the Invasion of Norway

The 8th April 2010 marks the 70th anniversary of the German invasion and occupation of Norway. Sometimes referred to as the 'Forgotten Campaign' and for a variety of reasons, the most significant of which was the Luftwaffe's practically unchallenged command of the skies, the allied bid failed to stem the invasion of Norway, with our evacuation finally being completed by the 10th June 1940. For the Norwegians, this marked the beginning of 5 long years of occupation until their eventual liberation on the 8th May 1945. For the RNPS, the Norwegian campaign saw our converted trawlers perform many roles, ranging from mine sweeping and anti submarine duties to ferrying our troops to and from the large transports.

Between the 6th and 8th April 1940, five major German naval surface groups departed for the simultaneous invasion of Denmark and Norway. Their targets in Norway were Oslo, Kristiansand and Bergen in the south, Trondheim in the centre and Narvik in the north. Despite British warships mining the seaways approaching Narvik, several groups of German warships landed troops as far north as Narvik on the 9th April 1940 whilst in the south, Bergen, Kristiansand and Trondheim were attacked.

The first 8 of the 30 RNPS trawlers involved in this campaign sailed from Rosyth on the 13th April 1940. The 21st Strike Force comprised the Danemon, Lady Elsa, Man of War and Wellard with the 23rd Anti-Submarine group comprising the Indian Star, Melbourne, Berkshire and Rutlandshire. They arrived at Namsos - a small town some 110 miles north of Trondheim - on the 16th April.

Amongst the first allied troops to land on Norwegian soil were a party of 350 Royal Marines and armed seaman, landing at Namsos during the night of the 13th/14th April 1940, followed by a detachment from the 24th Guards Brigade, on the evening of the 14th April 1940. On the 16th/17th April 1940 the 146th Infantry Brigade commanded by General Carton de Wiart VC began to disembark at Namsos and immediately pushed southwards to establish contact with the Norwegians at Steinkjer. The first of several enemy engagements involving our trawlers occurred at Namsos. On Friday, 19th April 1940 at 1905hrs, convoy F.P.1, comprising the British cruiser HMS Cairo accompanied by 3 French destroyers with transports Ville d'Oran, El Kantara, El Djazair and El Mansour carrying 4500 French mountain troops entered the Namsos Fjord. Following several attacks by German aircraft both at the entrance to and in transit along the fjord, convoy F.P.1 proceeded into Namsos and commenced berthing at 2100hrs with the outer transports casting off at 0230hrs on the 20th April 1940. By 0300hrs all transports were under way and following HMS Cairo. The 21st Strike Force and 23rd Anti Submarine Group sweep ahead of the convoy on leaving. This operation was carried out until the convoy was clear of the Namsos Fjord by 0410hrs. Only the Rutlandshire returned to Namsos on the morning of the 20th April. During the 20th, Namsos was razed to the ground whilst the Rutlandshire, the first of 14 trawlers to be lost at Norway, was attacked and sunk without loss of life. Chief Skipper John Wilson RNR was subsequently decorated with the DSC. The full story of this action has been researched, documented and can be found at www.royal-naval-reserve.co.uk

There were several more raids on Namsos over the following 10 days. On the 28th April Namsos was again bombed causing extensive damage to the quay and starting fires amongst the stores stock piled on the quay side. Noticing that a fire had started in an ammunition dump, the bows of the trawler Arab were placed against the burning quay with its engines left going slow ahead and two hoses run over the forecastle in an attempt to extinguish the fire started in the dump by the earlier air raid. For this action, Lieutenant Richard Stannard RNR was decorated with the Victoria Cross. On the 30th April, the trawlers Aston Villa and Gaul from the 16th Strike Force were bombed and sunk. On the same day, the St. Goran from the 15th Strike Forces was sunk with the loss of 4 RNPS personnel; both groups having arrived at Namsos on the 27th April.

On the 17th May 2008, the salvaged bells from the Gaul and Aston Villa and, a replica bell from the Rutlandshire were unveiled by three members of the RNPS Midlands branch, Standard Bearer Arthur Young, Alf Baker and John Hodge. The 3 bells are now on permanent display in the council offices at Namsos.

Further south toward Trondheim and Aandalsnes, the trawlers Bradman, Hammond, Larwood, Cape Siretoko, Cape Chelyuskin, Jardine and Warwickshire were all sunk within the space of 5 days. Further north at Narvik, the trawlers Cape Passaro and Melbourne were lost.

The single greatest loss of RNPS personnel during this campaign occurred on the 8th June 1940. HMT Juniper, a Tree Class trawler, was escorting a tanker from Tromsø when they spotted a German naval squadron comprising two battleships, Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, the cruiser Admiral Hipper and four destroyers. Recognising that they couldn't escape this squadron due to lack of speed, HMT Juniper hoisted her battle ensign and turned under full steam for the enemy squadron. With only her diminutive 12 pounder, she turned into 530 tons of spitting, fighting fury and sailed head first into the squadron, incredibly surviving for an hour and a half before finally succumbing to the battleships, sinking beneath the waves and leaving only 4 survivors. 20 perished.



The Mayor of Namsos & S/Ms Arthur Young, Alf Baker and John Hodge with the bells

Norway was a major strategic failure for the British. This was a campaign that should have played to British strengths. Instead it brought out one of the major weaknesses of the contemporary Royal Navy - its incapacity to contest command of the air off a distant shore. Even before the campaign was over, it was perceived to have gone so badly that there was a vote of no confidence in the British Parliament. The government suffered a reduced majority, and Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned. For the RNPS, Capt. Harrison-Wallace, RN, the Extended Defence Officer in Norway, stated in his Admiralty report dated 4th May 1940, *"Unless command of the air is obtained, the use of the trawler type of A/S craft is impracticable. I wish to bring to your notice the high standard of courage, endurance and devotion to duty shown by all ranks in exceptionally trying circumstances. Incessant bombing and machine gunning practically for 20 hours in the day with little or no means of retaliation is trying for the most experienced men and steady nerves. Many of the crews are inexperienced fishermen on War service. This experience was evidently telling, but fine leadership of the officers maintained the morale at a high standard."* A fitting testimony to the fighting fishermen.

In total, the Norwegian campaign in the spring of 1940 saw 14 trawlers sunk with the loss of 27 RNPS personnel.
"We shall remember them"

Queenborough

This annual parade and service to commemorate HMS Wildfire III will be on Sunday 12th September with all the usual times and places as per previous years. They always treat us very well when we go there and some members travel quite a long way for what has become a firm fixture on our calendar. Their HMS Wildfire museum will also be open and is well worth a visit. We are running a 17 seater mini bus from Lowestoft.

The program of events is as follows:

- 13:30 Parade muster, outside The Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Queenborough.
- 13:45 Parade march off.
- 14:00 Memorial Service in Queenborough Park.
- 14:30 Parade and march past, with salute taken outside the Guildhall.

Following this there will be a reception at the Borough Hall, Main Road, Queenborough. Transport has been arranged, if needed.

A memory from Headley Crago

An interesting part of my service on the Escort Trawler HMS Sapphire (North Sea Convoy Escort) was a one off special escort requirement. We left our base (Parkstone Quay) and sailed north up the east coast, to roughly Hull, where we relieved an escort (which then retired northward) leaving us to escort their floating object southwards. The object looked like a massive wooden drum, similar to those seen at the roadside when new cable is being laid, except that this one was enormous, and surprisingly, floating upright on the surface. It had an ocean going tug attached each side of the centre, but in such a way that this huge drum could roll forward over the surface, flattening the small waves as it went, but the pace was very slow. Thus we escorted it back down the east coast towards Harwich, where we handed it over to another to carry on whilst we returned to our base. In the fullness of time I discovered that this was part of our D-Day preparations. The object was a huge wooden reel on which a petrol line would be wound, which along with other deliveries formed Operation PLUTO 'pipe line under the ocean' which was a direct fuel pipeline from England (the Isle of Wight) to France (Le Havre). It was reasonable to assume that retreating Germans would destroy French stores of fuel, so it would be prudent to have our own supplies. The reel being towed was so enormous that it was impossible to move by road (No motorways in those days). Needless to say it required more than one drum of fuel line to cross the Channel. Our operation was to replace for one trip the regular escort vessel temporarily out of commission. The base on the Isle of Wight is still in existence as a tourist attraction.

In retrospect I think the drum was empty, and being taken somewhere to have the pipe put into it, so it could be put on a large vessel like a landing craft tank, from which it could be paid out. The empty drum would be rewound for the next section, and they no doubt had more than one drum feeding the pipeline. Headley Crago

A memory from Arthur Catton

I joined the Patrol Service at the "Nest" in April 1941 and was drafted 6 weeks later to HMT Charles Doran at Great Yarmouth, a member of a group of 4 consisting of HMT Clotilde, Cotsmuir, Blighty and of course Charles Doran. We swept the channel from Yarmouth to Cromer and back. It was, I think, in the latter end of 1941 when lying at anchor one night off Yarmouth when the group was attacked by a Junkers 88, luckily no one was hit. After this incident I went on a week end leave (probably unofficial) and when I went into my front door a great cheer went up from my family as my father heard on the wireless and also took a cutting out of the Daily Herald and I quote – *"Trawler makes a kill, a Junkers 88 which attacked a group of Minesweepers has been shot down into the sea the Admiralty announced yesterday. It was hit by light AA fire from the minesweepers and by a shell from the Charles Doran, Skipper R R Snape RNR"* I still have this cutting although yellow with age, it takes pride of place in a photo frame with the group, similar to one that can be seen in the Sparrows Nest. I spent 4 years sweeping at Yarmouth and was then drafted till the end of the war to Colombo, Ceylon. Arthur Catton

Seafarers Link

What is It? - 'Seafarers Link' is a two year pilot project that offers retired seafarers' an opportunity for regular telephone communication with other seafarers. Seafarers' organisations have been contacted across the UK to publicise and profile the service. Four telephone groups were set up in the first year. We will set up another four groups this year. The telephone group conferences involve 8 seafarers talking to each other for one hour, every two weeks. The telephone conferences are absolutely free of charge.

The Aim of the Project - The aim is to demonstrate that regular, free telephone group participation for retired and isolated seafarers helps to increase their quality of life and alleviate social isolation.

Objectives - A total of 8 telephone groups will be set up to accommodate retired personnel across the range of maritime occupations. In Year 2, the priority will be to establish groups specifically for ex personnel from Royal Navy, Royal Marines and WRNS. All recruits will be asked to give their views on the effectiveness of the project within a two stage evaluation survey. On the basis of participant feedback, the MCFG will consider financing more permanent telephone befriending services for seafarers in the future.

Who Is Involved? - Sue Robinson, Project Officer is employed by Community Network, the charity that set up the project. She is responsible for the day to day management of the project, and delivery of project milestones. Sue also has a key role in maintaining telephone contact with seafarers within the telephone groups, reporting back to stakeholders including the Programme Development Manager of MCFG, and the project evaluation process.

Peter Castledine, Project Officer, RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme) CSV carries out ongoing 'field work' with Maritime organisations across the UK. Peter is usually the first person to make contact with key personnel from Maritime and Seafarer organisations, and with potential recruits. Peter and Sue work closely to ensure all contacts are followed up. Seafarers Link is funded by Maritime Charities Funding Group. In 2007 they commissioned a national research study which highlighted the plight of retired seafarers, many of whom experience social isolation upon retirement, including those from Royal Navy, Royal Marines, WRNS, Merchant Navy, Shipping Lines and Fishing Fleets.

Project timescale - The pilot project started in October 2008, and will cease in October 2010, after which the evaluation findings will be analysed and a final report sent to MCFG. The telephone groups will each have a full year of project entitlement, regardless of when they became active.

Canadian result

You may recall that in Newsletter 66 there was an article about Patrick Griffiths fight for Veteran's benefits in Canada which Allied Veterans, resident in Canada, are not entitled to. Well Patrick's persistence has paid off for after writing numerous letters to Canadian MPs and the Canadian Prime Minister he has got a result and a part of the letter sent to him from the Minister of Veterans Affairs is as follows – *"....I am pleased to inform you that, on June 1st 2009, I introduced legislation to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act to extend benefits to Allied Veterans and their family members....retrospective to October 2008....."* Well done Patrick!

RNPS Memorial, National Memorial Arboretum - From John Hodge

Following on from the successful dedication service last year, a remembrance service will be held in the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas at our memorial on Sunday 22nd August at 11am. It is hoped that as many as attended the dedication service last year will support us this year, especially the 12 Standard Bearers who added great dignity to the occasion. The order of service will be similar to that of last year without the dedication but with the addition of a wreath laying ceremony. This will include wreaths from dignitaries, HQ, Branches and individuals who wish to remember those who perished in the conflict or who have since crossed the bar. A carvery meal costing £14 (nearly sold out already!) with waiter service will follow at 1pm. There is also an alternative area for snacks, teas and coffee and a picnic area. Contact me on 0121 308 4596 or hodge2tp@btinternet.com

Project Vernon

This is a project to erect a permanent monument at Gunwharf Quays in Portsmouth, the former site of HMS Vernon, to commemorate all those who passed through "HMS Vernon" over the years, in particular those serving as Divers or Mine Warfare specialists or who worked with the teams in their various roles. By placing the monument in a conspicuous, public place, it will help raise awareness of the dangerous underwater ordnance disposal role that this community has fulfilled, and continues to perform, across the globe. Although Gunwharf Quays is a modern retail/housing development the site still retains certain aspects of HMS Vernon such as the original walls and gates, some of the buildings, mines, torpedoes and cranes. If you are in Portsmouth it is well worth a visit. To find out more see their web site www.vernon-monument.org

Branch and member information

This is a well rehearsed request but nevertheless one that seems to fall by the wayside in a lot of cases. Can you please inform the Secretary at "The Nest" of any changes to your address etc. Each time we do a mailing run we get a lot returned by the Post Office marked "Not at this address". Can we again also remind all Branch Secretaries to keep HQ up to date on their membership records in all classes of membership such as Life, Associate and Widows.

Welfare

Our National Welfare Officer is there to try and help you, she cannot perform miracles but will do her best to address any problems. 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

Curator

If you are sending anything for the Museum can you please make sure you state if it is on loan or a gift and with photographs please give descriptions as it helps with the cataloguing.

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA)

The Veterans Agency is a very useful contact on all aspects of veterans affairs and don't forget that a veteran is anyone who has served in the armed forces, up to the present day, for at least 24 hours and not been dishonourably discharged. Their contact details are as follows:-

Freephone 0800 169 22 77 (UK only) BT Mobile, Orange, Virgin or 3 mobile, Customers will not be charged for the call by their provider. +44 1253 866043 (Overseas). 0800 169 34 58 Textphone facility (UK only)

Telephone lines are open: 8.15am to 5.15pm Monday to Thursday; and 8.15am to 4.30pm Friday.

By post:- Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

FREEPOST NAT18006

Norcross

Thornton Cleveleys

FY5 3ZA (1st Class) or FY5 3ZZ (2nd Class)

Website www.veterans-uk.info

Heroes Return 2

The Big Lottery Fund has announced the opening of its funding initiative, Heroes Return 2, pledging funding for veterans, spouses, widows and carers wishing to mark overseas anniversaries throughout 2009 and 2010. Second World War veterans across the country can sign up for a new multi-million pound commemorative funding scheme that will provide Lottery support for anniversary trips to the places where they saw action. The Fund has opened up a Heroes Return 2 hotline for all veterans to ring for further information: Heroes Return 2 Helpline: 0845 00 00 121.

Further Information: Public Enquiries Line: 08454 102030 Textphone: 0845 6021 659

Full details of the Big Lottery Fund programmes and grant awards are on the website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

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 or 07966879106 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 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 extensive wealth of knowledge.

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"?

Keep the odds and ends coming, they all make interesting reading. 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 or by E-mail at nickclark1961@googlemail.com or info@rnpatrolservice.org.uk

I am doing some research into the loss of the Steam Trawler "**Robert Limbrick**", which foundered off the Isle of Mull in 1957 with the loss of all hands. I have found that she was built as a Round Table Class minesweeping trawler for the admiralty in 1942. She was at that time named "**Sir Galahad**" (Pennant No T226). I would be grateful of any information on the ship, and her service and crew during her war years, as well as what her duties may have been. Essentially, any information you have would be of great interest to me.

Byron Griffiths byron.griffiths@sky.com

Hello, where can I find info on the **Inkpen's** crew and things she did? My grandfather, James Alexander Robertson was on submarine detection. Any info would be very interesting, as he sadly has passed on and I was really too young to speak about much of it. Peter Robertson cbroscar@hotmail.co.uk

Looking for anyone who remembers Signalman Donald Royal Holland on trawler **Ascona** and **BYMS 2047** March '41 to July '43. Charles Cook chgcook@gmail.com

I am looking for old shipmates of Alfred or probably known as "**Alfie**" **Dickey** who was a Stoker 1st class on board **HMS Foxglove** when she was bombed on Jul 9th 1940, he was subsequently killed during this action. He originated from Chicken Road, Wallsend Upon Tyne and I am keen to find any photos of him or any of the Ships Company from around that period. I am currently serving as a Petty Officer in HMS Collingwood. Julian lee julianislush@msn.com

I'm trying to find anyone who remembers the **Andre Monique** a minesweeper trawler my dad **James Doherty** served on as a lad of fifteen having lied about his age I know he served for eighteen months on her and was on her when she was returned to her Belgium owners. She was stationed at Londonderry when he was on board. Do any of the members remember him or the ship. I would love to here from you with any information. J Doherty.

My Grandad is currently trying to trace an old ship mate of his. My Grandad's name is **Robert Morris**, his details are - Robert Morris LT/KX 529219 Ships: **BYMS 2061** from Aug 43 to May 44, **MMS 243** from May 45 to Feb 46 **BYMS 2189** from April 46 to Oct 46. He is looking to trace / contact **Ivor Rees**, who's number was LT/KX 160370, and the last ship my Grandad knew he was on was the "**HMT Earl Kitchener**" Can anyone help me trace or contact Ivor, or pass any information on to me. Nat McCann.

My father, **George Curry**, served on the both the **CALAMARI** (a converted Greek yacht!) and **MMS 104**. Are there any old ship mates out there? P Curry.

Anyone at HMS Europa, roped in for ceremonial guard (especially any bunting-tossers or sparks) during summer of 1946. Also people on sweepers in Norway 1945 or Invergordon 1943/45 HMS Collingwood 1942 (July - December) Jack Campbell.

With reference to my late father **John Thomas Cook**, KIA 1940, Asdic Operator, **Cayton Wyke**. I run a small Maritime Trust, Coastal Motorboat Heritage Trust (web site...Coastalmotorboat.org). Around the end of May, I propose to take our WW2 craft **RASC 34 Garth**, to Oostvoorne in Holland, where my father's grave is. I shall go to Holland in February to make arrangements for our boat's arrival and mooring. Staying there for a couple of days then proceed to Dunkirk for a small ceremony (to celebrate my father's ship's rescue of 603 soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk and returning them safely home. Stay a couple of days then proceed to Ramsgate, passing over the exact position in the North Sea where both the **Cayton Wyke** and German Submarine **U16** sank. At that position a Fishing Boat carrying a Priest and relatives and interested parties will meet with RASC 34 Garth, a Service will be conducted and flowers cast into the sea. I wonder if you have a list of relatives for the Cayton Wyke or can point me in the direction of them, or indeed the relatives of U16, maybe even, those of the German E Boat which sank the Cayton Wyke. John Cook, Sec. CMHT

Anyone out there with Knowledge of **Nat 12** and **Silver Wings** at Dover and Newhaven July 1942 to August 1943, **Blue Eagle** and **KBO** Portsmouth May 1944 to Feb 1945. Any information to John Street at Head Quarters.

My father **John Curtis** served on the **Arctic Explorer** between 1942 and 1945. His best friend was Arthur Swaby I would love to be able to give him some more information or even find some of his shipmates if some are still around. Can you help? David Curtis.

I would like to know if any RNPS members remember the surrender of the U-boats in May 1945 particularly around the west coast of Scotland. Nick Clark.

Does anyone remember **HMS Birdlip** and her time at Freetown. Nick Clark.

Finally I'm looking for **Mr Hugh Hendry** who I know served with **HMS Inkpen** as his story was submitted to the BBC People's War website back in 2005. Nick Clark.

On behalf of my dad **Thomas Arthur Watson**, Hastings Re: **Sandy Sinclair- BYMS 2171**. I was on the sister ship **BYMS 2172** which left Yarmouth with the 2171 in 1943. They sailed together in operations until 1946. Tom would love to hear from any mates on the BYMS 2172 if they are still about. Christine Lee (daughter).

In the last issue we published a request for information on **HMT Northern Princess** and have since received this positive feed back – Leo, Many thanks, Have telephoned Eric Reed, and this has been most helpful. Eric will be sending some info regarding HMT Northern Princess, and I will forward this on to Frank Espin Wright's family. May I request that you put a thank you in your next issue? Such contacts and help are a great boon to those of researching our (and other) family histories. Keep up the good work. Brian A Hill

Obituary for Spring 2010

S/M E Allford	Luton	Bedford	S/M S Jolly	Penzance	Cornwall
S/M J Ardley	Lowestoft	Suffolk	S/M G Mann	Lowestoft	Suffolk
S/M R Ayles	Bournemouth	Dorset	S/M J Mann	Enfield	Middlesex
S/M J Bullock	Norwich	Norfolk	S/M L Manning	Colchester	Essex
S/M J Bulmer BEM	Roker	Sunderland	S/M A Martin	Binley Wood	Coventry
S/M R Cockett	Maldon	Essex	S/M F Mercer	Bootle	Merseyside
S/M R Cole	Burnham on Crouch	Essex	S/M E Moreland	Windsor	Ontario
S/M W Crocker	Tonbridge	Kent	S/M B Nash	Leicester	Leicestershire
S/M J Currie	North Shields	Northumberland	S/M G Noke	Hemel Hempstead	Hertfordshire
S/M A Besford	Lowestoft	Suffolk	S/M M Payne	Bury St Edmunds	Suffolk
S/M R Crawford	Leeds	Yorkshire	S/M T Pead	Romford	Essex
S/M J Dewsnap	Neston	Cheshire	S/M N Reynolds	St. Johns	Newfoundland
S/M A Driver	St. Leonards	Sussex	S/M J Steele	Liverpool	Merseyside
S/M H Gilchrist	Wirral	Merseyside	S/M F Wilson	Waterlooville	Hampshire
S/M A Hardy	Finchley	London	S/M E Young	Sunderland	Tyne & Wear
S/M A Hoy	Ottershaw	Surrey	Mrs R Quennell	Warrington	Cheshire
S/M J Hutchins	Wargrave	Berkshire			

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them

BOOKING FORM FOR ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - FRIDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2010

The dinner will be at the Brown Boat Suit, Wherry Hotel, Oulton Broad, doors open at 6.30 for 7.00pm

Name _____ Membership No. _____ Tel No. _____

Address _____

I would like _____ Tickets (£23.00 each) I would like to sit with _____

Please indicate your menu choice for each person with their names

Fantail of Melon
Cream of Vegetable Soup

Roast Beef
Chicken Supreme
Herb Crusted Salmon
Vegetarian option

Apple Crumble
Strawberry Pavlova

TOTAL PAYMENT £ _____

All bookings MUST be made before 20th September. After this date NO refunds will be made.

Please return to - The Secretary, Royal Naval Patrol Service Association, Naval Museum,
Sparrows Nest, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 1XG

Cut ✂ -----

Slops Items for Sale from HQ (Spring 2010)

Item / Title	£	Qty	£	Item / Title	£	Qty	£
Europa Plaque	27.00			RNPSA Multi Tool Key Ring	2.95		
Lg. Blazer Badge, Gold wire	9.00			Trafalgar Board Game	10.00		
Lg. Blazer Badge, Woven	6.50			RNPSA Coin purse	1.00		
Small Blazer Badge, Gold wire	6.50			RNPSA Pocket address book	1.00		
Jumper / Cap Badges, Woven	4.00			RNPSA Christmas cards	0.50		
RNPSA Crested Tie	8.50			RNPSA Epaulettes (pair)	6.00		
Tie Tack, Chrome crested	6.00						
Lapel Badge, Blue enamel	7.00			Publications			
White Ensign Badge	2.00			Dawn Always Breaks	5.00		
White Ensign Car Sticker	0.50			Churchill's Pirates Pt.1	5.25		
RNPSA Car Sticker	0.60			Churchill's Pirates Pt.2	4.50		
RNPSA Stamped pen	0.20			Harry Bates Navy	6.95		
RNPSA Bookmark	0.75			HMS Europa Booklet	1.00		
RNPSA pen (Hologram new)	0.75			Blue Mariners CD	4.00		
RNPS Memorial Post Card	0.10			The Story of the RNPS, 2 CD set	5.00		
Sparrows Nest Post Card	0.10			Total			
RNPSA Colouring Poster	0.30			P & P Small items	0.75		
V.J. Ties	2.00			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