



ROYAL NAVAL PATROL SERVICE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 86 Summer 2019

POSTAL ADDRESS and HEADQUARTERS

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This edition of the Newsletter is a bit later than usual due to a variety of reasons. One of the reasons was that I wanted to include a report on the National D-Day75 celebrations that happened in Portsmouth and the Association's involvement, but more of that later.

Reunion 2019

As you will have read in the Annual General Meeting resumé in the last Newsletter, the dates of the 2019 reunion will be Friday 4th and Saturday 5th October. The Annual General Meeting will be at 13.30 on Friday and the service and parade will be at 10.45 for 11.00 on the Saturday. As per last year, there will be NO dinner on the Friday evening BUT we will again have a buffet lunch on the Saturday in the Sparrows Nest gardens after the parade is dismissed, this proved popular last year.

So, the programme for the reunion is -

1. Friday 4th October, the AGM will be held at the same venue as last year, Studio Theatre in Sparrows Nest Gardens at 13.30. This is the old theatre box office and is next to the new Italian Restaurant at the bottom of the park.
2. The service of remembrance will be at 11.00 on Sat. 5th Oct. (muster 10.45) in Belle Vue Park.
3. We will then continue after the service on Saturday in Sparrows Nest Gardens with "Sunset" outside the museum by the mast. There will be no march down from the memorial, we will just re-gather when everyone has had a chance to make their way down to the Nest and get their second wind.
4. After the parade is dismissed there will be a buffet in Giardino, the Italian Restaurant in the park but this is by **TICKET ONLY** at £12.00 per head – please see booking form at the end of this newsletter.

Also, in the Sparrows Nest Gardens the Martello Cafe will be open during the day both Friday and Saturday.

As we mentioned last time, we have discontinued the annual draw as it was no longer financially viable.

Wreaths for reunion

If anyone would like a poppy wreath ordered for laying at the service on the Saturday could they please let us know as soon as possible so we can get them ordered and badged with the RNPSA colour badge or one of your choice.

Légion d'honneur

It seems you Royal Service lads have been doing pretty well with receiving the prestigious French decoration of Légion d'honneur. I have heard of more of you since the last newsletter.

American and British veterans who served in either World War I on French soil, or during the 1944 campaigns to liberate France, may be eligible for appointment as Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, provided they were still living when the honour was proposed. To apply see - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/d-day-75-application-form-for-award-of-the-legion-d-honneur>

ITMA

This does not refer to the old wireless programme with Tommy Handley but with affection to our popular member and RNPS ambassador, Sim Mayou. Sim travels near and far both in this country and abroad and is always promoting the RNPS and the association. Just before the D-Day celebrations this year I received an email from a Royal Navy Surgeon Captain who had been a doctor on a veterans cruise a few years previously and had met and got on well with Sim and was asking about his welfare. Well it seems Sim has moved on to higher things as while I was in Portsmouth for the D-Day events he was at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas with HRH Prince William and gave him an RNPS book mark and badge.



Warning
We have been informed that this article may be ambiguous regarding the criteria for eligibility of this award. Please do not assume entitlement without further checking.

The following came in an email from Norway and I have pleasure in reproducing it here as it was written.

MY GRAND DAD LT (E) Jorgen Seatevik

I'm sorry that my English is so bad.

This image collection became a reality for several reasons. One was my curiosity to where my family came from, and what they have done, and the last but not least my interest in boats and model construction. It took me about 2 years to collect pictures and technical documentation like rolls, etc. Model construction took about 2 years as well, the result is on Tjøme Dalsveien 17.

The model is based on BUSEN 6 as the Whale Boat and was first rented by the Norwegian Navy as a Neutralization Guard in Norway, but the shipowners were paid too badly so they sent the BUSEN 6 to England for equipment for catching in Sydisen.

At the same time in England, a man hurried around and was in doubt what to do. He worked in an English shipping company, SALVESEN but England had just declared Germany war so getting home was difficult. Besides, he had a job to do for the shipping company so life in England was not too bad. Then Germany attacked Norway, so now the choice was not so difficult. He joined the Royal Navy service already in April, to act as LT at HMS HAV 26 Aug 1940. HMS HAV was built at Aker in 1931 for A / S Polhavet Tønsberg. Why Royal Navy? Yes, the Norwegian government had not succeeded in establishing any things in England yet, so for his part, the matter was clear. Why converted whalers? The Royal Naval Patrol Service, Harry Tate's Navy or Churchill's Pirates, which were popular call names. They have their own exclusive Cretaceous. Churchill was very keen on this fleet of civilian ships. It may have a connection with ww1 where this fleet was used with great success and many of this kind of ship that came to a rescue in Dunkirk completely.

The start of ww2. He commanded his Admiral to get this fleet an identity silver mark with the shark and the net with the mines. All types of vessels were used Whale Boats, Trawlers, and they were equipped with old weapons and sent to all corners of the world for service like Patrol boats, Minesweepers, Escort ships, etc. When the war evolved, they got better equipment. They began to have precious and good experience so that they had to learn the kind of service in many countries like Russia and the United States. HMS HAV was sent to Russian service in 1943 survived the war and ended its days as the 4th of September 1969. Jørgen landed from HMS HAV 23/02 -1942, served in the Mediterranean between Piraeus and Alexandria. He started on further specialization (E) at HMS DRAKE Royal Naval School Center in Devonport. He was patterned on HMS RAINSTORM 09/03 - 1942 in the Mediterranean Sea with its base in Alexandria. HMS RAINSTORM was the BUSEN 6 who had come to England to equip themselves for catching. The bus 6 was a good boat it was built at Kaldnes in 1925. It's this boat that I chose when I started building the model of HMS RAINSTORM. The BUSEN 6 survived the war and was caught in southern Georgia until 1955 when it was condemned. He was back at HMS Drake 10th Dec 1943 until 9 May 1944. The pattern on HMS May, which was a cable ship ? on May 10, 1944. I do not mind but the dates are very good with the cabling to France during and after D day. He dimmed 30 Sept 1945 was transferred to HMS Drake Oct 1 dim in the Royal Navy 31 Dec 1945. I have to admit that at the start I was very excited about the type of ship he had served on, I was a little disappointed as it was a converted whale boat. But after entering the story to seek a good deal of information, I discovered that This men served with great respect. In 1939, there were about 400 ships, about 434 skippers and 3733 crews these ships were split so that it became 200 minesweeping and 200 for patrol service. They had the biggest loss in The Royal Navy to make a fantastic effort on all seas to free us from the fascist field.

Geir A Sætevik, Dalsveien 17, 3145, Tøme, Norway

I am sure you will agree that to write an article in a different language is both difficult and brave but the story has come across well and I thank Geir for sending it to us. An interesting point in the article, and one we hear quite a lot is, "*I was a little disappointed as it was a converted whale boat*" all too often families are quite hurt when you tell them that their "hero" relative as on an old converted fishing boat, be it trawler or drifter etc. but when they find out what they did, the conditions they did it under and the losses that the Patrol Service suffered they come round and see it differently – well most do, there was one chap who got very annoyed and accused me of a slur on his family name and was going to take me to court for Defamation of Character! I heard no more and put it down to a dropped stitch in life's rich tapestry.



D-Day75 commemoration National event in Portsmouth 5th & 6th June 2019

In my position as Secretary and National Standard Bearer I get to go to some big and interesting events to represent the RNPS and a couple of weeks ago was one of those times. Bonnie and I attended the National D-Day75 events in Portsmouth on 5th – 7th June. The main event was on Wednesday 5th in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, Prince Charles and a whole host of international leaders and politicians. Among the notable heads of state were US President Donald Trump, on the final day of his state visit, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. The leaders of the Czech Republic, Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Poland, as well as representatives from Slovakia, Denmark and New Zealand were also in attendance. Three hundred veterans - all over 90 years old - attended the commemorations, which featured testimonies from former personnel, theatrical performances and live music and ending with a flypast of 24 aircraft, including the Red Arrows and a Spitfire and type 23 frigate HMS St Albans sailing close to the shore and firing a gun salute.

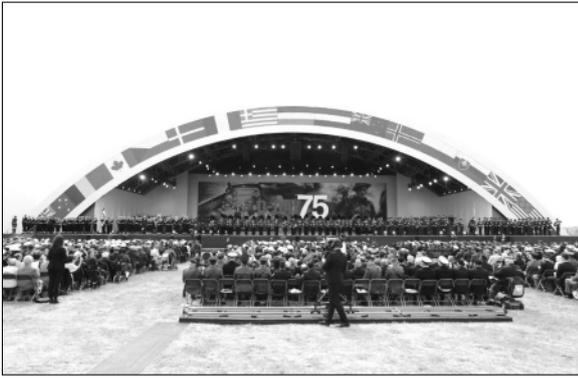
Such events always attract a lot of security but with US President Donald Trump attending security went to a much higher level. Police from 14 forces across the UK were drafted in and security observers and marksmen could be seen on high buildings watching everything. Because of the security the arena, stages and seating were behind a steel fence and so had to be viewed on large screens on the green next door but even so we had to go through strict security to get into that area. Thousands of people turned up and the atmosphere was excellent and the weather was just right, dry but not too hot and sunny so nobody suffered from heat or sun problems. Not knowing exactly what to expect I turned up in blazer and beret, as did quite a few others and to my surprise I was approached by Sky TV News to do a live interview about the Patrol Service, this was then followed by a similar one with French National TV, numerous UK and foreign photographers and public. Although we were watching on large screens we could still see bits of it over the top of the steel fence. It was very moving and extremely well put together.

In her speech, Her Majesty the Queen spoke eloquently about the event and finished with these words "It's with humility and pleasure that on behalf of the entire country, indeed the whole free world, that I say to you all 'thank you'". One part of her speech, which we do not know if it was scripted or an adlib was when she said "...the wartime generation, MY generation" this was met with rapturous applause. – well said Ma'am. The event finished with a flypast of vintage and modern aircraft, Later in the day there was a display by the Red Arrows and in the early evening the cruise ship MV Boudicca sailed from Portsmouth for France with the D-Day veterans on board, she sailed past the new carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth on which the Prime Minister, Theresa May, waved the veterans off from the deck alongside the Defence Secretary Penny Mordaunt and the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Philip Jones and a Royal Marine band. The Boudicca was met by a flotilla of Royal Navy vessels with sailors lining the decks in salute as it entered the Solent, and a lone Spitfire flew overhead. The ship was escorted to France by the Royal Navy Ships.

The next day, 6th June, there was a large parade in the morning along Southsea Sea Front to the D-Day stone in the memorial garden. The Standard Bearers and veterans who were marching assembled along with the band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Collingwood. The National Standard of the Royal Naval Association and myself with our National Standard were given the honour of leading the parade. While we waited another film crew came up and interviewed me, this time from the local radio station, Wave 105, they did a live interview and then a short piece to camera. They put this video of the interview on their web site at <https://www.facebook.com/Wave105/videos/469457530475745/> All the roads in the area were closed to traffic and there was a lot of security. As we marched down towards the D-Day stone the crowds got more and more until it got to the point it was just a mass of people on the pavements about 20 deep and the park was just full to capacity, it was somewhat overwhelming. After the service, speeches and laying of the wreaths we marched back behind the Royal Marine Band to loud applause from the crowd, it certainly made the hairs on the back of the neck stick out. When we were dismissed we were told that Standard Bearers and veterans were to have a free lunch in the function room on the pier. It has to be said that as Standard Bearers we have had this offer on numerous occasions and it usually consists of a couple of sandwiches and a cup of something that passes as tea – boy were we to be surprised. When we got there the room was set out with round tables of 8 with place settings, flowers and bottles of wine, the ticket said a free lunch and a free drink so we thought the wine was the drink. The manager of the venue came on the microphone to tell us who had sponsored the lunch and that the free drink was actually a free bar until 9pm that evening! The lunch was a hot meal with dessert and there was live themed entertainment all afternoon plus a Scottish regimental piper. It was a fantastic day with great company and the people of Portsmouth seemed genuinely pleased to see us there and made us extremely welcome.

The 3rd big day of the celebrations, Friday 7th June had to be cancelled due to bad weather, this was a great disappointment as 900 school children were due to take part, plus a Royal Marine Band concert in the evening and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra BUT the weather held for the first 2 days which was a blessing.

D-Day75 National Event Portsmouth 5th June 2019



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Picture captions from 5th June

Main stage in arena for veterans and dignitaries

Our view from outside the steel wall

National Secretary being interviewed by Sky TV News

Her Majesty The Queen passes us

Security and marksman on top of flats

Her Majesty The Queen making her speech, photograph taken of TV news

Her Majesty The Queen with visiting international leaders, photograph taken of TV news

The RAF Red Arrows fly past

HMS St Albans sails past and fires gun salute

Cruise ship MV Boudicca sails for France with the D-Day veterans and her Royal Navy escort

Picture captions from 6th June

National Standard Bearer being interviewed by Wave 105

The band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Collingwood at the head of the parade

The National Standards of the RNPSA and the RNA lead the parade of standards and veterans

The regimental piper plays at the veterans lunch

The D-Day stone and wreaths at Southsea

The D-Day75 logo

The D-Day stone

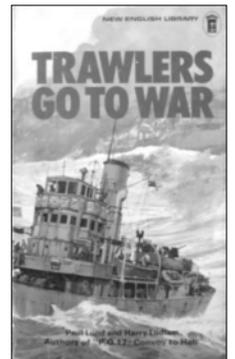
The service about to start

The veterans lunch

The Royal Marine Band, choir and some of the huge crowd

Trawlers go to war

We are often asked if we can suggest suitable reading material to do with the RN Patrol Service. There are numerous books on the subject but an excellent one to give a full picture of the varied tasks undertaken by the Patrol Service is one called "Trawlers go to War" by Paul Lund and Harry Ludham. It is not a story, it is factual with the correct ship names and the names of actual Patrol Service men, many of whom were members of the Association, some until quite recently and uses first hand accounts of the real thing. You may have to search online to get a copy as I believe it is out of print. It came in hard back with photographs and also paper back and in a trilogy called "Atlantic Jeopardy" which also includes the books "PQ17 Convoy to Hell" and "Night of the U-Boats". I have 4 spare copies of the paperback which I will sell at £4 plus postage or some are available at our local on-line book supplier A Book for all Reasons in the Naval & Military history section – see <http://www.abfar.org.uk/>



Queenborough

This year's HMS Wildfire parade is on Sunday 8th September. The parade will muster outside Holy Trinity Church, Queenborough at 13:30hrs for the March off at 13:45hrs for the service in the park at 14:00hrs. This year the reception after the parade will be held at the Rose Inn next to the church, not in the social club as in previous years. Parking is available in the car park in North Road ME11 5EU. I hope that some of you are able to attend the service as it was initiated many years ago by us at HQ and during WW2 was a big minesweeper base. Please pass this information on to anyone that you feel may be interested in attending the event

Ocracoke

Earlier in the year 2 of our members in the USA, Richard Eagles and Andrew Wolf and their wives, made the 1,800 mile round trip from Florida to North Carolina to represent the RNPSA at the annual commemoration of the loss of HMS Bedfordshire at the British War Graves at Ocracoke. They laid the association wreath along with wreaths from the US Coast Guard and the Royal Navy who were represented by senior USCG officers, their pipe band and ceremonial Honour Guard who fired a gun salute. The Royal Navy were represented by the commander of the UK Carrier Strike Group, Commodore Andrew Betton OBE RN. The respect and dedication that the people of Ocracoke and Hatteras show towards the very few British graves (4) is quite amazing and humbling and Richard and his party are always very well received and treated as guests of honour. The photograph shows Andrew Wolf, our wreath, Cdre Andrew Betton OBE RN and Richard Eagles.



Richard has been asked to talk about the RNPS to groups in the Florida area and he is also involved with US veterans in what are called "Honour Flights" where they fly US WW2 veterans to where they served and he recently escorted a veteran back to the UK where he served. If anyone in the USA reads this and would like to get involved in the Ocracoke ceremony or anything else RNPS Richard would be glad to hear from you, I will forward you details on to him.

Subscriptions – PLEASE NOTE

This is an important item from those in the office who deal with subscriptions. Firstly, from our records we see that some of you who are receiving this newsletter have not paid any subscriptions for a number of years, this is both served members and members (formerly Associate members). We will shortly be writing to these with a gentle reminder but if we do not hear back we will have to delete the names from the records. Can you please note that the current subscription rate is **£8 for Served Members** (formerly known as Members) and **£10 for Members** (formerly known as Associate Members) and could you also please make sure you send in your membership book and SAE with your subscription so that your renewal can be accurately recorded and accounted for. Subscriptions become due on the 1st January each year.

Association Facebook page

If you search on Facebook under Royal Naval Patrol Service, you will see about 3 different sites, you need to look at the one that has the picture of our badge as seen here. This is now the most active and almost official Facebook site for the RN Patrol Service. A lot of people have posted on it and have since found out a lot about their relatives that were in the RNPS. The site web address is as follows <https://www.facebook.com/groups/133715066730668/>



The administrators of the site are Association members.

Wreath laying service

With the help of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (and others) it is now possible to arrange for Poppy Wreaths to be placed on graves in most overseas countries.

Please make requests for laying at least eight weeks in advance.

Contact The Poppy Appeal, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX Tel: 01622 717172

Curator

If you are sending anything to the Museum can you please make sure you state if it is on **loan** or a **gift** as it helps with the cataloguing and any future claims to ownership and with photographs please give descriptions and/or names where possible.

Web site

Don't forget to keep checking the web site connected to our Association which is: www.rnpsa.co.uk 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 you can email them to me at hq@rnpsa.co.uk

Obituary for Summer 2019

S/M G Baker	Redhill	Surrey	S/M G Raine	Orpington	Kent
S/M D W Bonner	Port Stanley	Falkland Islands	S/M G J Smith	Whitehaven	Cumbria
S/M T Colleran	Birmingham	West Midlands	S/M D W Stevens	Reading	Berkshire
S/M J Percival	Mitcham	Surrey	S/M M Berridge	Lowestoft	Suffolk
S/M M J Cates	Norwich	Norfolk			

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

Welfare

Our National Welfare Officer is there to try and help you, she cannot perform miracles but will do her best to address any concerns which are kept confidential. Bonnie's contact details are - Mrs Bonnie Whisstock, 133 Corton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4PR. Tel. 01502 584555 or bonniewhisstock@outlook.com

Blind Veterans UK, formerly St Dunstons, are the national charity providing free, lifelong support for ex-Service personnel with sight loss and their families. This service is available to anyone who has served in the Armed Forces, not just WW2. A friend who lives locally in Suffolk was put in touch with them and he was amazed how much help and advice they were able to give him. Their contact details are – Blind Veterans UK, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD

Tel; 0800 389 7979, email; information@blindveterans.org.uk or web site www.noonealone.org.uk

The next item that may be of interest is from **Veterans UK** and concerns claiming for illness, injury or disease. This covers serving and ex-service personnel (including reservists) injured or disabled during service in HM Armed Forces. It also extends to cover Home Guard, Nursing and auxiliary services, Civil Defence (CDV), civilians disabled due to enemy action in the 39-45 war, merchant seaman and members of the naval auxiliary services or coastguard. There are regional offices but their head office is at – Veterans UK, Tomlinson House, Norcross, Thornton-Cleveleys FY5 3WP Tel; 0808 1914 2 18 email; veterans-uk@mod.uk or website <http://www.gov.uk/veterans-uk>

It must be remembered that there are a lot of different agencies out there that can help with problems of all sorts. There is no need to suffer alone, if Bonnie is unable to help directly from our association she can tap into the network of charities that cover the service and ex-service community – there is no shame in asking for help.

Yours Aye, **The Duty Watch**

Cut ✂ or copy -----

BOOKING FORM FOR ANNUAL REUNION LUNCHTIME BUFFET - Saturday 5th OCTOBER 2019

STRICTLY TICKET ONLY

The buffet will be at Giardino Restaurant in Sparrows Nest Gardens after the parade has been dismissed.

Name _____ Membership No. _____ Tel No. _____

Address _____

I would like ____ Tickets @ £12.00 each

TOTAL PAYMENT £ _____

All bookings with money plus **SAE MUST** be made by **Wed 25th September**. After this date NO refunds will be made.

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

Cut ✂ or copy -----

Slops items for sale from HQ (Summer 2019)

Item / Title	£	Qty	£	Item / Title	£	Qty	£
Lg. Blazer Badge, Gold wire	12.00			Publications			
Lg. Blazer Badge, Woven	6.50			RNPS Memorial Post Card	0.10		
Small Beret / Blazer Badge, Gold wire	9.00			Sparrows Nest Post Card	0.20		
Small Jumper / Beret Badge, Woven	4.00			Christmas cards - original	0.50		
Association Crested Tie	12.00			Christmas cards – clean sweep	0.50		
Museum pen	1.00			HMS Europa Booklet	2.00		
Museum pen	2.00			Dawn Always Breaks (book) Reduced	1.00		
Lapel Badge, Blue enamel	5.00			Churchill's Pirates Pt.2 (book) reduced	1.00		
White Ensign Lapel Badge	3.50			Red Diamonds (book)	3.00		
RNPS Poppy badge	8.00			Blue Mariners CD	4.00		
White Ensign Car Sticker	0.50			The Story of the RNPS, 2 CD set	6.00		
RNPSA Car sticker, coloured	2.50						
RNPSA Bookmark	1.50						
RNPSA Jubilee Mug	3.00						
RNPSA Colouring Poster	0.30						
				Total	£		
				P & P Small items	1.25		
				P & P Large / Heavy items	2.50		
				Total Submitted	£		

Name _____

Membership No. _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____ Tel. No. _____

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