

ROYAL NAVAL PATROL SERVICE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 89

Winter 2020



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Contents

Editorial	3
Reunion	3
Museum upgrade	7
New product	8
Commodore's Speech	8
Légion d'Honneur	10
Reminders	11
Crossed the bar	12
Richard Stannard VC	13
Quiz	15
New Facebook group	16
Rum	18
Slops	19
New photograph display	20

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Editorial

Welcome to our new style newsletter which I hope meets with your approval. We have just been plunged into our second lockdown situation, something which I suspect a lot of us expected but never the less hope we would escape. Having been through and survived the earlier 4 month lockdown this month long one should be a walk in the park. Having reopened in July and got into an almost "normal" routine again we were seeing a steady flow of visitors, some casual ones who were in the park but quite a few who had made the journey specifically to visit us because of family connections and research. A new one way system has been instigated which luckily our museum rooms lend themselves to and all in all both the visitors and ourselves are coping well apart from muffled voices due to wearing masks.

Reunion

This year's reunion was a first for us as the COVID restrictions meant that we had no band, no Cadets, no parade and only 3 standards but in true Harry Tates fashion we got on with it albeit in the rain but the gathering of both members and families and the public stood their ground and all credit to them for doing so but the park leant itself to social distancing and although the weather was dark and dreary it was brightened by brightly coloured face masks and umbrellas.



The day before the service I had a call from our Padre, Peter Paine who was full of abject apologies saying that he had come down with sickness and diarrhea and would not be able to take our service. I rang round a few local clergy to try and get a replacement but all were either already booked or un reachable. After I had exhausted the local contacts I received a call from the Padre of the local RNA at Beccles to say that he had spoken with his family and they had rescheduled a large family lunch so that he could come and take our service. On the day the rain was fairly hard and Parade Commander, Ted Thompson, Padre, Michael Leigh-Pearson and myself got in a huddle and worked out a wet weather plan which was basically to cut out the 2 hymns and trim the rest to suit. We briefed the man on the PA as he had the CD with the music on it but the public had other ideas and thought at the very least we should have the sailor's hymn, "For those in Peril" – PA man heard that and was ready. Michael started the service



and injected a light hearted tone to it which lifted our damp spirits. As the service progressed the rain eased a bit and Michael decided to put the second hymn to the vote with a resounding yes – PA man was on the ball and got the music on so in the end the service went as planned in full.

As we were not going to have the usual march past and salute at the Sparrows Nest after the service and address from our President and “Sunset” the service ended with our President Cdr. Garry Titmus and the Mayor of Lowestoft Cllr Alan Green speaking to us at the memorial. When the

parade was dismissed by Ted Thompson it was announced that our museum would be open for anyone to visit and see our new displays and also that the Lord Kitchener Holiday Home in Lowestoft was putting on a small buffet for anyone who would like to go back as a lot were already staying there. As it happened only about 6 visited the museum afterwards and apart from those staying at Kitchens only another 7 turned up there – I suspect the lure of getting dry and a hot cup of tea won in the end. As is customary there is always a tot of rum in the museum for standard bearers but this year the tot and loyal toast was only enjoyed by 97 year old George Hunt from Portsmouth and myself so for once there was a lot of “queens”.

As there were quite a few people missing this year I thought I would include the speech Garry Titmus gave after the service as follows.



Recently I was looking through some of the many photographs I have, covering our annual reunions over the past more than 30 years. One could be nothing but impressed by the number of shipmates we had marching smartly through the town and you can see that all of us had our shoulders back and our heads held high with pride. There is no doubt that all of us who had the honour to take part in the reunions will always remember marching through Lowestoft's high street with the Saturday shoppers applauding as we passed. I lost count after 20 the number of standards that accompanied the parade. But perhaps the most impressive sight of all was the shipmates assembled on the ground in the Sparrow's Nest in front of the bandstand. There used to be so many be-medalled blazers and berets that one literally could not see a single blade of grass. Those days sadly are in the past and contrast markedly with what we can achieve this year with the passage of time and a pandemic affecting all our lives. Yet to the credit of the Royal Naval Patrol Service we are indeed here again whatever the adversity.

This year we have a reunion like no other. Circumstances have made it impossible to have our traditional memorial service and parade and the accompanying social activities that we have so enjoyed in the past. Some people have commented that what we are all experiencing in 2020 is comparable to being at war but with all due respect they are wrong. I may have been born two years too late to have any personal memory of WW2 but from my parents I learned much about the horror, destruction, danger and deprivations of war both from my Mum's personal viewpoint with the January 1941 blitz on Portsmouth and from my Dad's service at sea. I am wearing his medals today because, although he was a big ship man, the Atlantic Star, Africa Star and Burma Star with the Pacific clasp mirror the widespread operational areas where Patrol Servicemen bravely served, in their much smaller vessels. It only needs the Arctic Star to make it a full set.



Between August 1939 and May 1946 the Patrol Service reached a manpower level of over 60,000, perhaps as much as 70,000 – rather more than twice the size of today's entire Royal Navy and not far short of the current population of Lowestoft. It is also incredible to think that they had in service 6,000 vessels in many corners of the world. And it is probable that every member of the Patrol Service went through the Headquarters Establishment HMS EUROPA here in Lowestoft.

These are all memories and reflections of the past.

And this is the principal reason we are here today, to remember the past and the men who served and sadly lost their lives.

On the wonderful memorial behind me, there are the names of 2,385 shipmates of the Royal Naval Patrol Service who lost their lives in the Service and have no other grave save for the sea. We say, as part of a remembrance service, the famous line from Laurence Binyon's poem: "We will remember them" and the words from the Bible chosen by Kipling "their name liveth for evermore" is found on memorials throughout the country. And remembering is why we are here today and why our successors will be here far into the future, because we should not and will not forget. But our remembrance does not stop at the names on the memorial. One does not need to look at old photographs to also remember all those other Patrol Service shipmates and friends who have 'crossed the bar' over the past several years. They will always be included in our thoughts as we stand here each year at the national memorial - they will also not be forgotten.

I would like to conclude by talking a little about the key role played by everyone here in Lowestoft both during the War and since the mid 1970's in the Association. There is no doubt that the Headquarters of the RNPSA would be a lot poorer without the drive, energy and compassion shown by

Leo and Bonnie Whisstock. They have been my main contact over many years and I am sure I am not alone in being profoundly grateful for their friendship as well as their untiring work. Just recently they discovered the text of the farewell speech of the last Commodore of HMS EUROPA, which he delivered to the ship's company in May 1946, just before the establishment was closed down. In this speech, which I understand Leo will include in a future newsletter, he talks about the reputation of the Royal Navy and the part that EUROPA and the Patrol Service in particular played in this part of the country.

He said: "I can tell you this. In no part of the country has the reputation of the Royal Navy stood higher than it does in Lowestoft and East Anglia generally. EUROPA has been the biggest naval establishment here and has played the greatest part in enhancing the Navy's reputation. I am not guessing at this – it is fact. I get my information from many sources, the Mayor, Superintendent of Police and other officials who have been to me in the last fortnight and spoken to me about this high standard and also from other sources, from all sorts of people in different walks of life, high and low. The fact is that your reputation and that of the Royal Navy has been maintained here and has been as high and perhaps higher than in any part of the country. You may well be proud of this record."

This good reputation has been well reciprocated by the people and authorities in Lowestoft both during the war and since 1975 with the Association. There has been a close relationship with the former District Council and the Town Council and we have been delighted to have been well supported by both. It is with pleasure that we have the Mayor here with us today to symbolise that close co-operation and I just hope that the behaviour of the current Association members continues to live up to the good reputation that the Harry Tate's of the Patrol Service had 70 to 80 years ago!

The Patrol Service was a force for good in the struggle against fascism and it was fortunate that it found its main base in the welcoming area around Lowestoft. The Association that had its birth 45 years ago has also been a force for good in keeping the memory of Harry Tate's Navy alive and fostering friendship and companionship. May the memories and the friendship last for all time.



Museum upgrade

As was reported in the last newsletter, the museum rooms have been going through a bit of a makeover and we think that we are now at the stage of just doing a few minor tweaks. A lot of the photograph displays have been changed because they had been the same for a very long time and regular visitors were not seeing anything new. At the beginning of this year we were contacted by the Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club Historian who had a lot of memorabilia and information to do with the armed Trawler HMS



Wolves which was one of the "Football" class of trawlers. As a result of conversations Bonnie and I made a visit to Molineux Stadium to meet their historian, Graham Hughes and to see what he had. The upshot was that he agreed, subject to the football club's approval, that we could have the collection, which included the ship's white ensign, on an extended long term loan arrangement for our museum. The March lockdown then got in the way but at the beginning of September we went across and picked up the collection. It was decided that we would make an HMS Wolves display and made up frames for various loose items to compliment those we collected. The

display has been put in our bottom room and looks very impressive. This led us onto thinking about other Football trawlers and by searching our archives we came up with another 10 and so we have extended the Wolves display to show these as well. Those featured are Coventry City, Spurs, Notts County, Blackburn Rovers, Preston North End, Stoke City, Norwich City, Grimsby Town, Aston Villa and Leeds United. With the winter now approaching one of our ship's company on the bridge has decided to don his duffle coat but the others seem to be braving it, he is obviously a new recruit and not used to the elements, mind you our museum does get very cold in the winter as it has solid walls so no insulation as the buildings were only supposed to last for the duration of hostilities! We have also created a small tot (rum issue) display, see the rum article on page 18 of this newsletter. The lengthy process of trying to



catalogue individual photographs in albums has started, focusing mainly of ships names and individual's names. The reason for this is that we get people asking about anything we have on a certain ship and so by doing this exercise we hope to be able to identify more for enquirers to see. As we have thousands of photographs in albums and in loose packets it will be a very long job.

New Product

Calling all you avid cross stitch fans, we have come across a firm called Elite Designs that are producing a vast array of cross stitch designs including military badges, one of which is our HMS Europa badge, it can be purchased as a chart only or as a kit with all the threads plus the aida. Rather than just go on what we could see on-line I bought one and Bonnie has made a start. The finished size of it is 5" x 7". Their web site is <https://www.elite-designs.co.uk> and this is what the product looks like. They can also produce cross stitch charts from your own photograph or image, perhaps a ship's badge that they do not currently stock.



Commodore's farewell speech

Garry Titmus made mention in his reunion speech of a document that has just come to light, it being the speech made by Commodore Duke, the last Base Commodore of HMS Europa in 1946. We came across it when we were going through the data base and delving further into items listed as "folder" or "collection". In one of these folders of random sheets of paper was a carbon copy of the speech, no pun intended, but we were speechless as all the other items in the folder were minor, insignificant pieces of paper. What follows is the speech, retyped for clarity -

I wanted to take this chance of seeing you and talking to you for a minute as this will be the last opportunity I shall get of having a parade of any size. You know the numbers are going down, and by the end of the month we will be paying off and packing up.

This is the end of quite a long story. It is longer than most people think, even longer than some of the officers and men who were here originally think. It goes back eleven years to 1935 when Admiralty first sent officers down here who cast their eyes on this place and marked it off as a very

suitable place or establishment for mobilisation of the Trawler Reserve if war came, which at that time was thought very likely.

In 1938, this place actually opened up and some four thousand men came here and joined, and then the Munich pact was signed and they all dispersed again within a few days. Some officers and men who were here until quite recently and some of course who are still here, were in that original party.

Then, in August 1939, this place commissioned as a Depot and it has now been in commission for six years and nine months, which is a good long commission. The Patrol Service during that time reached its maximum number of something like nearly sixty thousand, and all these men at one time or another at different periods passed through this Depot, and sixty thousand is a pretty good slice of the Royal Navy, a pretty good proportion of it.

Well, now, we all know – it is known all over the world – the reputation of the Patrol Service, who manned the little ships and the minesweepers, which they have made for themselves at sea, and this record that cannot be beaten by any branch or section of the Royal Navy, and when I say that it means that it is unbeaten by any of the Allied Forces. The honours boards in the Concert Hall and at St. Luke's will show that. But, this reputation belongs to the young men who went to sea, some of them perhaps not so young, not to the Depot Staff. We, in Depot and on the Depot Staff, had our part to play to see that those ships were manned, and manned by fellows who had to be clothed, their pay attended to, advancement, promotion, spells ashore between jobs, and spells of leave; and also, a great deal to do in looking after the welfare of the families of men serving afloat. But the Depot lays no claim to that reputation gained at sea which will live as long as the British Navy lives. But, when talking of reputations, there is another aspect to be considered, and that is the reputation of the Royal Navy for its general bearing, discipline, and conduct and that reputation goes a long way outside this country. It is world wide. If anything goes wrong or if anything happens in the Royal Navy, it is headlines in the press in every country in the world, and there is a trust imposed upon every man and woman serving in the Royal Navy in every port in the kingdom to see that this reputation is kept up. It is a great trust, and not to be lightly undertaken. And I can tell you this. That, in no part of the country has the reputation of the Royal Navy stood higher than it does in Lowestoft and East Anglia generally. EUROPA has been the biggest Naval establishment here and it is greatly due, very largely due, to EUROPA. I am not guessing at this. It is fact. I get my information from many sources, the Mayor, Superintendent of Police and other officials who have been to me in the last fortnight and spoken to me about this high standard and also from other sources, from all sorts of people in different walks of life, high and low. The fact is that your reputation and that of the

Royal Navy has been maintained here and has been as high and perhaps higher than in any part of the country. You may well be proud of this record, and it's a record which is shared amongst the whole of the Patrol Service, and the whole of the Depot Staff, and I am very proud to have been privileged to command this Depot as my last Command in the Service. We are scattering to all different parts, some remaining here, some going home, some going to other ships, some going to Chatham. You have done a great job, something you may well be proud of, so stick your chests out and be proud of the fact that you have served in the Patrol Service and in the Depot of the Patrol Service.

I wish you goodbye and best of luck to you all.

I think you will agree, it is a fascinating document and one interesting part we noticed was that he mentions the Honours Boards in the Theatre and at St Lukes – we know about the ones in the theatre as we have those, or at least most of them, in our museum but we did not know of any being in St Lukes, did anyone else know of these?

Légion d'Honneur



Our member in Florida, Richard Eagles sent me this information about his relative Jeff Palmer from Lincolnshire who has just received the French Legion d'Honneur medal, but due to the COVID restrictions, unlike other UK recipients who have had a presentation, often with a French official present, Jeff's came through the mail with a letter of thanks and left at the front door!

Richard was a bit miffed by this and in a conversation I suggested a couple of possibilities and as a result he telephoned John Thwaites, Chairman of the Skegness Royal Naval Association about the award who went to see Jeff and invited him to be the guest of honour at their Trafalgar Day lunch. John and his wife (an ex Wren) kindly went and fetched Jeff and brought him home afterwards. They asked Jeff to bring the award to show it to the other members of their Association. Again because of COVID restrictions, the hotel banned all RN regalia so as not to draw attention to an organised event as COVID precautions were about to be reintroduced. So members came for lunch, 4 to a table and a total of 6 tables, with more than plenty of space between them.

The local media ran the following article about Jeff, - Jeff was born in Sutton on Sea in 1924 living on Victoria Road until he left to join the Royal Navy. Having collected his ship, BYMS 2047, from Jacksonville Florida in 1942 he was seconded to the Royal Canadian Navy and spent considerable time performing minesweeping and anti-submarine work off of

the coast of Halifax, Nova Scotia. For this work, Jeff earned his 'silver badge' which is awarded only to men in the Patrol Service who served 6 months at sea.

After the U-boat threat had been 'resolved' during the Battle of the Atlantic, Jeff and his ship were sent to Dover and in the months leading up to and after D-Day performed smoke laying, minesweeping (including grenade sweeping) and convoy escorting duties. On at least one occasion the ship took fire from the Germans when it was sweeping too close to the French shore and had to bid a hasty retreat. Once the allied forces pushed the Germans away from the coast the ship could dock each night at French ports and enjoy local hospitality.

Jeff continued to sweep on BYMS 2047 all along the French, Belgian and Dutch coasts and the Scheldt estuaries. He was later transferred to MMS 173 until he was demobbed in 1946 as Jeff was considered 'hostilities only' having had no ties with the Navy prior to the war. It was after his return from America to the UK that he earned the qualifications for the Legion of Honour.



Jeff on the Oerlikon gun on BYMS 2047

Usual reminders

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 Patrol Service Association members.



Subscriptions – PLEASE NOTE Subscriptions become due on the 1st January each year for all classes of membership. 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) Could you please check your membership books to see what the last date is that has been entered. 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.

Wreaths If anyone would like one of our coloured association wreath centres to go on a wreath we can supply them already laminated to fit in a standard Royal British Legion "Type C" wreath. These are different from the plain, hand drawn, black & white one supplied by the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory. For more details contact Leo on 01502 584555 or 07975623651.

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.



The Curator team working hard and also caught on CCTV watching a DVD

Obituary for Autumn / Winter 2020

S/M L W Catt	Ipswich	Suffolk
S/M R Furneaux	Harlow	Essex
S/M D Ilsley	Wivenhoe	Essex
S/M J R Miller	Cranford	Middlesex
S/M B Norman	Castleford	West Yorkshire
S/M J H Streeter	Chiswick	London
S/M G Watton	Jaywick	Essex

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

Richard Been Stannard VC

As most of you will know, our upstairs museum room is called the Stannard Room after the only Patrol Service VC recipient. We have a small display dedicated to him in the museum and during the recent museum upgrade I looked more carefully at the photograph of his sisters attending the unveiling of our display many years ago. In the bottom corner of the picture, just visible, are his medals which had been mounted but each overlapping the other. On closer inspection it was obvious that there were quite a few. I went through various research sources and records and eventually came up with his full entitlement of 12 medals which I was then able to identify in the photograph to confirm. I thought it would be a nice idea to get replicas of his medals to display in the museum. Through various sites on-line I have been able to purchase them all apart from the Norwegian War Cross but I have a pretty good image I can use. It is quite surprising how relatively cheap replica medals are and also how good they are so the next job is mounting them.



- 1 Victoria Cross**
- 2 Distinguished Service Order**
- 3 British War Medal WW1**
- 4 Mercantile Marine Medal WW1**
- 5 Victory Medal WW1**
- 6 1939 - 45 Star**
- 7 Atlantic Star with clasp "France & Germany"**
- 8 War Medal with MiD Oakleaf**
- 9 Royal Naval Reserve Decoration**
- 10 Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal**
- 11 Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal**
- 12 Norwegian War Cross with Sword**

Richard Stannard was a Royal Naval Reserve Lieutenant in command of the armed trawler HMS 'Arab' at Namsos, Norway, during the Norwegian campaign of 1940. He was awarded the VC for conspicuous bravery from

28 April to 2 May when 'Arab' survived 31 bombing attacks in five days. In one incident Stannard tackled a wharf fire caused by a bomb igniting ammunition. As there was no water ashore he ran 'Arab's' bows against the wharf and sent most of his men aft, while he and two others fought the fire with hoses for two hours. Part of the wharf was saved, which helped the subsequent evacuation from Namsos. When 'Arab' was damaged he put his crew and that of two other trawlers ashore in an armed camp under a cliff and then fought off air attack on them by day and kept anti-submarine watch by night from the ship. He also saved her by moving her in hazardous circumstances when another trawler nearby was hit by a bomb. Finally, when leaving the fjord, he defied an enemy bomber that tried to force him into captivity or be sunk. He held his course and fire until it was within 800 yards, then shot it down and got the damaged 'Arab' back to England. His VC citation, gazetted on 16 August 1940, stated that his actions caused many enemy casualties and saved many other lives, his defence being so skilful that only one of the men under his command was wounded. Dyson-Smith.

His citation in the London Gazette of 16th August 1940 reads –
Admiralty, Whitehall, 16th August, 1940.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the grant of the Victoria Cross to Lieutenant Richard Been Stannard, R.N.R., H.M.S. Arab, for outstanding valour and signal devotion to duty at Namsos. When enemy bombing attacks had set on fire many tons of hand grenades on Namsos wharf, with no shore water supply available, Lieutenant Stannard ran Arab's bows against the wharf and held her there. Sending all but two of his crew aft, he then endeavoured for two hours to extinguish the fire with hoses from the forecastle. He persisted in this work till he had to give up the attempt as hopeless.

After helping other ships against air attacks, he placed his own damaged vessel under shelter of a cliff, landed his crew and those of two other trawlers, and established an armed camp. Here those off duty could rest while he attacked enemy aircraft which approached by day, and kept anti-submarine watch during the night.

When another trawler near-by was hit and set on fire by a bomb, he, with two others, boarded Arab and moved her 100 yards before the other vessel blew up. Finally, when leaving the fjord, he was attacked by a German bomber which ordered him to steer East or be sunk. He held on his course, reserved his fire till the enemy was within 800 yards, and then brought the aircraft down.

Throughout a period of five days Arab was subjected to 31 bombing attacks and the camp and Lewis gun positions ashore were repeatedly



machine-gunned and bombed; yet the defensive position was so well planned that only one man was wounded.

Lieutenant Stannard ultimately brought his damaged ship back to an English port. His continuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy was magnificent, and his enterprise and resource not only caused losses to the Germans but saved his ship and many lives.

Quiz

1. In what year did the Indian Rebellion (also known as The Mutiny) take place?
2. At what battle in 1815 did Napoleon surrender to the British?
3. The Battle of Monte Cassino took place in which country?
4. What year was the Royal Air Force formed?
5. What was the name of the Royal Navy submarine that sunk the Argentine ship ARA General Belgrano during the Falklands War?
6. In which sea did the Battle of Jutland take place in 1916?
7. Which US General in WWII later became the 34th President of the United States of America?
8. Which former Army Sergeant won two gold medals at the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens?
9. What is the name of the successful businessman who was once dishonourably discharged from the Royal Navy for trying to throw his commanding officer overboard?
10. In which English county is RAF Benson?
11. To the nearest thousand, what is the current population of Gibraltar?
12. Which military base is situated next to a famous natural beauty spot on the Jurassic Coast in Dorset, England?
13. How many Royal Navy recipients of the Victoria Cross has there been?
14. Who starred as General Melchett in the TV series, Blackadder Goes Fourth?
15. Which current Formula One driver and former World Champion served in his native country's armed forces before becoming a professional racing driver?
16. Which fictional submarine is the focus of a 1990 film starring Sean Connery?
17. What Royal Navy rank does Ian Fleming's James Bond hold?

The answers are near the back of this newsletter – try answering the quiz without cheating!

Nautical Wordsearch

C	Y	D	E	M	A	R	I	N	A	N	L	L	K
C	A	T	W	O	R	U	H	L	A	I	L	L	R
E	W	A	H	A	A	O	H	C	G	K	L	I	A
S	L	O	Y	R	R	C	A	H	S	A	T	A	W
R	H	B	S	S	B	R	T	D	K	G	A	S	H
A	C	L	L	D	T	H	O	O	C	N	E	E	E
L	T	I	S	A	O	R	S	C	L	I	L	R	E
U	E	A	O	U	N	E	A	K	S	K	C	O	L
C	K	S	S	L	Y	W	E	W	A	C	A	F	A
O	T	E	R	A	U	L	L	U	H	A	B	A	K
N	R	E	O	C	E	A	N	A	A	T	E	S	E
I	A	R	A	M	A	I	N	S	H	E	E	T	L
B	H	S	A	I	L	O	R	U	E	L	A	H	K
H	C	I	A	R	U	D	D	E	R	C	K	O	O

LIGHTHOUSE
CLEAT
OARS
CHART
OCEAN
SAILBOAT
THWART
LAKE
DOCK
MAINSHEET
TACKING
HULL
RUDDER
MARINA
SAILOR
KETCH
WHEEL
FORESAIL
BINOCULARS
YAWL

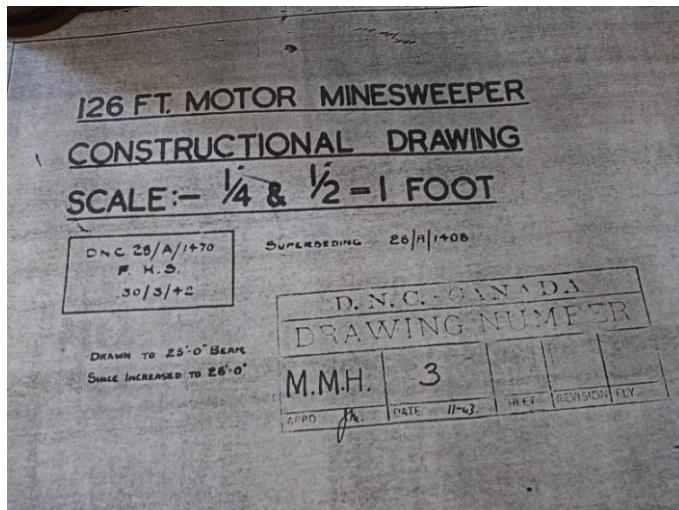
New Facebook group

Following the success of our own Facebook group, a group member has set up a group specifically focussing on the BYMS called **BYMS Class Minesweepers** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/166707466707971> It has attracted a lot of interest and has some fascinating new images and information and is well worth a visit as it supplements our Facebook group page perfectly. There is a possibility that the group's originator may do a similar page for the MMS ships.

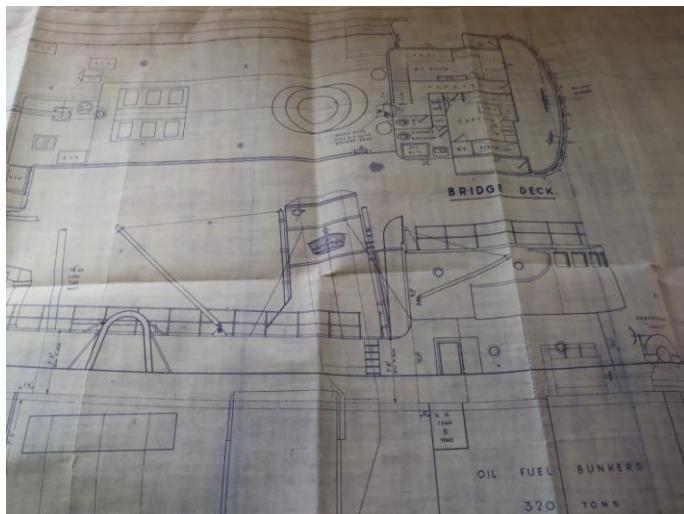


While we are on the subject of the MMS ships, during the lockdown and the museum reorganisation we came across a set of large works drawings for a MMS from a Canadian Shipyard so if it all kicks off again we have the plans, all we need to do is to build the ship! As

you would expect, as they are works drawings they are very detailed and very well drawn.



In the same exercise we also came across a large roll of works drawings of various trawlers and equipments etc. some dating to before the war.



Unfortunately both sets of drawings are far too large to copy but if anyone is seriously interested, possibly for model making, they are welcome to come to the museum to see them and photograph them

Rum

The rum ration, or "tot", from 1850 to 1970 consisted of one-eighth of an imperial pint (71 ml) of rum at 95.5 proof (54.6% ABV), given out to every sailor at midday. Senior ratings (petty officers and above) received their rum neat, whilst for junior ratings it was diluted with two parts of water to make three-eighths of an imperial pint (213 ml) of grog. The rum ration was served from one particular barrel, also known as the "Rum Tub", which was ornately decorated and was made of oak and reinforced with brass bands with brass letters saying "The Queen, God Bless Her".

Not all sailors necessarily drew their rum: each had the option to be marked in the ship's books as "G" (for Grog) or "T" (for Temperance, if they were members of the Temperance Movement). Sailors who opted to be "T" were given three pence (3d) a day instead of the rum ration, although most preferred the rum.

The time when the rum ration was distributed was called "Up Spirits", which was between 11 am and 12 noon. A common cry from the sailors was "Stand fast the Holy Ghost". This was in response to the bosun's call "Up Spirits". Each mess had a "Rum Bosun" who would collect the rum from the officer responsible for measuring the right number of tots for each mess. The officers did not get a rum ration.

Tot glasses were kept separate from any other glasses. They were washed on the outside, but never inside, in the belief that residue of past tots would stick to the side of the glass and make the tot even stronger. Sailors under 20 were not permitted a rum ration, and were marked on the ship's books as "UA" (Under Age).

In attempt to pay homage to the "Tot" we are creating a small rum display in our museum, that will be no surprise to those who know me!



Quiz answers 1 1857, 2 Waterloo, 3 Italy, 4 1918, 5 HMS Conqueror, 6 North Sea, 7 Dwight D Eisenhower, 8 Dame Kelly Holmes, 9 Duncan Bannatyne, 10 Oxfordshire, 11 33,000, 12 Lulworth, 13 117, 14 Stephen Fry, 15 Kimi Raikkonen, 16 Red October, 17 Commander

Slops

Slops items for sale from HQ (Winter 2020)

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

Name _____ Tel No. _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

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

New photographic display

In our ground floor museum room, the Europa Room, we have created a new photograph display which charts the Patrol Service men from when they first joined as raw recruits, through training, onto the ships, de mob, the unveiling of our memorial in 1953 up to being veterans at our reunions. Above the display is a board which says "FEAR GOD HONOUR THE KING".



This board was above the door of this room during the war when the room was the Court Marshall Room.



It only remains for me, on behalf of the Committee here in Lowestoft, to wish everyone health and happiness for the festive period ahead and hope that we can all make the best of the situation we find ourselves in even if it means being without friends and family but in time it will improve and we can make up for it then.

