

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

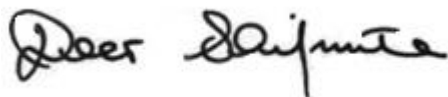
UNITY
PATRIOTISM

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER
PATRON OF THE ASSOCIATION: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
A Registered Charity - No. 1065290
TORBAY BRANCH Patron :- Admiral Sir David Williams, G.C.B.

LOYALTY
COMRADESHIP

"Do You Hear There"

12 July 1999



Do you remember- how comfortable your "Mick" was? Adjusted so it was slung even, stretcher at the head & feet and you could just gently swing with the roll. Mind you there was always the risk of injury with a bound volume of "War & Peace", (Mickey Spillane more like), or a malevolent ashtray leaping from the vent trunk: to destroy the sleep of the just Then "gloom in the room", the Killick of the mess would decree,- time to change hammocks you'd unleash all the carefully adjusted, clews,, scrub the hammock,, drape it over the boiler room guard rails to dry and didn't dare let it drip over- the immaculately turned out "Gentleman Stoker PO" of the Watch!

News letters are a bit like that, you're just idling along, only the minutes and an odd letter to write and then, "gloom in the room", It's time to unleash a few thoughts, scrub off the spellings and. drape them over some paper: and hope for your efforts you don't get any drips!

As the purpose of this missive is to provide a resume of branch affairs for members sick on shore or unable to- attend regularly I'll use the normal format and look astern as far as the AGM in: January- Then, Chairman George Hedges after some four commendable years much, appreciated, by the branch, became "Chairman. Retired" George and handed, over command to Chairman John Soanes, Harold Dutton elevated to Mr. Vice and we welcomed S/M Peter Haywood to the committee. The remainder of the committee was re-elected, however look out for Watchbill Changes, indeed an opportunity, later!

Shipwrecks around, the world, not something most of us have any first hand knowledge of, (Damage Control saved this Ship, remember the posters?), and probably spent most of our time avoiding, was the subject of our guest speaker in March. An excellent presentation followed by, in April a fascinating journey through Four Seasons on the River Dart, which led us back to sea in May for "Sail Training Ships". I am told that was a good night unfortunately I was delayed by heavy weather in the Western Approaches of the M5 on my way back from Birmingham so missed it.

June saw the launch of a new event, for us, with a "Wine St Wisdom" quiz night. We welcomed teams from Newton Abbot and other ex-service associations and I think all agreed it was a worthwhile event. Teams from the "Crabs", Newton Abbot RNA and the "Ladies Fair from the British Legion" swept away the "treasures of the cellars" we did however have a "Canteen Boat" team, who to the envy of all carried off the most prestigious of prizes, the wine gums!

My thanks to Chairman John for compiling the questions, President Peter for his service as Question Master, and all members who contributed bottles of wine for the prizes.

A special thank you to S/M David Cartwright for his very kind donation of a bottle of Pussers for the raffle, it is very much appreciated David.

A new feature was added this year to the annual Exercise Tiger Memorial Service at Slapton in April, normally it's very windy, this year rain was added, lots of it! The branch was well represented nevertheless and when it was all over Chairman John got the teas in, what a gentleman.

The annual Mayors Parade was different in that the march past took place down a hill, still with the "Sally Band" it was more of a soft shoe shuffle anyway!

The Parade Marshall, the RSM from the "Armoured Farmers" didn't wear his "boots studded sole, parades for the use of" but instead wore "boots rubber sole, quiet runs ashore for the use of", he was concerned he might slip on the slope, go aground by the stern, and we would all laugh, as if we would!

Talking of Parade Marshalls our very own tame "Bootie", S/M Jack Clegg took charge at the annual D-Day Memorial Service, terrified all of us, well done Jack.

We were recently welcomed to Furrough Cross Church for the "Service of the Sea" led by our new Honorary Chaplin, the Reverend John Dubois and supported by the Sea Cadets with their Standard. It was a good service and our thanks to Reverend John and the Sea Cadets for their support. S/M Peter Haywood also played an active part in the service providing a thoughtful interactive address for the youngsters which everyone enjoyed.

An interesting piece of history was also revealed during the reading of a lesson by a member of the committee. It appears that when St Paul was shipwrecked off Malta he was on a battle ship? He must've been, because according to the reader there were on board 2,226 souls, presumably all "Rough Upper Deck Chaps" & "Roman Booties"! Thanks Harold, not many people knew that!

We can look forward now to the Trafalgar Service at Furrough Cross Church at 1100 on Sunday 24th October, I'm hoping for a good turnout of Standards and of course we'll "Clear Lower Deck", won't we?

Talking of Trafalgar as most of you are aware we are joining a nationwide RNA gathering for dinner on the evening of the 23 October in the Trecarn. I will need confirmation of your attendance at the August branch meeting and payment to Ted no later than September. The cost is £16.50 per head, I will endeavour to have menu details at the August meeting.

What else have we to look ahead to? I've waved the "Magic Wheelspanner", (the secrets of which are known only to "Gentlemen Stokers"), and hopefully managed to secured speakers for the September and November meetings I'm awaiting agreement & our October speaker is already booked.

The Festival of Remembrance will be held on Friday 12 November 99 in the Princess Theatre at 1930, I will need confirmation of attendance at the August meeting, tickets £5.00 per head.

Other dates to remember: Battle of Britain Service at Upton Parish Church 19th September at 1030.

The Annual Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, Princess Gardens 14th November.

We will be holding a Christmas Lunch on Sunday 12th December in the Trecarn, an entertainer has been booked more details soon!

Watchbill Changes, I did mention this!

Ted Hemmings who has served this branch as Treasurer, in which office he has given sterling service since the groat was legal tender,(a long time anyway), will at the end of this year hang up his abacus and become "Ted Retired Treasurer".

Could you understand an S.50 Pay Ledger Account Sheet? Can you make 3+2-5 into a meaningful number? No problem? Step forward please, scribes counting kit in hand! Seriously, we do need a treasurer, the branch cannot survive without one, Ted has more than done his bit, so a volunteer please as soon as possible ideally by September. Remember the Damage Control

priorities "Float-Move-Fight", without a treasurer we would fight to stay afloat and probably have to move! Think about it please.

We've been lucky to welcome new members into the branch since the AGM and we hope to continue to do so and visitors are also welcome, the branch details are posted in the Tourist Office in Torquay and I have copies available for anyone who can think of somewhere to put one.

Well now shipmates the hammocks have been re-rigged and are slung above the messdeck tables, (it's a long time since that happened in the fleet, everybody has a "shelf" these days), in other words it's almost "Pipe Down", so I'll do just that! May we enjoy the remainder of the Summer reclining in the garden hammock!

To all members sick on shore, get well soon, and with best regards to RNA members everywhere,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gus Cye". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

PS: Scrubbing ôMicksô brings kit musters to mind so to fill in Iöve added a tale on the subject.

The Dangleberry Horror

"Dangleberries, I have found Dangleberries!", a cry you may think of an innocent nature lover or one seeking in the countryside a rare and succulent fruit!

Ah but not so if you were a trainee in Grenville Division HMS RALEIGH in the early sixties, then such a cry would strike terror in your heart such as poor wretches at the table would never feel!

This reign of terror was exercised by an otherwise kindly old soul, no less a personage than Grenville's Divisional Chief, a Gentleman Chief Stoker, a six foot plus giant known as "Chiefy Dangleberry". This name resulted from his pet hate in kit musters, finding little balls of dark blue serge on underwear!

The issue underwear we had, picked up very easily the blue serge from number 2 uniform trousers and would stick as little dark balls.

There was always some poor innocent who had missed them and sure as fate old "Dangleberries" would find them! He would bellow, "Dangleberries, I have found Dangleberries", "You my son, you horrible creature, Dangleberries!" "Rescrub!"

It mattered not that the rest of the wretched young man's kit would have made Billy Bernard's proud, "Dangles on the Drawers" was only one step removed from a capital offence.

Some years after my final kit muster in Raleigh I was tinkering with an engine, (as "Young Gentlemen Stokers" do), didn't really know what I was doing, when a growl came from behind me, "Hello hookie, don't I know you"? The hair stood up on the back of my neck I almost had instant dangleberries, of a sort, it was him the dreaded Chiefy Dangleberry! We had a chat he was glad to see one of his lads was a hookie I was glad he didn't ask me to muster my drawers for inspection, and he never knew the terror he invoked that day, or did he?

He was in fact a marvellous character a tower of strength in that division he seemed hard at the time but he was fair and taught us all well.

I believe the principle he used was there are three ways of doing things, the right way, the wrong way and the Navy's Way!

The Navy's Way did not allow for "Dangles on Drawers", not ever!

An Innocent Torbay

Stoker