

INSIDE



INVINCIBLE IN THE MED — Page 17



RALEIGH LAUGH-IN BY TUGG — Centre pages

READERS SURVEY

AS NAVY News approaches its 40th birthday we would like to know more about what YOU think about US. In the centre of this paper you will find a pull-out questionnaire which will help us to meet the needs of our readers into the 21st Century.

All you have to do is tick one of a number of boxes in answer to each question. The questionnaire will fold neatly, displaying our Readership Survey address to which you can send your answers freepost.



Picture: PO(PHOT) Fez Parker

Adriatic return for Ark

WITH her aircraft ranged on the flight deck, HMS Ark Royal sails for the Adriatic just a year and 11 days since her first deployment there in support of British troops in former Yugoslavia.

She will relieve the homeward-bound HMS Invincible which replaced Ark on Adriatic duty last summer.

Since she arrived home in August the Ark has undergone maintenance and weapon training to hone her for her second stint in the Adriatic. When she returns later this year she will begin a major refit which will update her after nine years of continuous service.

Her air group comprises Sea Harriers of 820 Naval Air Squadron, anti-submarine Sea King helicopters of 820 NAS and airborne early warning Sea Kings of B Flight 849 NAS.

● Ark personnel visit Madam Speaker — Page 28.

OPERATION D-DAY



Picture: LA(PHOT) Scooby Dua

Star and garter

AIR stewardess Vicky Kirk won HMS Nottingham's very own Order of the Garter when she spent a day at sea in the Type 42 destroyer. Vicky, who works for Britannia Airways, has been Nottingham's very own star girl since she was chosen as Miss HMS Nottingham last summer.

Her escorts here are LS(R) Jase Lightfoot (left) and AB(R) Nibbsy Damerell.

FIFTY years after the greatest amphibious invasion of all time, D-Day anniversary celebrations are set to become the largest and most widespread commemoration of the Second World War since the war itself ended.

Described by Prime Minister John Major as "a huge national event", the celebrations will gather pace in May and reach a climax in June as an army of veterans returns to the South of England and to the battle sites of Normandy.

Events in Britain will focus on Portsmouth, an important embarkation point for the D-Day forces and planning centre for the invasion.

On June 4 the Queen will hold a dinner for 500 people at Portsmouth Guildhall. Invitations have been sent to all leaders of nations which took part in the Allied operations, including President Bill Clinton, President Mitterrand of France, and President Walesa of Poland.

Also on that day, 1,000 veterans of the landings will be entertained at nearby Southwick House.

Next day, a Sunday, a commemorative service will be held for allcomers on Southsea Common.

Thousands of veterans are expected to take part and many others plan to journey to France where similar services will take place in British war cemeteries.

Armada

Later that day a flotilla of ships escorted by an armada of small craft will cross the Channel. They will be led by HMY Britannia with the Queen and Heads of States and Governments embarked.

On D-Day itself an international ceremony is planned at

● Turn to Page 16

TICKETS DEADLINE

FIFTEEN thousand tickets are still available for ceremonies in British war cemeteries in Normandy on June 6. Although the tickets have been available since mid-December, only 3,000 applications have been received. Deadline for applications is February 6.

Application forms are available to veterans and windows from branches of most ex-Service organisations, including all branches of The Royal British Legion, or by writing to D-Day Tickets, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.

Bottoms up for Triumph

AFTER the longest-ever solo deployment by a RN nuclear submarine, HMS Triumph enjoyed a well-deserved wash and brush up at Devonport.

During her 23-day maintenance period in dry dock work was done on her secondary propulsion systems, her paintwork was touched up and the barnacles, collected from her worldwide tour, were removed from her hull!

HMS Triumph deployed on her epic voyage last year when she sailed to Australia without support from other naval ships, a journey of 46,700 miles, 41,000 of them submerged.

TIM'S LAST STAND

"A GIRL can dream, can't she?" ... Lt Kerry Turner and a few members of the DPR(N) team took time off from manning the Royal Navy stand at the Scottish Motor Show to try this brand new Porsche for size.

Under the guidance of Cdr Tim Sloane (one of his last jobs before leaving the Navy) the team of volunteers, which also included Gem the Robot, attracted hundreds of visitors to the stand.

NATO VISIT TO ISRAEL



Edinburgh takes a first in Haifa

FLOODLIT against the lights of Haifa is HMS Edinburgh, making the first Nato visit to an Israeli port along with ships from Standing Naval Force Mediterranean.

With CSNFM, Commodore Ross, embarked the Type 42 destroyer arrived alongside in company with the Italian frigate Espero, the Greek frigate Elli and the Turkish frigate Yildirim, after conducting embargo operations in the Adriatic.

After the Commodore and ships' commanding officers made calls on the Israeli naval base commander and the Mayor of Haifa, HMS Edinburgh hosted a lunch for the ambassadors of the four host ships' nations and other local dignitaries.

Following a hectic first day, a full sports programme began, involving both inter-squadron sports and matches against local teams. Many of the ships' companies also took the opportunity to go sightseeing to Jerusalem, Bethlehem and

the Dead Sea while the more adventurous set off for trips into the desert or diving in the Red Sea.

Several groups of Israeli naval personnel visited the squadron during organised tours of the SNFM ships while return visits, including tours of the Fast Attack Craft, were given by the Israeli Navy.

On leaving Haifa the ships dispersed in preparation for passex with the Israeli armed forces, including three SAAR class Fast Attack Craft, supported by a Dauphin helicopter and missiles simulated by F16 aircraft. This gave the opportunity for the naval base commander, with a few of his staff, the chance to sail in HMS Edinburgh and view the exercise from a SNFM perspective.

The ships continued training en route to the Adriatic, taking part in the Turkish exercise Dogu Akdeniz, and arrived back on station well-rested, trained and ready, once again, for embargo operations. (See also page 3.)

Thanks for the memories

DURING a visit to Emden, Germany, the commanding officer of HMS Nottingham, Cdr Ian Moncrieff, was visited by Flotillenadmiral Otto Ciliax, commander of the naval command at Rostock, who brought with him a special present which had been in his family for some 75 years.

A boat's badge and ensign from a lifeboat from the fifth HMS Nottingham, sunk by U-52 in August 1916, was retrieved by Admiral Ciliax's father, who was then the Executive Officer of the German U-boat.

When Admiral Ciliax heard that the present HMS Nottingham would be visiting Germany, he made a round trip of 1,000 km — from Rostock, in the east, to Emden, the westernmost port — to return these mementos.

Out to Africa

NAVAL links with South Africa were re-established last month with a visit to Cape Town and Simonstown by the Type 23 frigate HMS Norfolk and RFA Grey Rover.

The invitation was extended by Chief of the South African Navy, Vice-Admiral Robert Simpson-Anderson. (See also page 28.)



Farewell to the 'blues'

THERE was a touch of the blues at RNEC Manadon when female personnel serving there raised their glasses to mark the demise of the WRNS.

The "pale blue" theme was echoed in their blue Curacao cocktails but did not, thankfully, extend to blue rinses or eyeshadow!

The evening was chaired by Lt Cdr Martinson who is WRMM at Manadon and who was one of the first WRNS officers to serve at sea.



Chief finds Faldo within his range

RUFFLING a few feathers as he attempts a birdie is Chief Steve Williams, Chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River, teeing off a round of golf at the China Fleet Country Club, Saltash, during an affiliation visit to HMS Brave.

Chief Williams and his six-strong delegation of Braves travelled from their home reservation in Ontario, Canada, to accept an invitation to attend the Type 22 frigate's rededication ceremony at Devonport naval base.

The visitors were cementing a long-standing affiliation with the ship which began when she deployed to North America in 1990.

"We enjoyed adopting the ship and we say a special prayer to protect the men and wom-

en on board," said Chief Williams. "We hope they will never have to fire their weapons except in self-defence."

Guest of honour at the ceremony was HMS Brave's sponsor, Lady Bryson. The rededication cake was cut by Mrs Isobel Parris, wife of the ship's commanding officer, Cdr John Parris, and the youngest rating, W(M) Alison Ireland.

Picture: Sunday Independent, Devon.



Smuggler shot in TV chase

A Petty Officer from HMS Plover drew his pistol and shot a Chinese smuggler he saw about to attack a shipmate with a meat cleaver.

RPO Potts was in the Hong Kong patrol ship's lead boat chasing a three-engined high-speed Chung-Fei through the gap between Town Island and High Island on the night of January 9.

Together with LWEM Manson he eventually boarded the vessel — it was loaded with TV sets — under a hail of bottles. "RPO Potts went to cut the fuel leads and LWEM Manson went forward to arrest the crew," Lieut John French later told Navy News.

"Manson had another bottle thrown at him and came under attack from a smuggler wielding a screwdriver and a meat cleaver, who leapt onto one of the TVs, raised the cleaver and clearly intended to injure him. "RPO Potts saw this and shouted a warning to the smuggler who failed to comply.

"Considering that LWEM Manson's life was in danger, RPO Potts then drew his 9mm sidearm and fired two shots at the smuggler, one of which hit him in the hip. The rest of the crew then ceased resisting..."

LWEM Manson suffered a bruised wrist and RPO Potts a slashed foot in the fight — but Potts was still able to administer First Aid to the wounded smuggler, who was taken to hospital and was expected to make a full recovery. The other two smugglers were handed over to the police.

Ice ship adoption

HMS Endurance, the Navy's ice patrol ship currently attempting to travel further south than any other RN vessel, has been adopted by the City of Portsmouth, her home port.

The ship had the news from the Mayor over Christmas.

Anger over TV 'Sea Brigade' shambles

"London's Burning", LWT's drama series featuring the capital's firefighters, outraged the Sea Cadet Corps when it told how an incompetent 'Sea Brigade' unit caused a blaze in the Docklands (see pages 7 and 16).

Complaints from many of the 400 SCC units flooded into the Corps' London headquarters — but a letter to the television company complaining of "serious misrepresentation" of what was inevitably identified as a Thameside Sea Cadet unit brought a reply which SCC Chairman Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherall branded as "insensitive and rather cruel".

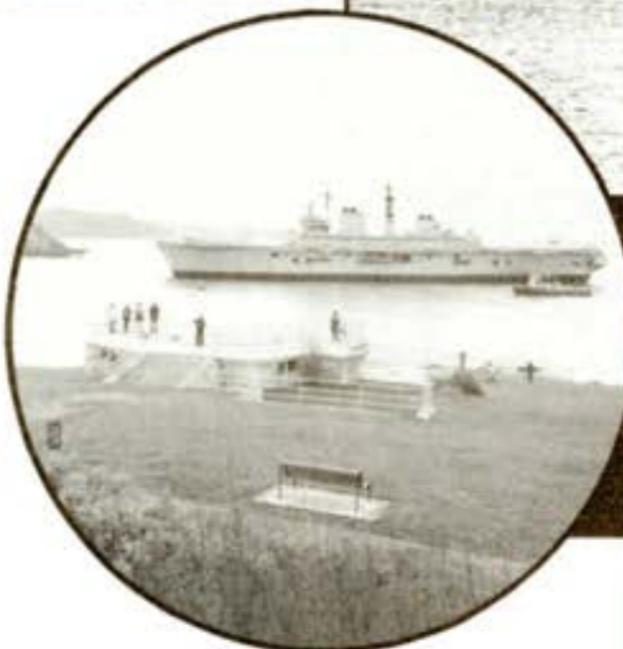
In it, the show's producer, Paul Knight, said he could not understand why "an affectionate send up of a fictionalised group who call themselves the Brigade and wear Navy type uniforms made up by our wardrobe department should damage the Sea Cadets either in its (sic) sponsorship or its' (sic) recruitment".

Title changes

Following the integration of the WRNS into the RN in November, The Queen last month approved changes to honorary appointments held by members of the Royal Family.

The Queen Mother assumes the new title of Commandant-in-Chief for Women in the Royal Navy while the Princess Royal becomes Chief Commandant with the rank of Rear Admiral.

Captain Julia Simpson, who has taken on the responsibilities of Senior Female Officer, will be known as Chief Naval Officer for Women (CNOW).



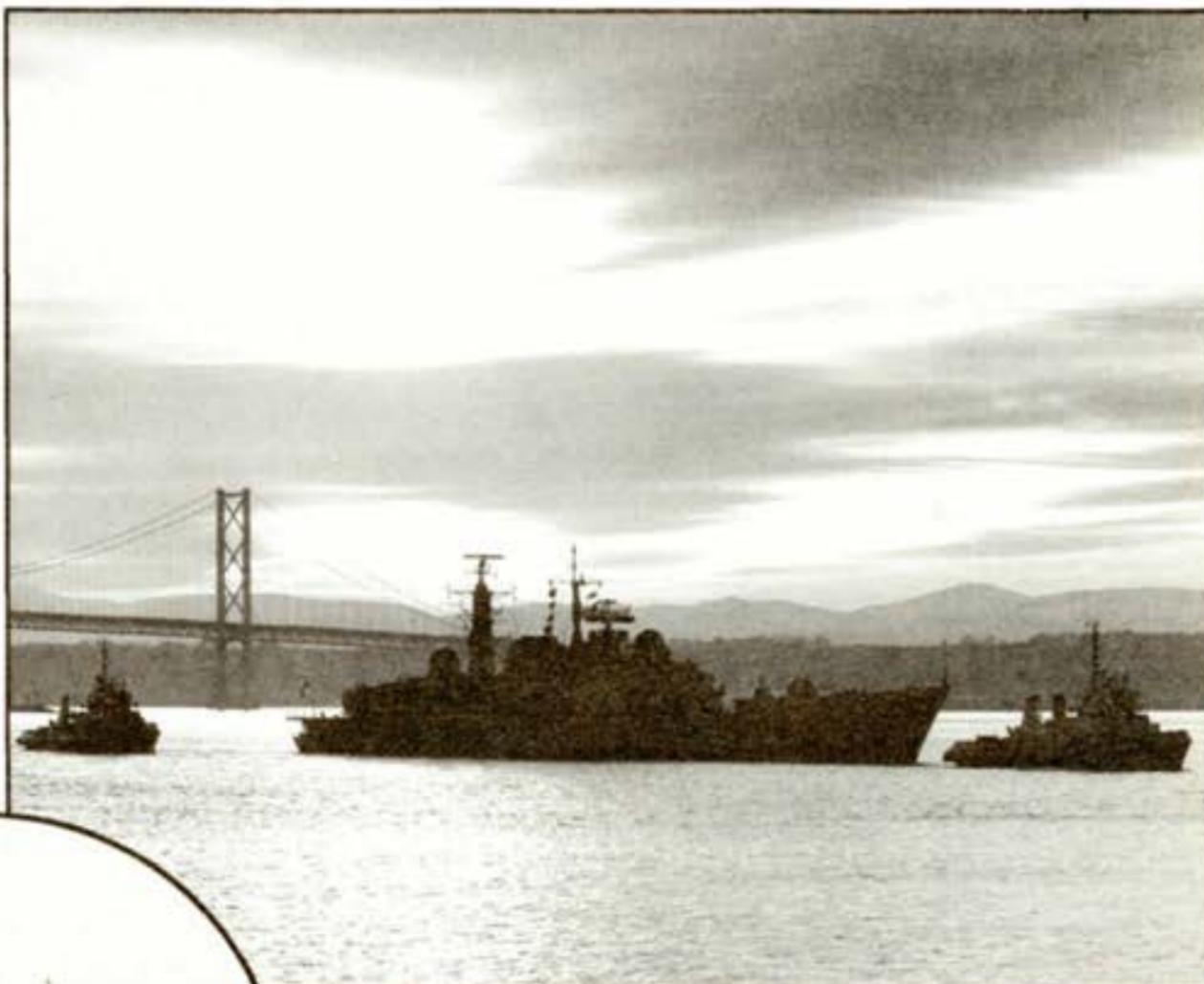
Rule change for Russian medal

Arctic convoy veterans awarded the Russian Commemorative Medal may now display it alongside the rest of their campaign medals — thanks to a campaign by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin.

Thousands of World War II sailors who received the medal instituted by the former Soviet Union in 1985 to mark the 40th anniversary of the end of the Great Patriotic War were disappointed to learn of a Foreign Office decision that it could not be worn as an official award.

Last year Lord Callaghan and Lord Williams of Elvel raised the matter in the House of Lords but failed to get the decision reversed.

Admiral Lewin then approached the Foreign Office directly, pointing out permission had been granted for British veterans to wear the commemorative medal issued by the Maltese Government in 1991 for the 50th anniversary of the award of the George Cross to the island and this created a precedent — the Foreign Office were convinced, submitted the proposal to The Queen and thus approval was gained.



HOME AND AWAY

● Above: HMS Edinburgh seen arriving back home at Rosyth after five months service with NATO's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean. Tasks ranging from policing sanctions off Bosnia to exercising with friendly nations in the Med kept her on station for 137 days during which she steamed over 25,000 miles.

● Inset: Meanwhile HMS Illustrious sailed from Devonport last month for her first set of refit sea trials — the first time she had been under way under her own power for nearly five years. The carrier entered a state of preservation in Portsmouth in 1989 before being towed to Plymouth for refit two and a half years ago.

FRONT LINERS

The new defence cost study announced in last month's Navy News, "Front Line First", is now in full swing with Study Teams out and about. The Navy participants in the various studies are:

- MOD Head Office — Rear Admiral Nicholas Wilkinson (COMMOD)
 - HQs, Commands and TLB structures — Captain Ruzi Maclean (FORA Staff)
 - Research and Development — Captain Peter Hays (between appointments)
 - Repairs, Spares, Storage and Distribution — Mr David Jones (DGSTN) Leader
 - Naval Infrastructure — Rear Admiral John Durr (DOSP/OPS) — Leader
 - Training — Captain David Blackburn and Cdr Rodney O'Connor (between appointments)
 - Manning — Captain William Hutchison (Staff of ONCFLEET)
 - Medical — Captain Nicholas Harris (between appointments)
 - Non-operational — Captain John Clarke (DNRCS)
 - Information Systems — Captain Patrick Tyrrell (Staff of ACDNCR)
 - Security — Cdr Timothy Gedge (Staff of DNP)
- Inquiries to Captain Jonathan Reed, Costs Review Secretariat, tel MOD 48 61985

Window memorial

A stained glass window in memory of those who gave their lives in the war against the Japanese — together with a brass plaque dedicated to the nine Fleet Air Arm men who were executed on a beach at Changi four days after the war ended — are to be dedicated at Portsmouth Cathedral on September 3, 1995.

The Royal Naval Museum at Portsmouth, in conjunction with the British Pacific and East Indies Fleets committee, also intends to run a special exhibition next year. Anyone with suitable items for display should contact Terry Thorne, tel 0329 281605.

Bermuda base to close

HMS Malabar, the RN base in Bermuda, is to close next year, Armed Forces Minister Jeremy Hanley announced.

Construction of a small Naval dockyard there began in 1810. Malabar, currently manned by 13 RN personnel and 15 locally employed staff, is now used for refuelling, maintenance and rest and recreation by RN and NATO vessels in the area.

Its strategic importance has greatly diminished in the changed political environment — but Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind has told the Premier of Bermuda, Sir John Swan, that he hoped the RN's association could be maintained by continued ship visits.

● Lt Peter Rouch leads the Colour Guard from the Second Submarine Squadron that flew out to take part in the Queen's Birthday parade last year.





Drafty

Clanky's Corner



TIME TO LET OFF STEAM

IT MAY be a surprise that there are still one-third of the 1,200 ME Artificers currently serving who have been trained and gained their qualifications on steam machinery, and have no experience of more modern gas-turbine propulsion.

While there will be a need to retain a proportion of steam specialists to man the very few remaining steam ships, many will require cross-training to gas propul-

sion on return to sea. "Steam only" ratings drafted to a gas ship should gain all necessary endorsements to watchkeeping qualifications within 12 months of joining, and Drafty will assume this to

have been achieved unless told otherwise.

The aim is to keep the number of CPOMEAs undergoing cross-training to no more than two per ship at any one time, and to ensure that at least 50 per cent of the CPOMEAs have had previous gas experience.

Despite this training load it should always be possible to maintain reasonable watchkeeping rosters provided full use is made of the CPOMEA ADHULL and CPOMEA EL.

Shortage

The General Service Mechanic 'M' roster for the Marine Engineering Artificer Candidates Course is rapidly shortening. It is anticipated that this will result in a shortage of potential ML candidates for courses starting after mid-1994.

At the same time, the General Service 'L' roster is excessively long, with ratings potentially waiting up to six years before being selected for course.

In an attempt to solve both problems, letters are being sent from HMS Sultan to all ratings on the 'L' roster inviting them to volunteer to undertake training as ML artificer candidates.



"If you knew my missus, you wouldn't ask!"

Further information is available from the MEACC Course Manager on HMS Sultan Ext. 2148.

Cross train

If you are an MEA(L) and wish to have a long, varied and worthwhile career, then you must consider volunteering for cross-training to gain the 'EL' qualification. Employment for the 'L' artificer is becoming increasingly more restricted at CPO and CCPO level with more and more billets, particularly at sea, which must be filled by the EL rating. Cross training can only be undertaken at PO and CPO level.

All 'L' artificers, take full advantage of your next sea job to make this important step.

Certificates

When the new Marine Engineering Branch Development advancement trees and training programmes are announced it will be seen that the watchkeeping certificates for Mechanics form a vital part of the structure. If a rating's career is to progress smoothly, much will depend on these qualifications being obtained in good time AND being correctly reported to Drafty.

It appears that the watchkeeping certificates (EOOW2 and EOOW1) gained by mechanics after the award of the AMC are frequently not reported, making drafting records out of date and inaccurate. MEOs and divisional officers please raise a Form C170 to report the award of these professional qualifications.

Redundancy

Drafty is doing everything possible to meet the wishes of those being released from the Service under Phase III of the redundancy scheme, and to reduce the turbulence experienced by ships and shore organisations.

Releasing the necessary number — many of whom are serving at sea — in the required timescale is not a simple process. If you are one of those selected for redundancy and

you feel that you have a problem or your wishes are not being met, make sure that through the divisional system your drafting desk is aware.

As the surplus manpower within the ME Branch reduces, there will be less opportunity to release at less than 18 months notice those who still wish to leave the Service. Therefore, do seek Drafty's advice before attempting to make any plans for your future outside the Service which depend on obtaining early release.

New Command

With the formation of the Naval Support Command on February 1 there are now approximately 40 billets for ME Senior Rates (CCMEA and CPOMEA) in the Bath area. If you have connections in this area, or wish to serve in this delightful part of the country, do make Drafty aware by either your DPF or by raising a C240.

CHANGE OF HOME

BEWARE — if you are visiting Centurion, the ME Drafting Section has moved from the offices which have been its home for many years.

The section is still on the second floor but on a different side of the building. Telephone numbers remain the same:

- ME Drafting Commander and WO appointing — Cdr Mike Phelps, ext. 2574
- Correspondence — Ms Cristal Phillips, ext. 2152
- MEA Drafting Officer — Lt Cdr Bernie Barwick (to be replaced by Lt Cdr Stan Mead), ext. 2572
- CCMEA(L)/CPOMEA(L)/MEAs under training — CCMEA John Adams, ext. 2515
- CCMEA(ML)/CPOMEA(ML) — POWTR Tony Bradman, ext. 2576
- ME Mechanics Drafting Officer — Lt Cdr John Fisher, ext. 2514
- CCMEA/CPOMEA(M/L) and Office Manager — CPOWTR Phil Lambert, ext. 2577
- L/REMMAL, MEACC and LRQC — POWTR Yvonne Harvey, ext. 2514
- MEMA(L) — PO/REMMAL Mick Merritt, LWTR Mark Tolan, and WTR Jason Humphries, ext. 2579

Clearing up that AMC confusion

THERE is continued confusion over the award of a full or partial AMC. To qualify for Scale B pay, an MEM1 must obtain either a full AMC, or pass all of the AMC subjects for the ship in which he is serving.

If the AMC subjects in a ship number less than ten then a partial AMC is awarded. This is recorded on the AMC certificate (Form S443 revised 10/91) and the box ticked in the bottom right hand corner. A Form C170 should also be forwarded to Centurion.

A full AMC is awarded when a pass is obtained in ten approved subjects. This is required for advancement beyond MEM1 and its award is recorded by completing the S443 part 3 and again forwarding a C170 to Centurion.

If you are keen to gain a full AMC and are unable to do so in your present ship, talk to your training co-ordinator who may be able to make arrangements for you to obtain the missing subjects elsewhere.

Extra subjects

An MEM with a full AMC may find, on being drafted to a different class of ship, that there are additional subjects required — such as electric propulsion systems in a Type 23 or ICE main engines in a minor war vessel.

These additional subjects, over and above the original ten are recorded as endorsements on the AMC certificate and must be obtained within six months of joining, or the Scale B qualification and pay will be lost.

Similarly, an MEM with a partial AMC, in receipt of Scale B pay, on joining a different class of ship, must obtain any outstanding subjects available within six months or, again, Scale B pay on the AMC qualification will be lost.

The rules on this subject are at BR 2000(3)(1) Chapter 5. Further information can be obtained by contacting the External Feedback Officer, HMS Sultan ext. 2070.

CC rosters

Rosters for promotion to CCMEA(ML) and CCMEA(EL) are now both "intermediate". The last CPOMEAs to be promoted had waiting times of 25 months for the ML and five months for the EL. With the number of billets likely to continue to reduce, no improvement in the waiting time for promotion is likely in the near future.

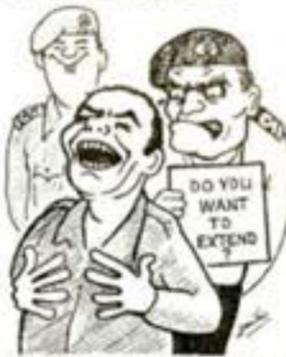
Bid early for extension

EACH week Drafty receives a large number of requests from ratings who wish to extend their time on board. The reasons vary — perhaps the ship is due some attractive deployment or possibly there are limited shore billets in the preferred base port area.

Drafty will approve your request to extend in a ship whenever possible, provided it is received before your relief is nominated. While drafting regulations require your relief to be given at least five months notice of a draft to sea, it is becoming increasingly necessary for drafting desks to work much further ahead than this.

The need to arrange PJT and ADQUAL courses, some of which occur infrequently, means that planning your relief's draft may start as much as nine months before

your estimated relief date shown on your draft order. The message is simple, if you wish to remain on board beyond your ERF, for whatever reason, make sure your C240 arrives on the drafting desk in plenty of time.



Cannot be serious? Of course I'm serious!

Navy News

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Simply the best!

Countess Mountbatten presents the Mountbatten Trophy to Cdr David Bernard, commanding officer of Exeter RNR unit HMS Pellew, judged the most efficient and effective Reserves training centre in the country. Ironically HMS Pellew is one of the RNR units destined to close as a result of the reorganisation of Britain's Reserve Forces.



Valiant to the finish

SHE MAY be decommissioning in the autumn, but HMS Valiant will remain busy right up to the moment of her going. A period of operational work-up followed her final refit, but details of her closing months' programme cannot be revealed for security reasons.

In the period running up to the refit in Rosyth, the Valiant took part in a naval exercise and was the vessel used for the Submarine Command Qualifying Course, the "Perisher".

The first all-British nuclear-powered submarine, HMS Valiant was laid down at Vickers Ltd, Barrow-in-Furness in June 1959, launched by Lady Thorneycroft in December 1963 and commissioned in July 1966.

From commissioning until 1970 she was based at the Third Submarine Squadron in Faslane. In 1967 she completed a record-breaking submerged passage from Singapore to the UK in 25 days. During that first commission she also visited Mauritius, Hamburg, La Spezia, Gibraltar, the United States and the West Indies.

In 1970 she began an extensive, pre-planned refit at HM Naval Base Chatham, which included a nuclear refuel. She was recommissioned in May 1972, the first of a new squadron of nuclear submarines to be based at Devonport.

Purification

She travelled as far as the United States again in her second commission and towards the end of 1976 docked down for essential defect repairs. Due to problems with feed water purification, this maintenance period was extended until June 1977.

HMS Valiant took part in the Silver Jubilee Spithead Review prior to arriving to Chatham in November 1977 for her second, pre-planned major refit. Again this included a nuclear refuel, in which she was given a new, high-power nuclear core.

On completion of this refit, the Valiant again joined the Third Submarine Squadron in Faslane. Her third commission took her from the north polar ice to the waters of the South Atlantic, and saw her, for the first time, at war, where the power of the nuclear submarine was demonstrated.

Having completed her third refit, at Rosyth Royal Dockyard in 1989, HMS Valiant embarked on her fourth commission.

STALWART OVER THIRTY YEARS

"FALKLAND Islands", a seventeenth battle honour, was won by the present HMS Valiant in 1982 and added to the impressive list garnered by previous ships of the name.

The first two HM ships Valiant were third rates, launched in 1759 at Chatham and 1807 on the Thames respectively. The third ship of the name was an iron armoured ship of 6,710 tons, launched at Poplar in 1863.

Lady Jellicoe launched the fourth HMS Valiant in November 1914. This 31,000 ton battleship, armed with eight 15 inch guns, 12 six inch guns, two 13 pounder anti-aircraft guns and four 21 inch torpedo tubes, was destined to distinguish herself in both world wars.

Built by Fairfield, Glasgow, she was commissioned for the Grand Fleet in 1916 and served at the Battle of Jutland. She was present at the surrender of the German Fleet in 1918.

Between the Wars she served mainly in the Mediterranean and Atlantic Fleets. She was engaged in Norway operations in 1940, including the bombardment of Narvik, later joining Force H (Gibraltar) and taking part in the bombardment of Oran.

The following year was eventful for her — the bombardment of Bardia, the Battle of Matapan and the bombard-

Pennant no: S102. Displacement, tons: 4,300 standard; 4,800 dived. Length: 285 feet. Beam: 33.2 ft. Draught: 27.5 ft. Main machinery: nuclear — Rolls Royce pressurised water reactor; 2 English Electric turbines, 15,000 hp (11.2 MW); 1 shaft; 2 diesel alternators; 2,200hp (1.64 MW); 1 motor for emergency drive; 1 auxiliary retractor prop. Complement: 130 (13 officers). Missiles: Sub-Harpoon surface-to-surface missiles; active radar homing to 130 km. Torpedoes: six 21 inch bow tubes, Marconi Tigerfish, wire-guided; 26 reloads. Mines: can be carried in place of torpedoes.

ment of Tripoli. During the Crete operation in May she was damaged by a bomb, and in December was damaged by limpet mine at Alexandria.

July 1943 saw the Valiant engaged on Operation Husky (Sicily). While two months later she was involved in the Salerno landing. She also participated in the bombardment of the Japanese-occupied installations at Sabang, Sumatra, in July 1944.

The Valiant finished her career as one of the four ships forming Imperieuse, Stokers' Training Ship at Devonport. She was sold to British Iron and Steel Corporation in March 1948, arriving at Cairnryan for breaking up in the August.

Battle honours

Belle Ile 1761 Havana II 1762 Ushant 1781 The Saints 1782 First of June 1794 Grolx Island 1795 Basque Roads 1809 Jutland 1916 Norway 1940 Mediterranean 1940-43 Malta Coveys 1941 Matapan 1941 Crete 1941 Sicily 1943 Salerno 1943 Sabang 1944 Falkland Islands 1982



PARTY TIME

A PARTY of ex-Valiants, most of whom had been in the crew when she first commissioned in 1966 or during that first commission, found "the ghosts soon started to appear" when they revisited the submarine as she lay alongside in Faslane.

Among the party was ex-Chief Mechanician Ernie Newton, who was literally first-of-crew in January 1963 (along with the late CERA Reg Samson) and is now secretary of the HM Submarine Valiant Association.

Legacies of a severe stroke six years ago meant his passage down the accommodation hatch wasn't the simple matter it once was for him, but many helpers "organised, assisted and otherwise persuaded" him down!

The Valiant Decommissioning Dance will take place at the Glasgow Hilton on Friday, July 22. It is open to all ex-Valiant members and details can be obtained from the Decommissioning Officer, HMS Valiant, BFPO 417.

Ex-Valiant officers, their wives and partners, are invited to attend a buffet supper on board HMS Victory on Friday, June 24. Applications for tickets (priced £30 to include supper and all drinks) should be addressed to the Commanding Officer, HMS Valiant, BFPO 417, with cheques made payable to "HMS Valiant Commemorative Evening."

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JACK

BY TUBS

YOU KNOW THAT BIG EXPENSIVE VALENTINE CARD I GOT—WITH THE RIBBON, AN' GOLD AN' RED ROSES?

—I SENT IT TO THAT WREN IN THE CAPTAIN'S OFFICE



I KNOW. I WATCHED HER PUT IT IN THE SHREDDER.



Letters

No half measures for tots

Cairnbawn aka HHZ

HAVING spent much time on, in and under the waters of the west coast of Scotland with the 12th Submarine Flotilla and subsequently, I am surprised to see the unwarranted attack upon your use of 'Cairnbawn' instead of the Gaelic. Either is acceptable and there are many examples of spellings being used which reflect the pronunciation of place names rather than the ethnic.

If Captain Watson is a true Scot and a descendant of the Irish race which invaded North Britain, he will be aware that there is enough argument among his fellows about nomenclature without undue pedantry.

I note that he does not offer an alternative understandable to your non-Gaelic readers who, I suspect, form the majority.

We, who were there, had no such problems, as the location was referred to as HHZ. I shall be back there in the Spring, on the switch-back road from Nedd. — F. W. Groombridge, Wigginton.

Thanks for fixing it

MY sincere thanks to everyone involved in setting up my jockey transfer between HMS Southampton and HMS Lancaster — to be screened on BBC TV's Jim'll Fix It programme.

The manoeuvre was superbly executed and most exhilarating — as well as evoking happy and memorable recollections of my own former Naval service in the frigates HMS Arethusa and Gurkha. — Fireman M. Fairhall, Newport, IOW.

SEVERAL arguments have been put forward, both for and against, why a service woman who becomes pregnant should leave or not leave the Service. There is one reason, however, that has not had much publicity in this country and I came across it first-hand.

During the Gulf War I was serving with the Americans and it was suddenly realised by them that service couples with children were being sent to the Gulf, not only to fight but to endure long periods of separation.

There were couples in the same units and some in different ones — and there was uproar in the US media.

"What about the children?" came the question. Well, there were of course relatives and friends who stepped in — but some had to be taken into care and even one who suffered that fate was seen to be one too many.

I smugly told them that this problem could never happen in the British Armed Forces because our women had a clause in their contracts telling them that they would have to leave if they became pregnant.

But we now have an ex-service woman being awarded a six-figure sum after she lost her job because of pregnancy — and a Naval officer actually complaining about the lack of children's creches. — P. Fitzgerald, Dartmouth.

FROM the letter in your December issue from a Lieutenant RN(W), it is evident that there is a general lack of resources throughout the Fleet for childcare facilities.

Previously, childcare was the domain of the naval wife and so what facilities were available were — and still are — centred around the Wives Club.

Here at HMS Seahawk we have organised and formed the

Culdrose Childcare Centre, otherwise known as 'Helitots'. To our knowledge this is the first childcare facility to operate on a RN establishment which will be registered with the Department of Social Services for full-time daycare of children from 0-5 years.

Helitots has superseded the Culdrose Wives Club creche and updated the premises in line with the Children's Act 1989. We employ qualified Nursery Nurses and Pre-school Playgroup Assistants. We also cater for one-parent families and are looking into the needs of personnel working at different times — eg. squadron early shifts.

We have found the whole project an immense challenge from its inception, but it is nonetheless rewarding, since we are catering for the largest establishment in the Fleet, with over 2,000 personnel, service and civilian.

An ever-increasing proportion of female staff are now returning to service on completion of maternity leave, and such provisions are more likely to be in demand in the future of a dual gender Navy. — M. Carradine, Chairperson, Culdrose Childcare Centre.

Pursuing a line

REGARDING the story 'Carrier support for the Tirpitz strike' (October 'Ship of the Royal Navy'), I was in HMS Pursuer from June 1943 when she was commissioned until just after the Japanese surrendered — and I was very excited because this was the first time I have read anything about her since the war ended! — M. Scott, Egham, Surrey.

PIPING POINTS

YOUR correspondent seeking advice on Bosun's Calls (November issue) need look no further than the Manual of Seamanship 1937. Between pages 436-7 a fold-up sheet tells how the Call is used for the 22 recognised 'calls' or 'piped orders'.

The hole in the buoy should be flat and round, the 'wind edge' being where the flattened end of the gun joins the buoy — the rest depends on practice! — S. Deighton, Reading.

Bending the truth

"SUBTLE as an air raid" (January issue) — I'm afraid you've got it wrong about Coventry being sacrificed to avoid compromising knowledge of German intelligence codes.

The reason the Luftwaffe managed to get through was not because we deliberately disregarded the intelligence but because our attempt to 'bend' the Knickebein beam, thereby deflecting the raids, was bungled due to the incorrect modulation frequency being applied to our own transmissions thus being filtered out by the German beam receivers.

The 'sacrifice' theory seems

SLAP ON WRIST FOR THAT SALUTE

THE Cutting Edge production 'Navy Blues' for the most part told its tale well, and provided a most interesting exposé of the toils and troubles the Queen's Navy has to contend with in these parlous times.

But for how long has that extraordinary pat-a-cake salute been in use?

The broken wrist tap on the cap peak may well serve the purpose of squashing flies and shielding the eyes at the same time, but it looks farcical.

The Army and Air Force

have not emulated this bizarre deference, so what is the Navy's explanation? Not low bulkheads, I trust, since the 'long way up, short way down' form served its purpose very well for dozens of decades. — J. Rawson, Cornwall.

Our thanks to other readers who made the same points. There has been no change to the RN salute. Trainees at HMS Raleigh report to their reporting officer every Tuesday forenoon when it is checked in accordance with BR 1934. By the time they leave Raleigh they ought to have got it right, flies or no flies ...

Differential treatment

WE are always being asked to treat our female counterparts on an equal basis, but while on a course at HMS Raleigh — the figurehead of all things correct in the RN — a few points came to my attention as I was temporarily accommodated in Wrens' quarters.

- Male ratings have to go to the bedding store to draw blankets minus sheets — while Wrens have bedding plus sheets issued to them in the block.

- Male ratings must carry kit on draft — Wrens have theirs passed through stores on to their next draft.

- Wrens have washing machines, tumble driers, hair driers, heated towel rails, etc — all for the same price male ratings pay.

You may think these drips are petty — but at the coal face I can assure you they are not.

Wrens having their sheets laundered weekly at no cost them was excused by us having Blue Liners — but they stopped years ago. — Unhappy matelot, HMS Raleigh.

HMS Raleigh comments: "As to bedding — Wrens were initially not issued with bedding at all, though they are now, and this is a question that needs ironing out (no pun intended) now that the WRNS has been absorbed into the RN. The offer of having kit passed through stores on to a next draft is available to both male and female ratings.

"Heated towel rails are thought to have been simply part of the building's designed heating system — but there are a number of anomalies that are being investigated post integration. For instance, the boys are required to take their hats off in chapel — the girls aren't."

to have got into World War II legend, but its falsity is well attested in various books on the subject, such as 'The Secret War' by Prof R. V. Jones. — J. Lindop, Duddon Common, Tarporley.

'Death trap' engine

IN answer to N. S. Nevard's letter 'Bringing back the Barracuda' (January issue) I believe there are no specimens left — though the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton has an engine from one that was dug out of a marsh after the war.

Our pilots called them death traps as, if they ditched it was difficult for both pilot and observer to get out of the cockpit. — P. A. Pattenden, Boughton, Chester.

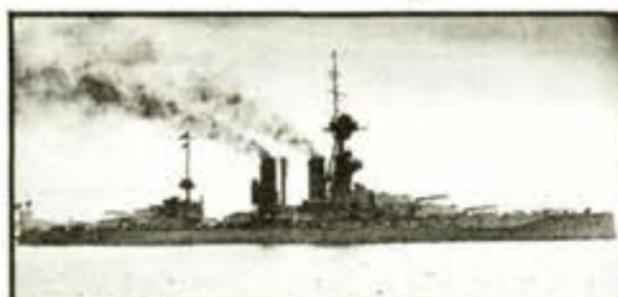
The FAA Museum does in fact have a Barracuda under reconstruction, using original parts where available. The project currently delayed due to lack of funds. — Ed.

Who's a pretty boy?

L. J. BUTLER'S letter in December's Navy News rang a bell with me — I joined the WRNS aged 17½ in 1942 and three years on attended Captain's Requestmen to request my three-year Good Conduct badge.

The captain looked at me kindly until his secretary advised him it should be refused. His expression turned to astonishment and then amusement when he was informed that my first six months was classed as Boy Service! — M. Simpson (nee Davies), Handbridge, Chester.

Pin-sharp in black and white



HMS Avenger's first visit by a British warship to Novorossiysk in living memory (November issue)? Well, at 94 I can still remember how after the Dardanelles were cleared of mines early in 1919 the Black Sea Fleet went to the aid of the White Russian Army under Generals Denekin and Wrangle.

The Fleet carried out bombardments of Communist positions from Sebastopol, Odessa — to Novorossiysk where the White Russians made their last stand.

We evacuated thousands of civilians to the island of Mudros in the Aegean and Batam in Armenia on the east coast of the Black Sea. Among the ships that made up the Fleet were the battleships Iron Duke, Marlborough, Benbow and Ajax — and my ship, the Emperor of India (pictured left). — B. R. Poole, Southsea.

No. 475 40th year

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Monte Bello ship sunk by Suez

REGARDING 'No cash for A bomb veterans' (January issue) I was captain of HMS Diana, detailed to be 'guinea pig' ship for the two A bomb explosions.

We became a close knit company and have remained so — after 38 years we can still muster over a hundred at our annual reunions.

Our case rests on the fact that we steamed through two separate fall outs a month apart on May 16 and June 19. On completion, we were due to return to Fremantle, but the Australians 'black'd' us.

Instead, we went to Singapore prior to returning to our station in the Mediterranean. We received no commendation for such a unique and hazardous peacetime operation.

Their Lordships and Diana's Flag Officer in the Mediterranean may have been more concerned with the pending Suez crisis. We were soon involved. Diana was ordered to Aden to be joined first by HMS Kenya and she in turn was relieved by HMS Newfoundland from the Far East.

The war started. On the first night Newfoundland and Diana sank the Egyptian frigate Domiat. Diana was overwhelmed by survivors for a week.

When we were released from Aden in the New Year we got home to Plymouth after a year's absence — and the great British public had forgotten Monte Bello. But the memory of those who served in Diana has lasted over the years.

Now Mr Rifkind has shut the door as a result of a report from the NRPB. Yet I wonder how

many of my 300 officers and men did the Board interview?

We ex-Dianas deplore the decision and remain disenchanted with the attitude of the MOD. — **J. R. Gower**, Hurlford by Kilmarnock.

THANKS to H. White of Bourne, Lincs for pointing out that the Christmas Island used for nuclear tests in 1957-58 was the one in the Pacific, 1,200 miles south of Hawaii — not the one in the Indian Ocean as we incorrectly stated last month. — **Ed**

Tall tale of a donkey

I HAVE just read something about the mascot for RNB Plymouth being a jackass! I was a Raleigh rating in 1941-42 and I never heard of such an animal having that title.

It is said that ratings were detailed off to groom this creature. Meths was supplied to clean its hooves and one enterprising chap used to mix this with his beer until he was caught and charged with being drunk in charge of a jackass.

Is this tale true? I've come across dogs, cats, parrots, monkeys — and even a cockerel — but a jackass? — **W. J. Davies**, Newport, Gwent.

More links with Olna

AS a former RFA Olna crew member I was interested to see the photograph of her refuelling HMS Guernsey in your January issue.

Olna has in fact 'RASed' smaller. On 8 May 1967 she carried out a dummy RAS with HMS Appleton which, as I understood it, served as a kind of feasibility exercise.

The actual fuel had been transferred the previous evening when Appleton tied up alongside the Olna, at anchor off Socotra.

This occurred during a five week in-and-out-of Aden period while Olna was on the way to Singapore with HMS Hermes — which included other novel replenishments.

On May 16 the homeward bound HMS Victorious was refuelled and the following day the merchant ship Clan Macgarttag of Glasgow, assisted by RFA Olynthus personnel, I believe, received the same service.

The latter, apparently with a fire in a hold, had been refused access to normal bunkering facilities at Aden. — **M. Oldham**, Exmouth.

LETTERS to the Editor should always be accompanied by the correspondent's name and address, not necessarily for publication.



Heads above water

TWO top class products of the new Warfare branch are among the first Operator Maintainers to pass out of HMS Dryad. Prize-winners of the OM2 course displaying their new Above Water Warfare branch badges are OM2 Christopher Sharpe (left), now serving in HMS Westminister, and OM2 Michael Hicks (HMS Exeter).

Brum big on air defence

HMS Birmingham is the first ship to receive the Wattisham Trophy, awarded by the Royal Air Force to the best Joint Maritime Air Defence Ship.

The citation stated that during 1992 the Type 42 destroyer strove to improve understanding of air defence operations on all fronts.

Her meticulous preparation and thorough briefing of participants in Joint Maritime Course 922 led to the best performance seen in recent years.

Birmingham deployed at the end of last month to the Mediterranean — and then to the Adriatic to join Standing Naval Force Atlantic in enforcing the UN economic embargo against the former Yugoslavia.

● Cdr Stephen Wilson, commanding officer of HMS Birmingham, receives the Wattisham Trophy from Air Vice-Marshal J. S. Allison at a ceremony at Bentley Priory.



Sea Cadets all fired up

MANY of your readers will have seen the recent episode of London Weekend Television's programme 'London's Burning', which depicted a unit of a fictional naval-uniformed youth organisation causing a fire in London's Dockland.

The youngsters were shown as scruffs and undisciplined and the adult staff as arrogant and stupid, with the result that the Unit was portrayed as not merely useless but positively dangerous.

There is only one youth organisation wearing naval uniform and having Units close to the Thames, the Sea Cadet Corps, which has, as a result, been the victim of his LWT misrepresentation.

Apart from the similarity in uniform and headquarters building, the fictional organisation bore no resemblance to the real Sea Cadet Corps.

Our 16,000 Cadets are smart and enthusiastic young people who, thanks to their devoted and well qualified staff, are learning not only nautical skills but also high personal standards, leadership, teamwork and good citizenship.

Those of your readers who have met them will know that this is true, but all too few people realise that our work is only partly sponsored by the Navy, and much of our support comes from charity.

It is particularly galling that at a time when effective youth work is more necessary than

ever before, and when charitable funds are particularly difficult to collect, the media should deliver a blow below the belt, albeit unintentionally, to a Corps, which is making such a marvellous voluntary contribution to society — **Peter Grindal**, Captain of the Sea Cadet Corps.

No rates capped?

December issue of Navy News carried a photograph of Flag Officer Royal Yachts welcoming the Prime Minister on board HMY Britannia.

Although Admiral Woodard and the Commander are wearing their caps, the Quartermaster and Bosun's Mate are bare-headed. Is this a tradition of the Royal Yacht or did the PM's arrival catch the gangway staff unprepared? — **Lt Cdr B. E. Seath**, RNXS Training Centre, Gravesend.

My secretary, whose husband is serving in HMY Britannia, tells me that when on Royal duty Senior and Junior rates do not wear caps abaft the mainmast. — **Ed**.

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Block booking for Warrior



AFTER seven years permanently moored alongside the harbour railway station in Portsmouth, HMS Warrior was moved to dry dock last month for a inspection of her hull.

The 134-year-old ironclad warship was towed into the dockyard's C Lock where she was settled on wooden blocks. There, her hull was examined for possible corrosion and her masts and rigging were inspected for weather damage. Her deck, which had borne the brunt of 165,000 pairs of feet over the last year, was also recaulked to stop water seeping into the gun deck below.

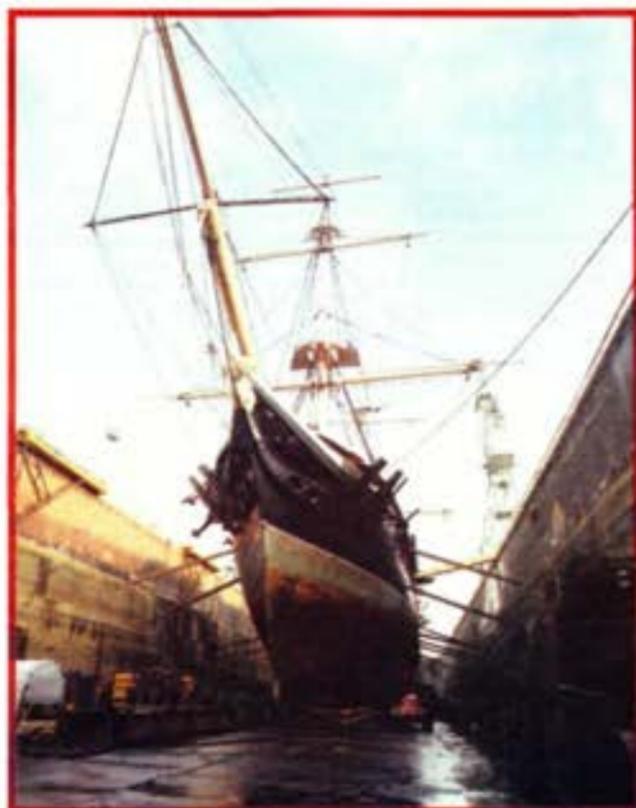
The 9,000 tonne ship was expected to be in dry dock for a month and will, hopefully, reopen to the public later in February.

● Left: HMS Warrior is gently eased into C Lock.

her blocks ready for a £250,000 overhaul.

● Below: The 9,000 tonne ironclad battleship rises from

Pictures: LA(Phot) Andy Pratt



Council award

VICTORY Building, which will house the majority of the new Second Sea Lord/CINCPAC-HOME (2SL/CNH) command headquarters, received its first accolade when it was presented with a coveted Good Planning Award by Portsmouth City Council Planning Committee.

The first directorates are now occupying their offices in the purpose-built HQ which will eventually house some 500 people by the end of March when Admiral Sir Michael Layard will join as the first 2SL/CNH.

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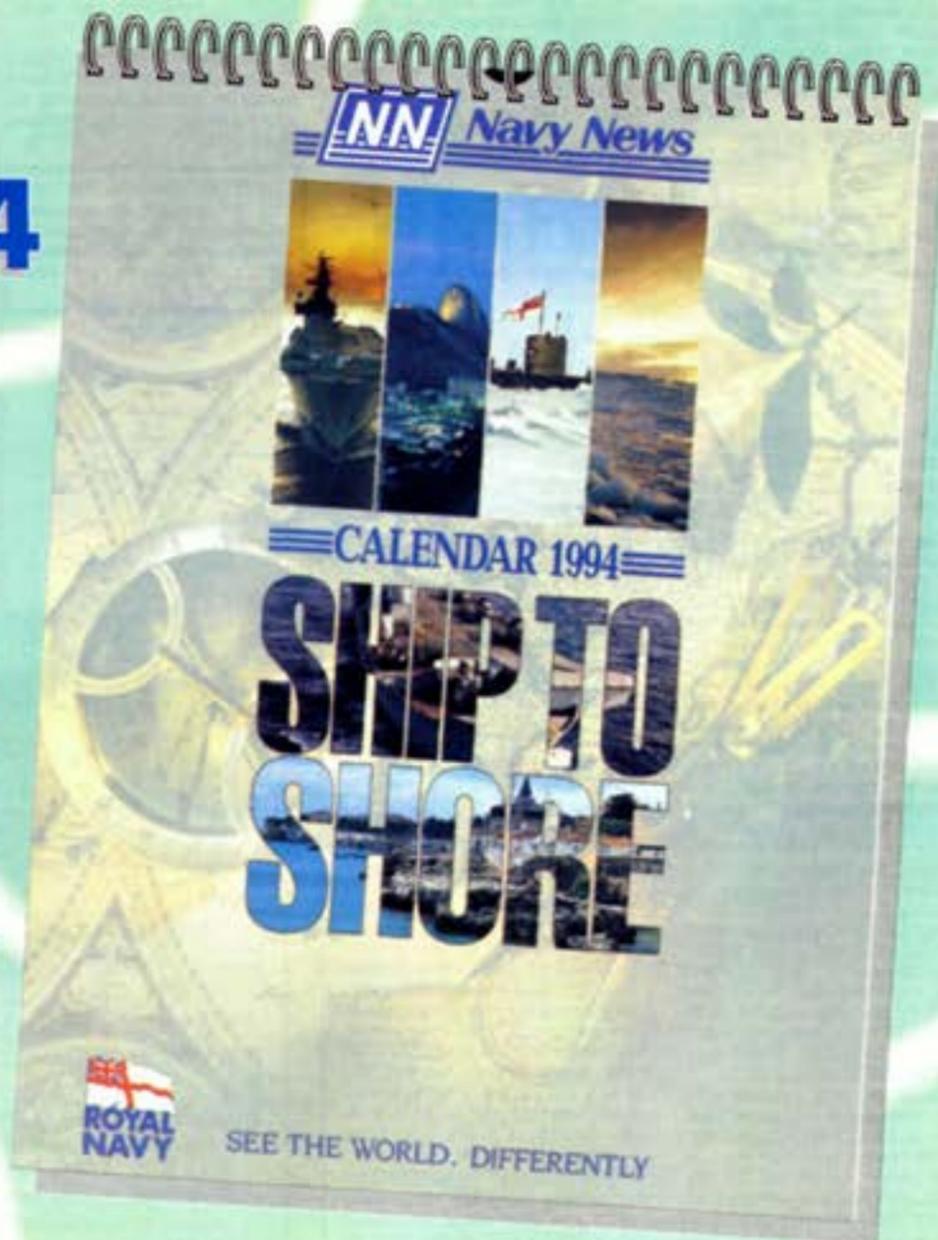
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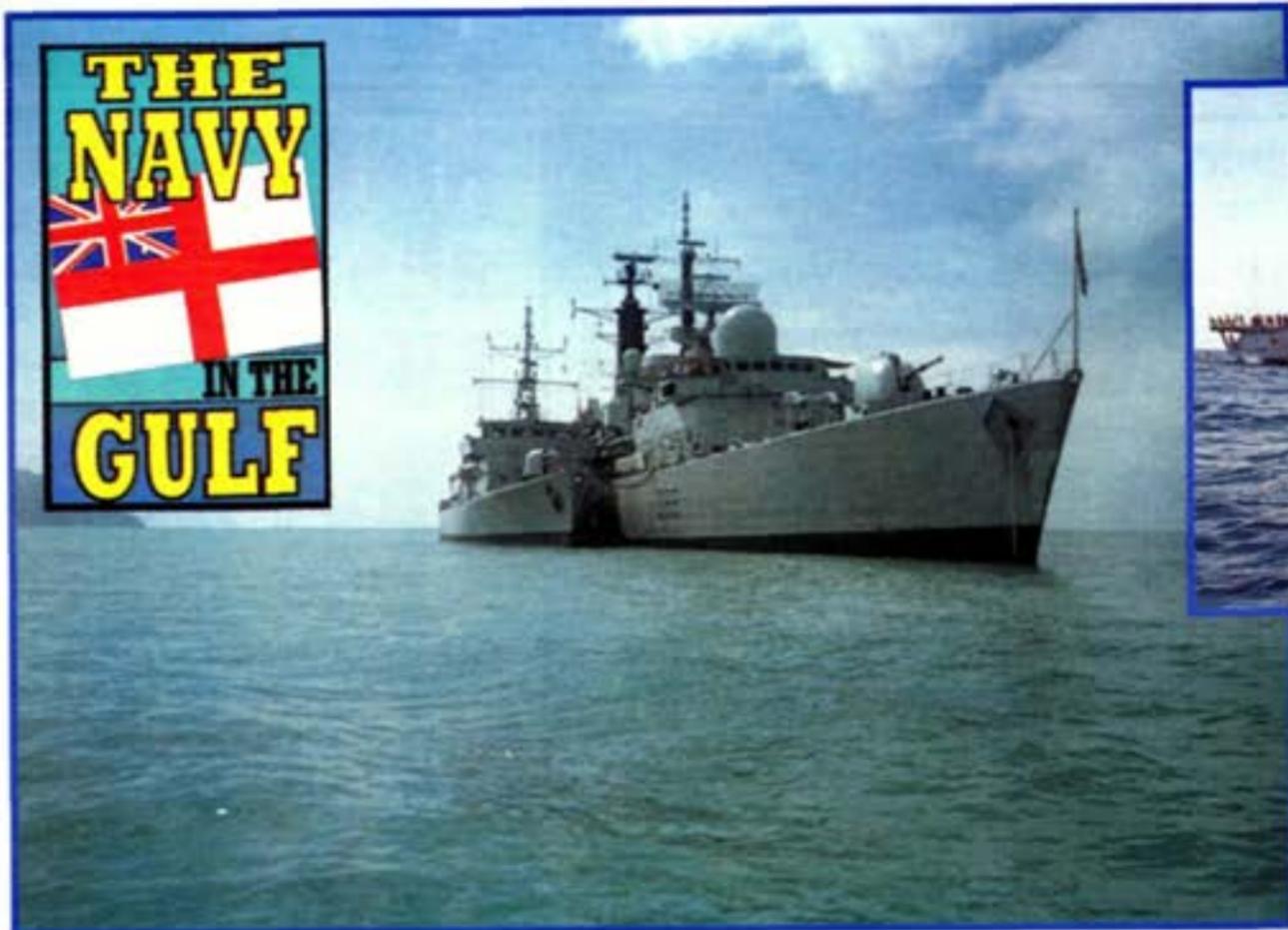
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CHITAGONG, BANGLADESH

The Bangladeshi port of Chitagong was visited by H.M.S. London while she was en route from Singapore to the Persian Gulf.





Sunshine boys take the heat

"HANDS to bathe!" ... no shortage of volunteers on board the Type 22 frigate HMS Campbeltown (top right) as members of her ship's company took the plunge in the Red Sea in temperatures which soared well-above 30 degrees.

The opportunity for a quick dip arose during Armilla patrol, a deployment shared with the Type 42 destroyer HMS Glasgow (pictured above, with HMS Peacock).

During their time in the Gulf both ships have taken part in a number of multi-national exercises. HMS Campbeltown joined up with the Russian Udaloy-class destroyer Admiral Vinogradov, a meeting which had been planned since before the new year when the two ships had met in the northern Gulf.

Ten officers and ratings

spent the day in each others' ships while Campbeltown's Lynx flew with the Russian Helix helicopter. There were also demonstrations of airborne boarding operations from both sides, with Russian marines "rapid roping" onto the frigate's flight deck before carrying out (between themselves!) hand-to-hand combat.

HMS Campbeltown's boarding party also took part in a joint inspection of the merchant ship Tephys with USS Elliott. Tephys was the first inbound trader for Iraq since the Gulf War and RN personnel

impressed the Americans by "rapid roping" from her Lynx while the Americans embarked, more sedately, by boat.

Meanwhile, en route to the Gulf, HMS Glasgow seized a rare chance to operate with the French Navy's corvette Detroyat, conducting various exercises including an extensive light Jackstay during which two members of the Glasgow's affiliated regiment, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Sgt Robert Ewan and Trooper Tom Boyd, placed themselves at the mercy and skill of both British and French matelots!

After a brief stop in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Glasgow teamed up with the French carrier Jeanne d'Arc and the Italian frigates Sagitario and Urania for a series of ASW and AAW serials. The European affiliation also found time for a bout of "Jeux sans Frontieres" on board the French ship, with Glasgow's team winning a rare British victory in the event.

Glasgow then paid a visit to the Malaysian island of Langkawi to take part in the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition where she anchored with ships of eight other navies off this tropical paradise. HMS Peacock was also in attendance, the two ships meeting up to share news and resources.

Glasgow's Lynx proved a big hit at the air displays, drawing large crowds as she sat proudly amid MiGs and Mirages. Among her many visitors during the exhibition were Rear Admiral Cobbold and representatives from the Thai and South African Navies.



● Top left: Fancy meeting you here! HMS Peacock ties up alongside HMS Glasgow during a visit to the Malaysian island of Langkawi.

● Top: Time for a dip ... HMS Campbeltown's ship's company cool off in the Red Sea.

● Above: Secretary of Defence Malcolm Rifkind enjoys a joke with HMS Campbeltown's cooks during a visit to the Type 22 frigate.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS GO TO GLEANER

WHILE surveying from Salcombe, Devon, HMSML Gleaner, the Navy's smallest commissioned ship, took the opportunity to celebrate her 10th birthday in style.

A birthday cake, painstakingly created by AB(SR) Phil Rowe and his assistant LS(SR) Hoagy Hogarth and made in the shape of Gleaner, was the centrepiece of the celebrations and was cut by the ship's sponsor, Mrs Margaret Read.

First prize

It was subsequently entered into the Surveying Squadron Christmas Cake Competition and won first prize.

HMSML Gleaner returned to Portsmouth for her winter lie-up and refit at Camper and Nicholson's Boatyard and she returns to the Plymouth area later this year to continue her surveys.



● The ship's sponsor, Mrs Margaret Read, cuts the cake with, from left, LS(SR) Hoagy Hogarth, Lt Derek Turner and AB(SR) Phil Rowe.

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Children In Need

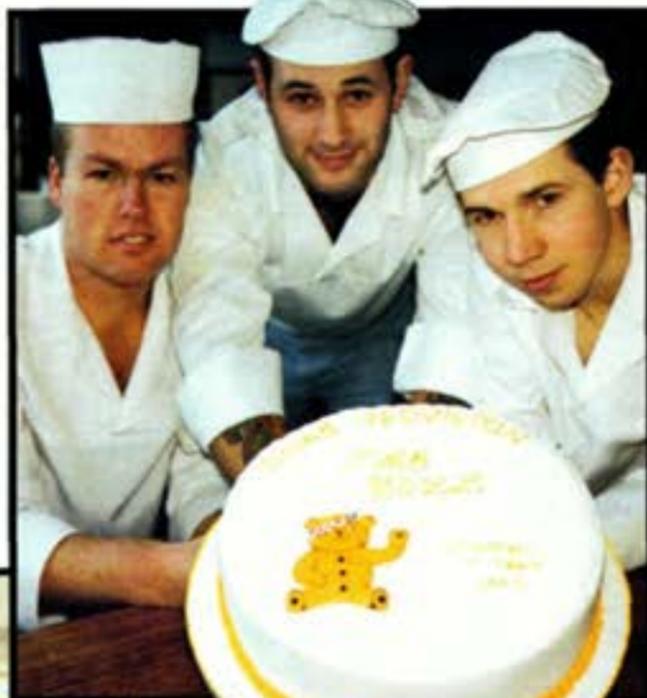


Pounds pour in for Pudsey

PERSONNEL throughout the Service found it "a piece of cake" raising money for the annual Children in Need Appeal, particularly CK David Bullock, pictured right (centre), with his colleagues LCK Mark Billson and CK Mark Copping from RN air station Yeovilton. David baked the cake which was then raffled at The Bull Inn, Ilchester. Wrens and staff at COMMCEN, Yeovilton, also raised money by washing cars all day in freezing weather.

UPO staff at HMS Osprey (below) led by Chief "Superman" Clarkson raised £310 during a fancy dress day. Overall, Osprey raised £2,500. Staff at RNH Haslar also donned fancy dress and after four hours travelling around the hospital dressed as pirates they raised £225.

HMS Collingwood organised a week of events in aid of the appeal which included a Vicars and Tarts disco, a five-a-side 12-hour football marathon, shoeshining, windscreen washing, it's a Knockout, a two-day swimathon, funny rig, a Wives' Club coffee morning and an Over-50s Divisions. The amount raised was in excess of £3,000.



Riders roar ahead for TV appeal

ON their bikes for Pudsey once again were the RN Motor Cycle Club who completed their marathon ride around naval establishments collecting for Children in Need.

Travelling over 2,500 miles during eight days and visiting 22 establishments from Scotland to South West Cornwall on six Sport for Television Kawasaki motorcycles, the team collected £7,000.

The Scottish leg of the tour was started by Capt. Ian Somerville at HMS Neptune and raised £1,400, while £100 was donated on behalf of the ship's Welfare Fund at HMS Daedalus.

Capt. Andrew Richie, captain of HMS Dryad, is pictured below presenting a cheque from the establishment's Charity Cheats to BBC South Today presenter Sally Taylor. HMS Dryad's collection for the Children in Need appeal totalled well in excess of £300.



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DIDN'T they do well? TV celebrity Rosemarie Ford, CCMEA Andy Ashford and Portsmouth goalkeeper Alan Knight are pictured having "lots" of fun during HMS Intrepid's charity auction in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital's Winston Churchill Ward.

Gifts ranged from designer clothes, trips to adventure parks, day visits to the Hilton and

Waldorf Hotels in London and, to make The Generation Game hostess feel really at home, there were even a few cuddly toys!

The auction, which was attended by Ward Sister June Robertson and play specialist Gemma Blackie from Great Ormond Street as well as Pompey players Kit Symons and Bjorn Kristensen, raised £3,558.

Farewell to fish and ships

IN a ceremony presided over by Commander Fishery Protection Squadron, Cdr Bill Chambers, HMS Blackwater's fish pennant was finally hauled down. Blackwater had just completed her last patrol as part of the Fishery Protection Squadron, the only one of her class to fulfil this role.

Commissioned in 1985 Blackwater has been with the FPS for eight years and will now undergo a period of DED before being re-tasked with three other ships of her class.

Seen here lowering the pennant with CFPS is Lt Cdr Crispin Morton, the ship's commanding officer, who is leaving to become senior pilot of 819 Squadron.

Record year for KGFS

A £2.2 million grants' allocation to 80 maritime organisations supporting seafarers and their families will be made by the KGFS during 1994.

In a year which marks the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings, the record amount of £2,278,508 is a fitting tribute to the many seafaring veterans now in their 70s and increasingly reliant upon external assistance. In recognition of this, emphasis has been given to 24 almonising funds such as the RNBT (£248,000) and Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society (£315,000).

Hospitals, homes and sheltered housing for seafarers and their dependants continue to receive extensive help from KGFS. In total, 32 grants of £477,400 will be made this year with amounts ranging from £1,000 for Queen Elizabeth Foundation for Disabled People (training for disabled seafarers) to £70,000 for the Royal Alfred Seafarers' Society's hospitals and homes in Banstead and Eastbourne.

Grants to assist with the welfare and education of children total £446,558 and this amount will be distributed to children's homes, training ships and schools plus scholarships and bursaries for seafarers' dependants. The lion's share of £195,000 is made to the RN and RM Children's Trust which supports 129 RN children.

The Royal Merchant Navy School Foundation similarly provides educational support for children whose parents are suffering severe financial hardship.

"KGFS distributes grants to charitable institutions covering all areas of seafaring — the RN, Merchant Navy and fishing fleets and others," said KGFS director general Capt. Martin Appleton. "Despite the harsh economic climate, we are delighted that the fund is able to increase its grants' allocation during a period which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic and the D-Day landings."



SMOKE ON THE WATER

A TWO-DAY visit by three members of the ship's company of HMS Marlborough to Wiltshire Fire Brigade has forged closer working, sporting and recreational links.

CPO(OPS)(R) Snowy Winter, Lt David Stephenson and CPOMEM(M) Gordon Marson were taken through the smoke chamber at Westlea Fire Station and enjoyed a "white knuckle" ride in the new 30M Aerial Platform at Swindon. The men also paid a social visit to Marlborough station.

Queen's day out

AS part of the celebrations marking the tercentenary of Greenwich Hospital, in May, the Queen will attend a parade and inspect naval divisions by pupils of The Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, at the National Maritime Museum.

Masters of the Rolls

HMS Ledbury has been awarded the Rolls-Royce FD12 Trophy for engineering efficiency which was presented by COMMW, Commodore Richard Moore, by representatives of Rolls-Royce.

COMMW in turn presented the trophy to LMEM(M) Craig Jones, whose responsibilities include maintenance of the ship's three Rolls-Royce FD12 generators.

Following the presentation, a champagne reception was held on the bridge before some of the members of the ship's company were offered a drive of a Bentley Turbo.

JACIG's cutting edge



RAF Scampton, in Lincs., was the venue for an unusual celebration marking the third anniversary of the signing of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, an agreement between Nato and the former Warsaw Pact to limit the threat of conflict between the two parties.

Teams of Navy, Army, RAF and civilian personnel of the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (JACIG) have carried out over 60 reduction inspections into former Warsaw Pact countries and have witnessed the destruction of thousands of pieces of military equipment ranging from tanks, artillery and armoured vehicles to helicopters and fighter aircraft.

To celebrate the event, a cake, loosely disguised as a tank, was "reduced" by using a sabre, cast from the scrap metal of a Polish armoured vehicle which has been reduced under the CFE treaty. The Commandant of

JACIG, Group Captain David Bremner, said, "During this reduction period members of JACIG have witnessed the destruction of over 10,000 items of Treaty Limited Equipment. We are proud of this achievement and to mark the occasion we are destroying yet another 'tank'."

Pictured at the ceremony are, from left, Capt Ziggy Fec RM, Major Viv Gwillim RM, Lt Cdr Richard Stanton, Group Captain David Bremner, Cdr Ron Edmonds (senior naval officer), PO Will Scarlett and Lt Graham Hudson.

A few days after the picture was taken Cdr Edmonds lead a joint service team, which included PO Scarlett, on a CFE inspection to Kaliningrad, a Russian Federation enclave between Poland and Lithuania. This was quite a change for Ron who, this time last year, was senior British Loan Service Officer, Eastern Caribbean, based in Barbados!

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All Blacks outing

NEW Zealand's All Blacks, the world's most famous rugby team, took time off from their British tour to visit HMS Coventry. Skipper Sean Fitzpatrick and his squad were welcomed on board by skipper Capt. Christopher Stanford and his team.

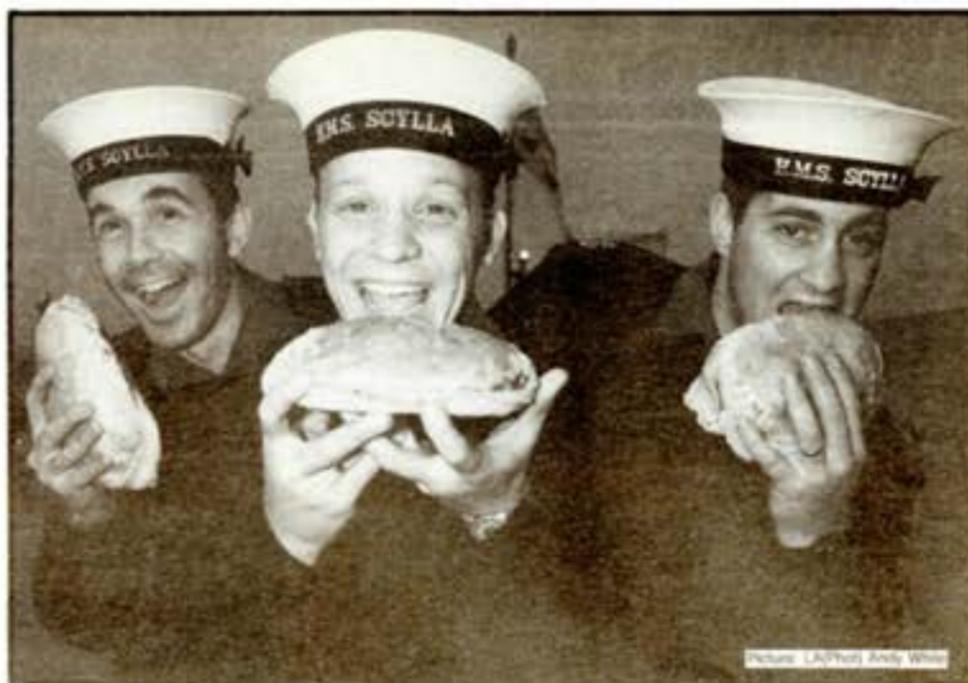
Pictured (above) in the ops room are All Blacks Zinzan Brook and Jamie Joseph (top) learning a little about the work of AB Joby Trow and ABWren Alison Caffry.

Picture: PO(Phot) Ken Pearce

Oggie, oggie, oggie!

MAKING the most of HMS Scylla's last call at Devonport are (l-r) LS Shaun McPherson, AB(R) Sicknote Shipley and LS Brum Claytor, who are pictured tucking into three of the 200 Cornish pasties the ship delivered during the visit.

The Exocet Leander made the fleeting, two-hour stopover to say a fond farewell to the shipyard which built her 25 years ago. HMS Scylla was the 308th — and very last — warship to be built at Devonport and is held in fond affection by the dockyard workforce.



Picture: LA(Phot) Andy White



People in the News



Salford visit

COMMODORE Ian Pemberton RNR called at HMS Salford in Manchester for a prize giving and medal presentation. He congratulated among others POWTSA Lynn Mellor, winner of the Watters Cup, on being judged to have contributed most to the unit.

As a result of defence cuts, HMS Salford is facing closure, but many of the ship's company will be transferring to the new RNR Centre in Liverpool.



Greenwich lifesaver

MINISTER for Defence Procurement, Mr Jonathan Aitken MP, visited RNC Greenwich to present the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct to a member of the MOD police based there, Sgt Gordon Thomas.

The award celebrated Gordon's courage in rescuing a drowning man from the Thames in 1991. But the policeman, who has 30 years' exemplary service to his name, has since helped to save another life, this time of someone who had been seriously injured.

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Luck-key!
LRO Dave Gillin proudly collects the keys to his new car from his commanding officer on board HMS Liverpool, Cdr Peter St Clair Steel.
Dave won the Mini in a raffle of board the Type 42 destroyer and collected it on the jetty at Portsmouth when she returned home from deployment to the Gulf.

Gun lore
HAVING spent two months with REME Wing, the Royal School of Artillery, LWEM(O) Michael O'Kane (Collingwood) has worked on the inspection and repair of the vast range of British Army tracked and towed artillery guns. And he must be the only serving member of the RN to have worked on the old 5.5 inch gun, last used as the secondary armament of the battlecruiser HMS Hood.

LIMITED EDITION of the "Queen Mary" Nelson Life Mask
The Nelson Society has arranged to reproduce, for sale, a Limited Edition of 300 copies of the "Queen Mary" Nelson Mask in the Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth. It has been established that the original of this mask was made directly from Nelson's face during his visit to Vietnam in 1800. Each mask in the edition will be hand made in white plaster and given a surface patina to match the original. It will be securely mounted on an oak plaque bearing a title plate in solid brass engraved with its own individual number within the edition between 1 and 300 and the etched inscription: VICE ADMIRAL LORD NELSON R.N.
The reproduction of the "Queen Mary" Nelson Mask is produced with the kind permission of the Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth, England by THE NELSON SOCIETY. No. XXX of a Limited Edition of 300.
The plaque will have a hinged lid for hanging and may be ordered in natural oak or stained medium or dark before painting. An optional extra the mask mounted on the oak plaque can be supplied in a protective display case with a convex perspex front.

The Mask mounted on oak plaque with oak display case and perspex front.

The Mask mounted on oak plaque in oak display case with a convex perspex front.
PLEASE ORDER IN THE FOLLOWING FORM
Please reserve for me Nelson Mask(s) for which I enclose a deposit of £25.00 each.
Name and Address (CAPITALS)
.....
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I wish the invoice of the published oak to be: (a) Natural (b) Medium (c) Dark
When your mask is ready you will be invoiced and asked to pay the balance due plus postage and packing of either £6.50 for delivery in the U.K., £10 in Europe or £22.50 for airmail outside Europe.
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Please write to: Alan Pugh, Undersecretary, The Nelson Society, Devonshire House, 112, U.K.

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WARDS OF PORT



Picture: LA(Phot) Gary Hay

SHARKY, Sharky and Sharky Ward met up in Plymouth to catch up on family news and generally enjoy the festive season — witness the mince pies.

The brothers (pictured left to right) are otherwise known as Jake, Ian and Alistair. In fact CPOMEA(M) Ian Ward and WEM(R) Jake Ward

see each other pretty regularly, as both are members of the ship's company of HMS Montrose.

LCK Alistair Ward actually lives in Plymouth, but serves on board HMS Brilliant. He's been in the Royal Navy for 15 years, six short of his brother Ian. At just 21 youngest of the family, Jake, has some way to go.



People in the News



To everything its season



PUTTING the salt into the Navy ... cooks on board the Duke class frigate HMS Norfolk adjust the seasoning as lunch is about to be served. LCK Dickie Davis, WCK Emma McBride and CK Topsy Turner seem pleased with the result of their labours.



Making a song and dance!

LURED by the prospect of showing off at Trafalgar Night dinners, this motley crew assembled under the banner, the Rosia Bay Hornblowers. Now they've made their mark as very able singers of sea shanties.

They came together under the guidance of Lt Cdr Tim Appleyard, commanding officer of the Gibraltar Squadron and organist at King's Chapel on the Rock. He arranged the shanties for three part male voices and the Hornblowers were away.

They've performed for children at St Christopher's School — where two of their number (Gerard Flynn and John Woodcock) are teachers, and for the Govern-

ment of Gibraltar, Field Marshal Sir John Chapple. They've also given a Royal Command Performance — to Lt Cdr The Duke of York, who was visiting Gibraltar as CO of HMS Cottesmore, and stunned Commander British Forces Gibraltar, Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders, with a shanty written especially for him. The words have sadly been lost and the lines live on only in the memories of those who heard it performed!

Pictured front are Lt Cdr Ian Carlton and Lt Ron Kenny. Back (l-r) Mr Flynn, Lt Cdr Appleyard, Lt Cdr Peter McDonnell, Surgeon Lt Cdr Mike Howell and Mr Woodcock.

Picture: SAC Jules Haque

SWORD AWARD ASSURED

AS THE Supply Candidate to have performed best on the SD list officer courses at Britannia and Greenwich Royal Naval Colleges S/Lt John Rees was presented with a sword.



Such an award is made annually. In the past the sword has been provided by the computer company Digital, but the firm has now withdrawn its sponsorship. Stepping in to fill the breach, however, came Hewlett-Packard.

The new sponsor's UK Marketing MD, Mr Bill Russell, went along to HMS Raleigh to present John with the first Hewlett-Packard Sword.

Since completing his courses at Dartmouth and Greenwich, John has been Raleigh's Catering Officer.

Field work for Pippa

COLOUR Sgt Pip Phillips applies the finishing touches to 15-year-old Pippa Perry's camouflage.

Pippa sought the advice of an expert in camouflage and concealment to help her with a project for a GCSE examination at Park School, Yeovil.

Pip learned his skills in the Royal Marine Commandos. He is currently serving with 3 Brigade Air Squadron at RNAS Yeovilton. Previously he has served in the Gulf Conflict and in Northern Ireland.



G'DAY, MOWDAY



EX-WREN Cinema Operator Jo Mowday, who has lived in Australia for over 40 years, made a nostalgic trip back to RNAS Culdrose. She showed the first instructional film there when the air station opened in 1947.

Her tour of the establishment included a female accommodation block, 706 NAS — where many Wrens are currently serving — and the station cinema, which replaced the original building in the 1970s.

She's pictured with modern day counterpart, Wren(ETS) Mel Thomson, getting into a tangle in the projection room.

First class care

SNO Shelagh Perch QARNNS has been commended by NATO's Commander in Chief Iberian Atlantic Area for the "sensitivity, humanity and tact" with which she has carried out her duties as the Nursing Sister at the CINC-IBERLANT medical centre.

In his letter of commendation, Vice-Admiral Narciso do Carmo Duro, paid tribute to Shelagh's exceptional dedication in caring for expectant mothers, through from early pregnancy to the happy event, and to her ability to forge strong bonds with all the family.

The Ruth Carter Prize for Nurses, awarded to a Nurse Rating who has made a notable contribution towards nursing and patient care in the Royal Navy, has gone to CPOMT(N) Clifford Taylor.

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Don't let age hold you back

I LEFT the Navy 11 months ago after 34 years' service and at the age of 50.

I prepared for Civvy Street by completing various courses in my last two years' service, including quality control, micro-electronics and engineering management which I selected for my resettlement course.

During resettlement leave I started applying for various jobs (which eventually totalled 93 applications) to all parts of the UK and abroad.

Qualities

Four months ago I received a call from a water company for an interview for a technician's job. I did not expect to get it as the company stated "target age 25-30." I was accepted mainly because of my varied service record and the known qualities of Service personnel.

My advice to leavers is to start resettlement during your last two years or earlier, keep applying for a wide range of jobs, and be flexible.

Do not be put off by age requirements — because at the interview you will have a wealth of Service experience that will help you secure the job. — J. Reeve, Ex-WOWEA Submariner.

● Write to Navy News with your concerns about resettlement. Address your letters to "Going Outside", Navy News, Barham Block, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, Hants PO1 3HH.

'Urgent need' to improve jobs briefings

MOST Service leavers cannot identify their skills in civilian terms, according to 80 per cent of the employment officers working for the Regular Forces Employment Association.

And the majority of the RFEA's 40 employment officers do not believe that ex-Regulars are aware of their "employability" and likely salary, nor are they aware of the commercial needs of employers.

The opinions were revealed by a RFEA survey published in the Association's report to its annual general meeting.

MOD action

Presenting the results of the survey on behalf of the employment officers, Mr Tony Wood said the Ministry of Defence had recognised an urgent need to improve the briefing of Service people on the realities of commercial life.

He added: "We, the employment officers, spend a lot of time helping ex-Regulars to appreciate the skills they have and to express them in civilian terms."

"Only people with experience of both cultures can do

this successfully and I know the Ministry has recognised this point and is presently considering action. NVQs (National Vocational Qualifications) will go a long way to helping here."

At the meeting, the Association president, General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, said ex-Regulars continued to be reluctant to undergo training despite encouragement by education, resettlement and employment officers.

"There are two main reasons for this: benefits do not cover the financial commitments

such as mortgages; and a perception that few jobs result directly from training — at least at the moment during the recession."

He said steps to end the reluctance must continue "at all levels", and attention should be drawn to Government policy and allowances.

● In last month's Navy News the contact number given for the RFEA was the head office FAX number. The correct number for inquiries is 071 637-3918 or Portsmouth (0705) 663991.

COUNTDOWN TO RELEASE DATE

COUNTDOWN for going outside is suggested in the pamphlet "A New Beginning — Preparations for Change".

Actions should begin up to 30 months before release date (or 18 months if you are giving notice).

At that stage complete MOD Form 165 and attend an initial interview with your resettlement information officer. You should also attend a Second Career Advice briefing if you are an officer or senior rate, and plan to attend other career, regional and specialist briefings (applying on MOD Form 363).

You should consider familiarisation attachment and undertake further educational or vocational training.

Eight months before release complete Employ-

ment Service Form ES 828 and arrange a final interview with your RIO or NRIO. Apply for the "Applying for a Job" briefing and consider either a pre-release vocational training course or a civilian attachment.

Two months later you should actively study the jobs market, do your research and start applying for jobs. Attend the "Applying for a Job" briefing and do pre-release vocational training either on civilian attachment or on a resettlement course.

One month before release, you start your terminal leave.

On release embark upon your new career. Take up employment or pursue further educational and vocational training independently or through the Employment Training Scheme.

DIARY DATES

ADVICE and guidance to leavers will be available to allcomers when Hampshire Training Enterprise Council's Mobile Information Centre visits HMS Nelson, Portsmouth on February 3. The centre will be parked

all day outside the Portsmouth Area Resettlement Centre in Rodney Block.

Buying a shop?

THE first national consumer show designed for people aiming to buy a shop or business is being staged at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, on May 6-8.

Dalton's Weekly "Buying a Business Show" is being organised by MGB Exhibitions Ltd. For further information contact Susannah Jones (tel. 081-302 8685) or Debbie Griffiths (tel. 081-855 7777 ext. 5535).

Franchise show

FOR anyone thinking of starting their own business, the British Franchise Association is sponsoring the Spring National Franchise Exhibition at the National Hall, Olympia, on April 15-17.

The exhibition features more than 100 companies looking for new franchisees in areas as

diverse as fast food, retailing, cleaning, fashion, home improvements and businesses services. There will be free seminars on the legal, financial and practical aspects of franchising as well as advice from banks, lawyers and specialist consultants.

Discount tickets at £8 single or £12 for two, and an information pack are available from Ann Rea Clark, Blenheim Events, Blenheim House, 630

Chiswick High Road, London W4 5BG (tel. 081-742 2828).

Presentations

IN February and March the following career presentations are planned in HMS Nelson, Portsmouth.

FEBRUARY

8th — Careers with Canada Life; 9th — Careers in the licensed trade; 10th — University of Greenwich resettlement course; 11th — Coastguard Service; 14th — Careers with Allied Dunbar; 16th — Supervisory Management; 18th — Further and higher education; 23rd — Employment Service: benefits, job clubs, etc.; 25th — Sales and marketing.

MARCH

1st — Careers with general portfolio; 4th — Franchising — a simple guide; 8th — NatWest — financial aspects (officers); 9th — NatWest — financial aspects (ratings); 10th — Tax in the civilian world; 14th — Lloyds — financial aspects (officers); 15th — Lloyds — financial aspects (ratings); 16th — Employment Service: benefits, job clubs, etc.; 18th — Careers with Sun Alliance; 21st — Careers in health and safety; 23rd — Network marketing; 24th — Careers with Acuma Financial Services; 28th — GoWest — financial aspects; 29th — So you want to be a driving instructor?

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Jobsearch for Ark

MEMBERS of the ship's company of HMS Ark Royal were offered a special Jobsearch Workshop at Portsmouth before the ship left for Adriatic deployment. Here, workshop presenter Elizabeth Scott advises LSA Mark Eddington. Picture: LA(PHOT) Steve Saywell

Get Wise on DCIs

RATES IN BRIEF

A new Relative Rates Table, standardising titles, where possible, across all branches and sub branches, shows changes in titles and abbreviations that came into effect last month.

Since so many readers have lately expressed confusion over the number and increasing complexity of these, we have decided to print the list of rates and abbreviations. The full table is given under DCI RN 273/93.

Operations Branch (Seaman Group)
 Chief Petty Officer (Operations) (Electronic Warfare) WO(EW)(C)
 Petty Officer (Electronic Warfare) PO(EW)(C)
 Leading Seaman (Electronic Warfare) LSEW
 Able Seaman (Electronic Warfare) ASEW
 Seaman (Electronic Warfare) SEW
 Junior Seaman (Electronic Warfare) 1st Class JS(EW)1
 1st Class Junior Seaman (Electronic Warfare) 2nd Class JS(EW)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(M)
 Chief Petty Officer (Operations/Missile) CPO(M)
 Petty Officer (Missile) PO(M)
 Leading Seaman (Missile) LSE(M)
 Able Seaman (Missile) ASE(M)
 Seaman (Missile) SM
 Junior Seaman (Missile) 1st Class JS(M)1
 Junior Seaman (Missile) 2nd Class JS(M)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(R)
 Chief Petty Officer (Operations/Radar) CPO(R)
 Petty Officer (Radar) PO(R)
 Leading Seaman (Radar) LSE(R)
 Able Seaman (Radar) ASE(R)
 Seaman (Radar) SR
 Junior Seaman (Radar) 1st Class JS(R)1
 Junior Seaman (Radar) 2nd Class JS(R)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(S)
 Chief Petty Officer (Operations/Sonar) CPO(S)
 Petty Officer (Sonar) PO(S)
 Leading Seaman (Sonar) LSE(S)
 Able Seaman (Sonar) ASE(S)
 Seaman (Sonar) SR
 Junior Seaman (Sonar) 1st Class JS(S)1
 Junior Seaman (Sonar) 2nd Class JS(S)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(D)
 Chief Petty Officer (Diver) CPO(D)
 Petty Officer (Diver) PO(D)
 Leading Seaman (Diver) LSE(D)
 Able Seaman (Diver) ASE(D)
 Seaman (Diver) SD
 Warrant Officer W(O)(M)(W)
 Chief Petty Officer (Mine Warfare) CPO(M)(W)
 Petty Officer (Mine Warfare) PO(M)(W)
 Leading Seaman (Mine Warfare) LSE(M)(W)
 Able Seaman (Mine Warfare) ASE(M)(W)
 Seaman (Mine Warfare) SM(W)
 Junior Seaman (Mine Warfare) 1st Class JS(M)(W)1
 Junior Seaman (Mine Warfare) 2nd Class JS(M)(W)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(S)(R)
 Chief Petty Officer (Surveillance) CPO(S)(R)
 Petty Officer (Surveillance) PO(S)(R)
 Leading Seaman (Surveillance) LSE(S)(R)
 Able Seaman (Surveillance) ASE(S)(R)
 Seaman (Surveillance) SR
 Junior Seaman (Surveillance) 1st Class JS(S)(R)1
 Junior Seaman (Surveillance) 2nd Class JS(S)(R)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(S)(A)
 Chief Petty Officer (Seamanship) CPO(S)(A)
 Petty Officer (Seamanship) PO(S)(A)
 Leading Seaman (Seamanship) LSE(S)(A)
 Able Seaman (Seamanship) ASE(S)(A)
 Seaman (Seamanship) SR

Junior Wren(Sonar) 2nd Class JW(S)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(D)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Diver) CPO(W)(D)
 Petty Officer Wren(Diver) POW(D)
 Leading Wren(Diver) LW(D)
 Able Wren(Diver) AW(D)
 Wren(Diver) WD
 Junior Wren(Diver) 1st Class JW(D)1
 Junior Wren(Diver) 2nd Class JW(D)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(M)(W)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Mine Warfare) CPO(W)(M)(W)
 Petty Officer Wren(Mine Warfare) POW(M)(W)
 Leading Wren(Mine Warfare) LW(M)(W)
 Able Wren(Mine Warfare) AW(M)(W)
 Wren(Mine Warfare) W(M)(W)
 Junior Wren(Mine Warfare) 1st Class JW(M)(W)1
 Junior Wren(Mine Warfare) 2nd Class JW(M)(W)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(S)(R)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Surveillance) CPO(W)(S)(R)
 Petty Officer Wren(Surveillance) POW(S)(R)
 Leading Wren(Surveillance) LW(S)(R)
 Able Wren(Surveillance) AW(S)(R)
 Wren(Surveillance) W(S)(R)
 Junior Wren(Surveillance) 1st Class JW(S)(R)1
 Junior Wren(Surveillance) 2nd Class JW(S)(R)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(S)(A)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Seamanship) CPO(W)(S)(A)
 Petty Officer Wren(Seamanship) POW(S)(A)
 Leading Wren(Seamanship) LW(S)(A)
 Able Wren(Seamanship) AW(S)(A)
 Wren(Seamanship) W(S)(A)
 Junior Wren(Seamanship) 1st Class JW(S)(A)1
 Junior Wren(Seamanship) 2nd Class JW(S)(A)2

Operations Branch Female Seaman Group - Not Categorized
 Wren(Operator) W(O)
 Junior Wren(Operator) 1st Class JW(O)1
 Junior Wren(Operator) 2nd Class JW(O)2

Operations Branch/Communications Group
 Warrant Officer W(O)(C)
 Chief Petty Officer (Communications) CPO(C)
 Petty Officer (Communications) PO(C)
 Leading Radio Operator LRO
 Radio Operator 1st Class RO1
 Radio Operator 2nd Class RO2
 Junior Radio Operator 1st Class JRO1
 Junior Radio Operator 2nd Class JRO2

Operations Branch/Female Communications Group
 Warrant Officer W(O)(C)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Communications) CPO(W)(C)
 Petty Officer Wren(Communications) POW(W)(C)
 Leading Wren Radio Operator LWRO
 Wren Radio Operator 1st Class WRO1
 Wren Radio Operator 2nd Class WRO2
 Junior Wren Radio Operator 1st Class JWRO1
 Junior Wren Radio Operator 2nd Class JWRO2

Operations Branch/Existing Male and Female Groups
 Warrant Officer W(O)(C)
 Chief Petty Officer CPO(C)
 Communications Yeoman Petty Officer CPOCY
 Communications Yeoman Leading Radio Operator(L) LRO(L)
 Radio Operator(T) 1st Class RO(T)1
 Radio Operator(T) 2nd Class RO(T)2
 Junior Radio Operator(T) 1st Class JRO(T)1
 Junior Radio Operator(T) 2nd Class JRO(T)2

Warrant Officer W(O)(SSM)
 Chief Petty Officer (Operations/Tactical Systems) CPO(T)(SSM)
 Petty Officer (Tactical Systems) PO(T)(SSM)
 Leading Seaman (Tactical Systems) LSE(T)(SSM)
 Able Seaman (Tactical Systems) ASE(T)(SSM)
 Seaman (Tactical Systems) ST(SSM)
 Junior Seaman (Tactical Systems) JS(T)(SSM)
 1st Class JS(T)(SSM)1
 Junior Seaman (Tactical Systems) 2nd Class JS(T)(SSM)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(U)(SM)
 Chief Petty Officer (Underwater Weapons) CPO(U)(SM)
 Petty Officer (Underwater Weapons) PO(U)(SM)
 Leading Seaman (Underwater Weapons) LSE(U)(SM)
 Able Seaman (Underwater Weapons) ASE(U)(SM)
 Seaman (Underwater Weapons) SUW(SSM)
 Warrant Officer W(O)(R)(SM)
 Chief Petty Officer Radio Supervisor (SM) CPO(R)(SM)
 Petty Officer Radio Supervisor (SM) PO(R)(SM)
 Leading Radio Operator (SM) LRO(SM)
 Radio Operator (SM) 1st Class RO(SM)1
 Radio Operator (SM) 2nd Class RO(SM)2
 Junior Radio Operator (SM) 1st Class JRO(SM)1
 Junior Radio Operator (SM) 2nd Class JRO(SM)2

Physical Training and Recreation Branch
 Warrant Officer W(O)(PT)
 Chief Petty Officer Physical Trainer CPOPT
 Petty Officer Physical Trainer POPT
 Leading Physical Trainer LPT
 NOTE: 1. For female ratings the rate titles are varied to include 'W' before Physical Trainer, eg POWPT

Regulating Branch
 Warrant Officer W(O)(MAA)
 Master at Arms MAA
 Regulating Petty Officer RPO
 Leading Regulator LREG
 Warrant Officer W(O)(M)(AA)
 Chief Wren Regulator CPO(W)(REG)
 Regulating Petty Officer Wren RPO(W)
 Leading Wren Regulator LWREG

Submarine Coxswain Branch
 Warrant Officer W(O)(COX)(SM)
 Chief Petty Officer Coxswain (SM) CPO(COX)(SM)
 Petty Officer Coxswain (SM) PO(COX)(SM)

Communications Technician Branch
 Warrant Officer W(O)(CT)
 Charge Chief Communications Technician (Analyst) or (Linguist) CCT(A)(L)
 Chief Petty Officer Communications Technician (Analyst) or (Linguist) CPOCT(A)(L)
 Petty Officer Communications Technician (Analyst) or (Linguist) POCT(A)(L)
 Acting Petty Officer Communications Technician (Analyst) or (Linguist) APOCT(A)(L)
 Acting Leading Communications Technician ALCT
 Probationary Communications Technician PCT
 NOTE: 1. For female ratings the rate titles are varied to include 'W' before Communications Technician (Analyst) or (Linguist), eg LWCT(A)

Seaman Group - Recruits Not Categorized
 Seaman(Operator) SO
 Junior Seaman(Operator) 1st Class JS(O)1
 Junior Seaman(Operator) 2nd Class JS(O)2

Operations Branch (Female Seaman Group)
 Warrant Officer W(O)(E)(W)(C)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Electronic Warfare) CPO(W)(E)(W)(C)
 Petty Officer Wren(Electronic Warfare) POW(E)(W)(C)
 Leading Wren(Electronic Warfare) LW(E)(W)
 Able Wren(Electronic Warfare) AW(E)(W)
 Junior Wren(Electronic Warfare) 1st Class JW(E)(W)1
 Junior Wren(Electronic Warfare) 2nd Class JW(E)(W)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(M)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Missile) CPO(W)(M)
 Petty Officer Wren(Missile) POW(M)
 Leading Wren(Missile) LW(M)
 Able Wren(Missile) AW(M)
 Wren(Missile) WM
 Junior Wren(Missile) 1st Class JW(M)1
 Junior Wren(Missile) 2nd Class JW(M)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(R)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Radar) CPO(W)(R)
 Petty Officer Wren(Radar) POW(R)
 Leading Wren(Radar) LW(R)
 Able Wren(Radar) AW(R)
 Wren(Radar) WR
 Junior Wren(Radar) 1st Class JW(R)1
 Junior Wren(Radar) 2nd Class JW(R)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(S)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Sonar) CPO(W)(S)
 Petty Officer Wren(Sonar) POW(S)
 Leading Wren(Sonar) LW(S)
 Able Wren(Sonar) AW(S)
 Wren(Sonar) WS
 Junior Wren(Sonar) 1st Class JW(S)1

Seaman Group - Recruits Not Categorized
 Seaman(Operator) SO
 Junior Seaman(Operator) 1st Class JS(O)1
 Junior Seaman(Operator) 2nd Class JS(O)2

Operations Branch (Female Seaman Group)
 Warrant Officer W(O)(E)(W)(C)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Electronic Warfare) CPO(W)(E)(W)(C)
 Petty Officer Wren(Electronic Warfare) POW(E)(W)(C)
 Leading Wren(Electronic Warfare) LW(E)(W)
 Able Wren(Electronic Warfare) AW(E)(W)
 Junior Wren(Electronic Warfare) 1st Class JW(E)(W)1
 Junior Wren(Electronic Warfare) 2nd Class JW(E)(W)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(M)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Missile) CPO(W)(M)
 Petty Officer Wren(Missile) POW(M)
 Leading Wren(Missile) LW(M)
 Able Wren(Missile) AW(M)
 Wren(Missile) WM
 Junior Wren(Missile) 1st Class JW(M)1
 Junior Wren(Missile) 2nd Class JW(M)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(R)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Radar) CPO(W)(R)
 Petty Officer Wren(Radar) POW(R)
 Leading Wren(Radar) LW(R)
 Able Wren(Radar) AW(R)
 Wren(Radar) WR
 Junior Wren(Radar) 1st Class JW(R)1
 Junior Wren(Radar) 2nd Class JW(R)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(S)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Sonar) CPO(W)(S)
 Petty Officer Wren(Sonar) POW(S)
 Leading Wren(Sonar) LW(S)
 Able Wren(Sonar) AW(S)
 Wren(Sonar) WS
 Junior Wren(Sonar) 1st Class JW(S)1

Seaman Group - Recruits Not Categorized
 Seaman(Operator) SO
 Junior Seaman(Operator) 1st Class JS(O)1
 Junior Seaman(Operator) 2nd Class JS(O)2

Operations Branch (Female Seaman Group)
 Warrant Officer W(O)(E)(W)(C)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Electronic Warfare) CPO(W)(E)(W)(C)
 Petty Officer Wren(Electronic Warfare) POW(E)(W)(C)
 Leading Wren(Electronic Warfare) LW(E)(W)
 Able Wren(Electronic Warfare) AW(E)(W)
 Junior Wren(Electronic Warfare) 1st Class JW(E)(W)1
 Junior Wren(Electronic Warfare) 2nd Class JW(E)(W)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(M)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Missile) CPO(W)(M)
 Petty Officer Wren(Missile) POW(M)
 Leading Wren(Missile) LW(M)
 Able Wren(Missile) AW(M)
 Wren(Missile) WM
 Junior Wren(Missile) 1st Class JW(M)1
 Junior Wren(Missile) 2nd Class JW(M)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(R)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Radar) CPO(W)(R)
 Petty Officer Wren(Radar) POW(R)
 Leading Wren(Radar) LW(R)
 Able Wren(Radar) AW(R)
 Wren(Radar) WR
 Junior Wren(Radar) 1st Class JW(R)1
 Junior Wren(Radar) 2nd Class JW(R)2
 Warrant Officer W(O)(S)
 Chief Petty Officer Wren(Sonar) CPO(W)(S)
 Petty Officer Wren(Sonar) POW(S)
 Leading Wren(Sonar) LW(S)
 Able Wren(Sonar) AW(S)
 Wren(Sonar) WS
 Junior Wren(Sonar) 1st Class JW(S)1

NOT SUCH A TALL ORDER

A single minimum height standard of 157 cm (168cm for NA(AH)), irrespective of age on entry, has been set. The Director of Naval Recruiting has, however, the discretion occasionally to recruit outstanding officers and ratings who are between 154cm and 157cm tall. Ratings already serving who are below this standard are not to be barred from transferring branches (except to NA(AH)) or from selection to promotion to officer. Officers are likewise not disbarred from transferring specialisation. — DCI RN 268/93

Glaring error

Laser treatment for shortsightedness may cause disturbance of night vision in some individuals, particularly in the presence of glare. 'Photo-refractive Keratectomy' is a bar to entry to the RN, RM and QARNNS and personnel who have undergone the treatment are graded P8 - Permanently Unfit for Naval Service. Thus serving personnel who are considering private treatment are strongly advised that it may render them unfit for continued service. — DCI RN 269/93

Five have more holes

A trial of Five Watch Manning in the six remaining Island Class offshore patrol vessels begins this month.

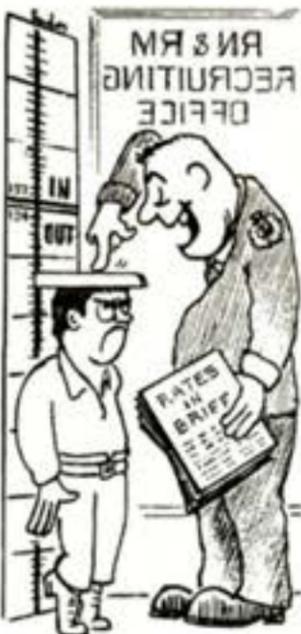
The aim is to increase hull availability — and hence the number of days on patrol — by allowing personnel to take leave during running and maintenance time.

This lost while ships are alongside during main leave periods. Immediate reliefs, for on-watch personnel who are landed for any reason, will be provided from a new Fishery Protection Support Unit at Rosyth. — DCI RN 274/93

SD route mapped out

Arrangements for the 1994 qualifying examination and selection board for promotion to Sub Lieutenant (E) (ME) and (E) (MESM) on the special duties list of officers are given.

Applications must reach the Captain, HMS Sultan by March 23. — DCI RN 266/93



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Commandos on TV

FOLLOWING two courses through training at CTRM Lymington is "Commando", a series of seven half-hour documentaries made by West Country TV. First shown in the South West, the series is to be screened nation-wide by ITV on Thursdays, beginning 8.30 p.m. on February 17.

Tour dates

Dates for the Royal Navy Presentation Team's Spring Tour are as follows: Tamworth — Feb 23; Hereford — Feb 23; Haverford West — Feb 24; Galashiels — Mar 16; Cardiff — Apr 19; Chester — Apr 21; Hampstead — Apr 26; Newcastle-upon-Tyne — May 12. Tel. 071 921 2056 for further details and tickets.



"Shall we knock up a Mulberry Harbour on the lake to land the booze as well, Buffer?"

NEWSVIEW

Burning with indignation

ALL the World War II anniversaries that have crowded in upon us over the past few years have brought about an enormous increase in Navy News' mailbag — from professional historians, amateur researchers and readers who simply wish to impart a few lines of reminiscence. Many remarkable reunions of old shipmates, out of touch for half a century or more, have been thereby effected — from all points of the compass.

It might be supposed that the annual get-togethers of former ships' companies would fall off as number diminish through 'natural wastage'. Some do, of course — but new associations are still being formed by the survivors of communities that were forged in the crucible of the strangely disparate communities that came together through the exigencies of war 50-odd years ago.

Many of these were made up of people who are, after all, still only in their late sixties and early seventies today and their renewed, common bonds of experience and interest have the potential to last into the next millennium.

Their generosity — frequently attested in these pages — towards organisations like the Sea Cadet Corps ensures a reciprocal regard for the Service in which so many of their comrades lost their lives that will surely outlive them.

They will therefore have been angered by the episode of London Weekend Television's drama series 'London's Burning' which portrayed a woefully inept unit of the 'Sea Brigade', causing a blaze in the Docklands — all in the cause of fireside entertainment.

There is not other organisation but the SCC operating on Thameside with which this fictional outfit could be identified — and the insensitivity of the programme's producers in choosing them as a vehicle for this particular storyline was underlined by the decidedly dusty answers that were received as a result of complaints that followed, respectively, from the Captain and President of the Corps.

Few other organisations better exemplify the present Government's 'Back to Basics' drive than the Sea Cadet Corps — which formed its philosophy half a century ago when some of the standards we are now trying to recover were being laid down in such reforms as the 1944 Education Act.

The SCC's work — mostly self-funded, unlike that of similar organisations promoted by the Army and the RAF — in our inner cities, with a view to encouraging good citizenship rather than recruitment (only a very small percentage of Sea Cadets enter the Service) deserves better understanding.

It gets plenty from the RN — and from the Royal Naval Association, an organisation that grew up in the same era that one might have reasonably expected to show signs of decline lately.

In fact the reverse is true — membership has nearly doubled in the last decade, and new branches are being formed at home and overseas, from Wigan to New South Wales.

So don't be too ready to write off this year's crop of D-Day parades as the last beat of the wing of a vanishing breed. From all the available evidence, it shows no sign of extinction.

• Continued from page one

D-DAY DIARY

Omaha Beach where US forces suffered the worst casualties inflicted on the Allies during the landings.

That will be followed by national events in which thousands of British veterans are expected to attend services in Normandy's war cemeteries before assembling at Arromanches for a parade on the beach.

Announcing Britain's official D-Day programme, Mr Major told veterans in his audience that their accomplishment could not have been achieved without "extraordinary determination and courage."

"Our commemoration will remember the sacrifice made by some 10,000 British, Canadian and American troops who were either killed or wounded on D-Day. By September Allied casualties were to rise to 210,000 with 37,000 dead.

"But by then most of France had been liberated and Operation Overlord (codename for the invasion) was well on its way towards the restoration of peace in Europe."

He said the commemorative events "will give pride of place to the man who suffered the fire and endured the fear of that remarkable day."

The official commemorative events are:

June 4: Southwick House Garden Party at 3pm, HMS Dryad.

Beat Retreat at 5pm at Whale Island naval site, Portsmouth, performed by Service bands supported by those of other nations and by the Queen's Colour Squadron of the RAF.

Portsmouth Guildhall dinner. Among the 500 to be invited will be representatives of nations, military units, civil communities and organisations which contributed to D-Day.

June 5: Drumhead Service in the morning in front of the Naval Memorial, Southsea Common, Portsmouth. Open to all.

Review of veterans embarked. Heads of State in the Royal yacht will review veterans embarked in merchant ships anchored at Spithead. Warships will also be present.

Flotilla to Normandy. An international flotilla led by HMY Britannia will leave Portsmouth for Normandy in the afternoon. The flotilla will comprise warships of the Allied nations as well as commercial ships such as Canberra and QE2.

Fly-past. While the flotilla is under way it will be overflowed by aircraft from the Allied nations. Fly-past route will be over Southampton, the Solent and Southsea. It will be preceded by Swordfish aircraft of the RN Historical Flight, and the Lancaster, Spitfire, and Hurricanes of the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

Steam-past. At 5pm in mid-Channel Britannia will steam past the flotilla during which Heads of State will take the salute of their ships and wreaths will be laid.

June 6: National service of commemoration. At 11am (local time) the British commemorative services will be held concurrently at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries of Bayeux, Douvres, La Delivrande, Hermanville, Ranville and Ryes. International ceremony. At 2.30pm (local time) President Mitterand will host an international ceremony on Omaha Beach with Heads of State of Allied countries invited.

Arromanches march-past. At about 5pm (local time) Normandy veterans will have the opportunity to take part in a parade at Arromanches. Ships of the Royal Navy will be present offshore and the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will conduct a fly-past.

The following is a diary of unofficial events spanning May and June.

MAY

22nd. D-Day rally at Plymouth by Plymouth Helping Hands, Tavistock and Torbay Town Councils. 25th. International remembrance service and parade organised by Portland D-Day Committee at St John's Church and the American War Memorial. 27-28th. Salisbury Cathedral concert. 28th May to 6th June. D-Day Commemorative Festival at Bangor, Co Down, Northern Ireland organised by North Down Borough Council (events include ceremonies, march-past, rally, air-sea displays and band concert). 28th-30th. Portsmouth Navy Days at HM Naval Base, rally of military vehicles organised by the Military Vehicles Trust on Southsea Common, Portsmouth.

28th-30th. D-Day rally, march and festival of music at Torbay (28th) and Tavistock (30th) organised by Plymouth Helping Hands, Tavistock and Torbay Town Councils. 30th. Tree planting ceremony arranged by the Royal Parks at Bushey Park, London; opening ceremony for D-Day commemorations by Dartmouth Town Council (parade and service on June 5). 31st. Private memorial service by US veterans at the Tank Memorial, Slapton Sands, arranged by South Hants District Council.

JUNE

1st-3rd. People commemorative service and parade arranged by the borough council. 1st-4th. Royal Bath and West of England Society's Main Show, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. 2nd. Memorial unveiling at Seacombe and service of remembrance arranged by Seacombe Town Council. 2nd-4th. Weymouth veterans

parade, service and RN display, organised by Weymouth & Portland Town Council; mock landing and scaling of cliffs at Alum Bay, Isle of Wight, arranged by Needles Pleasure Park. 2nd-6th. Plymouth D-Day Tattoo arranged by Plymouth Helping Hands and Plymouth Council.

3rd. US service in Cambridge, SHAEF HQ service at Grosvenor Square, London; unveiling of Canada memorial at Green Park, London, arranged by Canada Memorial Foundation. 3rd-5th. Open Days at HMS Dolphin, Gosport; service of remembrance and march-past at Blackpool War Memorial arranged by Blackpool branch of Normandy Veterans Association; Portsmouth Tattoo arranged by Portsmouth City Council. 4th-5th. Band concert and commemorative service at the Anglican Cathedral, Liverpool, arranged by Merseyside D-Day Commemoration Organising Committee; parade (4th) and parade and commemorative service (5th) at Alnwick, Northumberland arranged by D-Day North East '94.

5th. Landing Committee torchlight ceremony on Gold Beach, France (US organised); D-Day service at Christchurch Priory; commemorative civic service at the Cenotaph, Bouenmouth Gardens; Hampshire County Council commemoration at Lape Country Park, Exbury, Southampton.

6th. Utah Beach ceremony (US) and the Statue ceremony, Bayeux (arranged by US and Bayeux) Normandy Veterans Association ceremony at Bayeux war cemetery; parks entertainment with D-Day theme arranged by The Royal Parks at a location to be notified. "The Longest Day" at the National Film Theatre. The Royal British Legion veterans march-past at Southsea Common; celebrations arranged by Bangor Chamber of Commerce in Bangor, Co Down, N Ireland; gun salute and bugle call at Weymouth's Harbour Defence, Nithe Fort, arranged by Weymouth & Portland Borough Council.

9th. "Pilgrimage to Normandy" arranged by London Taxi Benevolent Association at Horseguards Avenue, London. 18th. Service and parade arranged by Falmouth Town Council at Kenworthy Park cenotaph or Methodist Chapel. 25th. Normandy Veterans Association Reunion Festival at Royal Albert Hall, London. 26th. Normandy Veterans Association service and march-past at Horseguards and Cenotaph, London; NVA church service and wreath-laying at Church of Holy Pade, Strling. 30th. Army Benevolent Fund 50th anniversary commemorations at Royal Chelsea Hospital, London.

In addition to the above events a D-Day exhibition will open at the Imperial War Museum on February 18.

JT, OBE

The Prince of Wales — in Naval uniform — presented former Navy News Editor John Tucker (see here with wife Zoë) with his OBE at an investiture at Buckingham Palace.



Time off for good behaviour



AFTER a six-and-a-half month deployment to the Mediterranean and Adriatic in support of British troops in Bosnia, HMS Invincible returns home to Portsmouth later this month.

During her time away her Sea Harriers flew over 300 sorties as part of the UN operation Deny Flight, working in close co-operation with land and carrier-based aeroplanes of several other Nato nations.

Despite Invincible's highly operational profile in the area there were periods of rest and relaxation when the ship was able to stand down from her duties and visit some of the ports in the region.

Most memorable for some was her visit to Malta (pictured above, in Grand Harbour) which has a long-standing association with the Royal Navy. She proved to be a popular attraction for the people of Valletta and during this visit many of the ship's company took the opportunity to fly out their families before the ship left to resume her patrol of the Adriatic.

A rather different patrol saw her ship's company experi-

encing ocean sailing using Sashata (top right), a Sunshine 36 yacht chartered in Corfu. Seven crews of seven people each sailed a total of over 1,000 miles going as far west as Bari and as far east as the Greek island of Mikonos.

As part of Invincible's drive

for a healthy ship, a one-mile "fun run" was held on board during a short break from the rigours of work. Over 280 personnel took part with the fastest time of 4 minutes 41 seconds achieved by LSTD Tim Cordery.

Some personnel took the event in a more light-hearted

manner with fancy dress teams including Nuns on the Run, Jeeves and Wooster and the Circus Performers (bottom right) namely Lt Mark Scott on the uni-cycle and Lt Freddie Smith juggling.

During the deployment HMS Invincible played host to a number of VIP visitors, the most important being the leaders of the various factions in Bosnia who attended a peace conference on board. Sadly, despite the best efforts of negotiators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, no peace formula was found.

As Invincible made her way home her sister ship, HMS Ark Royal, returned to the waters which she left last summer. Back in Portsmouth HMS Invincible will start a period of several months of routine maintenance before returning to sea.



THE Navy continues to play an active role in the UK's operation in Bosnia with the appointment of Commodore Paul Canter as the Director of Operations at Joint Headquarters Salisbury, Wilton.

The HQ is the UK command centre for the tri-service operation in former Yugoslavia and the Adriatic co-ordinating the activities of 1,800 sailors, 2,400 land-based troops and 700 airmen deployed in the area from Bari, in Italy, to Vitez, in Bosnia.

Commodore Canter works directly for UKLF Commander in Chief and Commander of Operation Hamden, General Sir John Wisley, and heads a staff of 80 which includes Navy, Army, Air Force and civilian personnel.



- Right: One of the Jetstream aircraft en route to Italy.
- Below: Smiles all round from Lt Jill Price and one of the many disabled children met by the Culdrose team.



Jill supports Albanian aid

A ROUTINE long-range navigation exercise to a military airbase in Italy by two Jetstream aircraft from 750 Sqn at RN air station Culdrose turned into a goodwill mission when the spare capacity in the Observer training aircraft was used to carry vital humanitarian aid and supplies to some of the poverty-stricken families in the neighbouring country of Albania.

The mission, codenamed Operation Good Cheer, was the inspiration of base PRO Lt Jill Price who, with the assistance of the White Cross, assembled together blankets, children's clothes and basic toiletries which were passed on to the self-help groups in the beleaguered former Communist state.

Many of the families have disabled children for which the State provides no additional help and it was these groups which were targeted by Lt Price and the Culdrose team.





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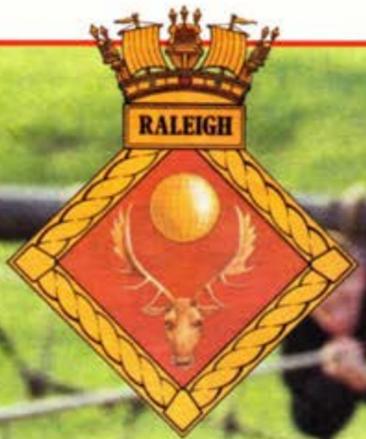
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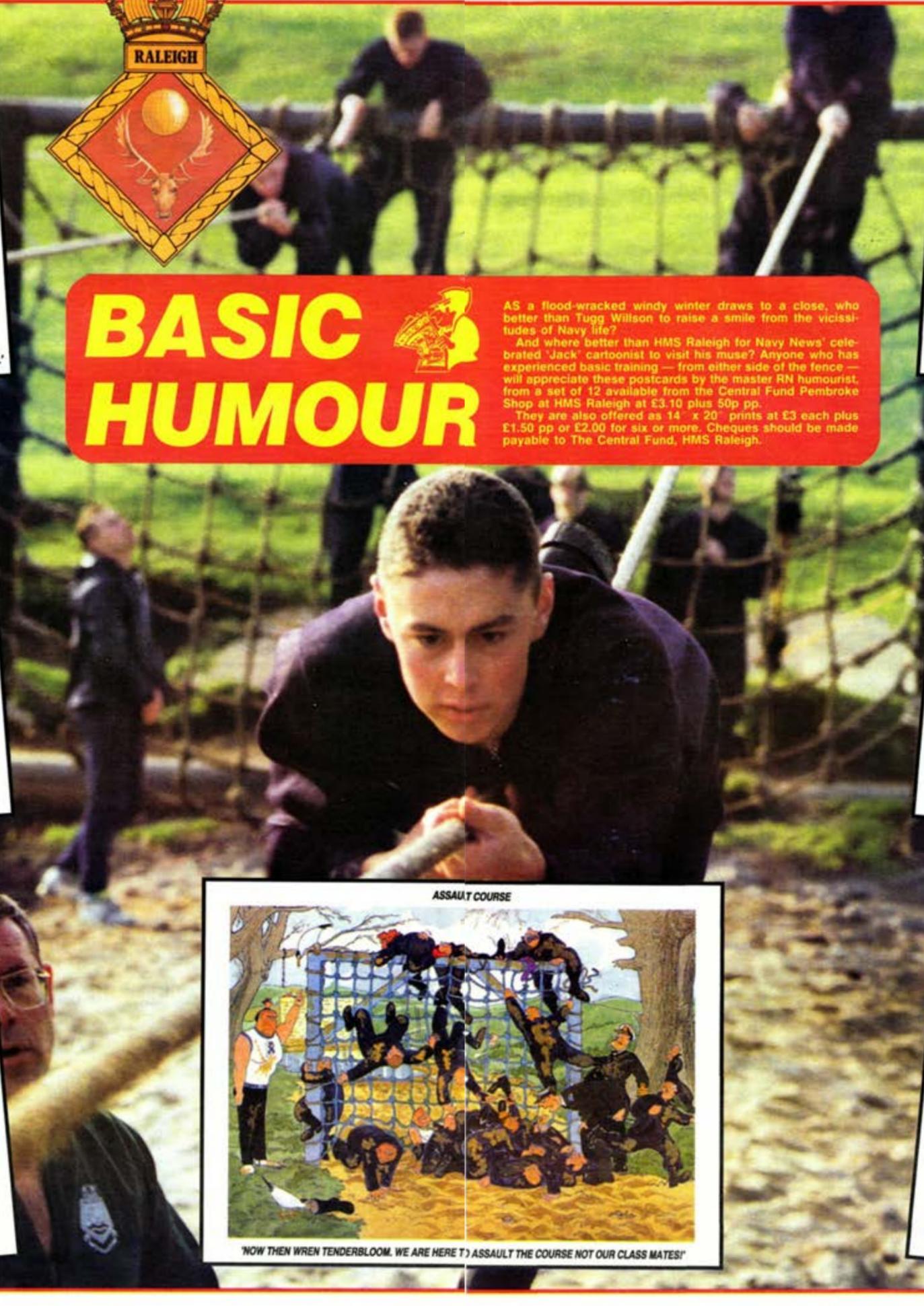
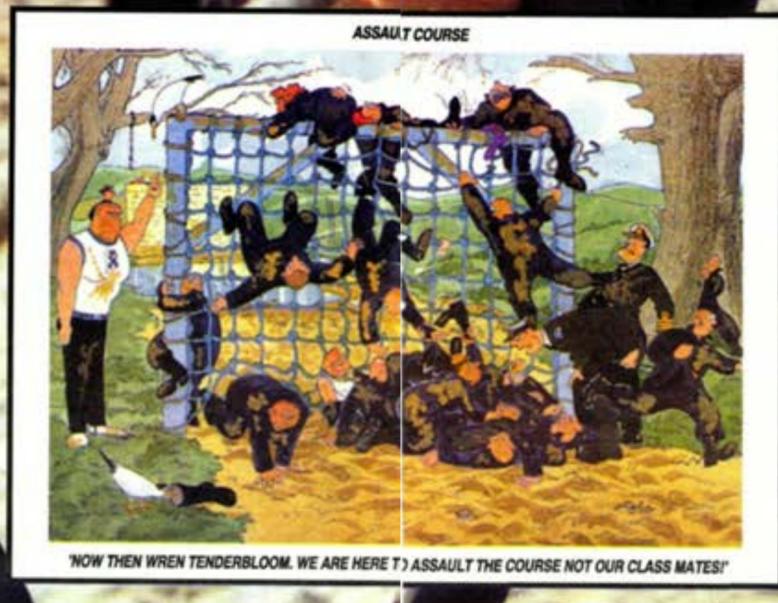
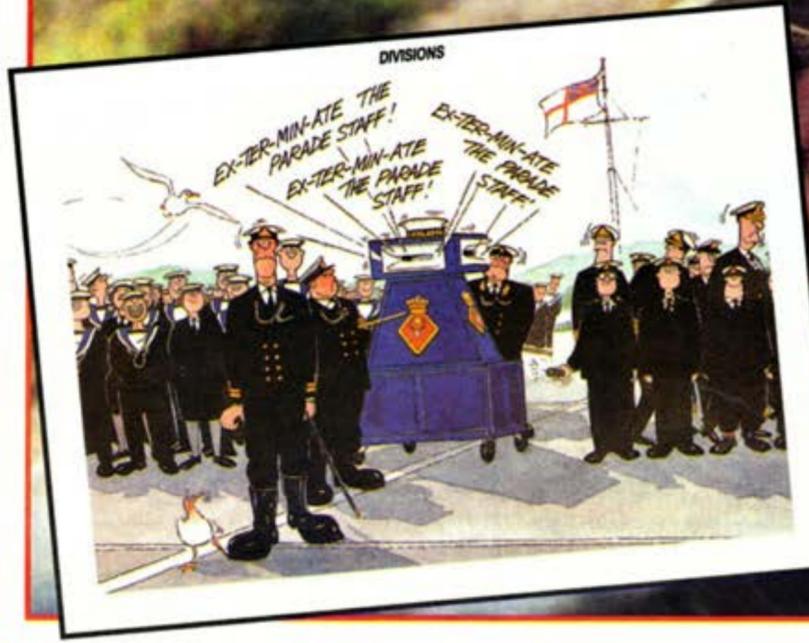
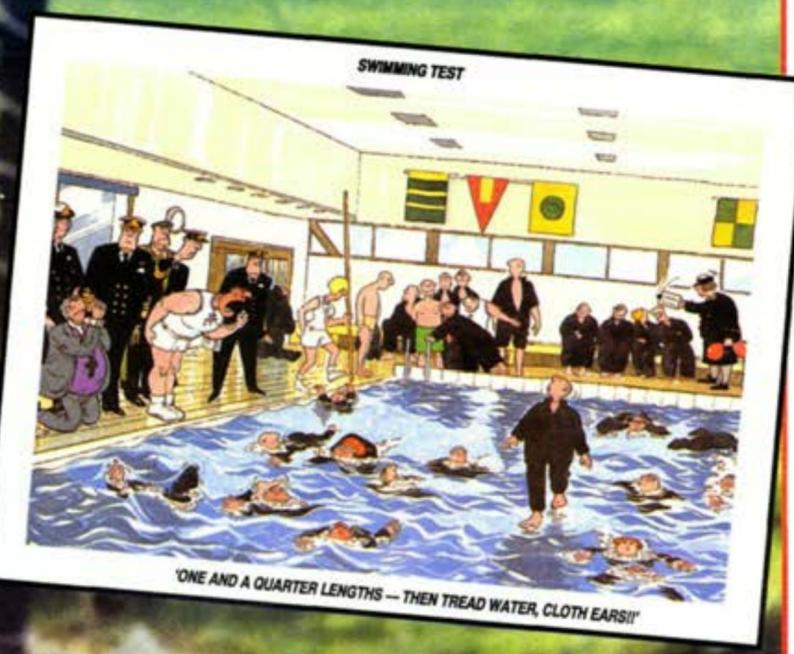
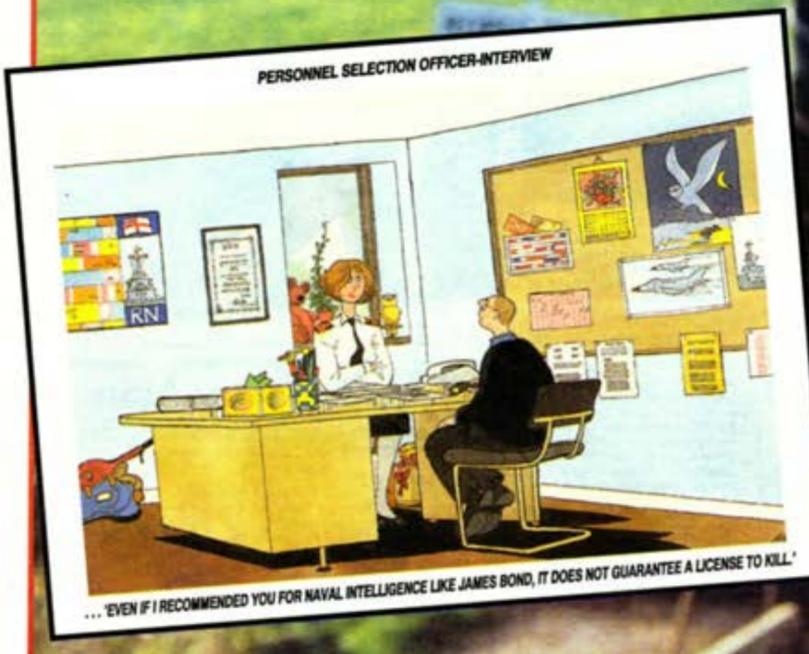
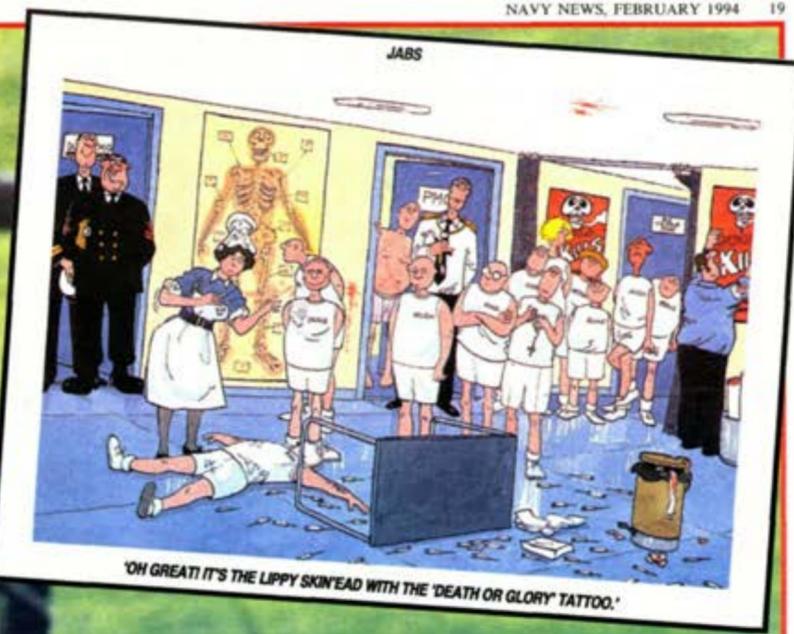
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BASIC HUMOUR

AS a flood-wracked windy winter draws to a close, who better than Tugg Willson to raise a smile from the vicissitudes of Navy life?
 And where better than HMS Raleigh for Navy News' celebrated 'Jack' cartoonist to visit his muse? Anyone who has experienced basic training — from either side of the fence — will appreciate these postcards by the master RN humourist, from a set of 12 available from the Central Fund Pembroke Shop at HMS Raleigh at £3.10 plus 50p pp.
 They are also offered as 14" x 20" prints at £3 each plus £1.50 pp or £2.00 for six or more. Cheques should be made payable to The Central Fund, HMS Raleigh.





Nelson's old-timers



NAVAL subjects are sadly rare in Osprey Military's superbly illustrated wargamers' series — so *Nelson's Navy* is a welcome, if long overdue, addition to a catalogue which now carries several hundred titles.

As ever, details of uniform and equipment are well researched, set alongside biographical snapshots that occasionally stagger the imagination. Thus we find a cook named Jennings, recorded as retiring at the age of 87, having spent 79 years in service.

Ship's cooks in Nelson's day were appointed by warrant from the Commissioners of the Navy — all were Greenwich Pensioners, mostly ex-petty officers who had lost a limb on active service.

The position was largely a sinecure, as the only duty entailed soaking preserved meat to remove the salt and then boiling it. The fat that floated on the top was regarded as the cook's perk; although its sale was officially forbidden, it was in demand to spread upon the biscuit — the 1805 version of "Philly".

The ship's cook is featured in this illustration from *Nelson's Navy* (Osprey Military, £6.95) with (inset) a rare photograph of a Navy man from the Napoleonic era, Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald (1775-1860) — the "Sea Wolf" who

Above: One of William Younghusband's excellent plates from *Nelson's Navy*, showing (1-4) a cook, a ship's boy, a carpenter and a boatswain's mate. Right: Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald

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MUTATIONS OF THE NUCLEAR GENERATION

SEVENTH in Conway Maritime's magisterial 12 volume History of the Ship series, *Navies in the Nuclear Age* (£28) clearly demonstrates that the post-1945 revolution in warships and the navies they served was at least as basic as that imposed by the combination of armour and steam power a century or so earlier.

Not only were most existing warships suddenly made obsolete, but even the categories they were classed under ceased to have their earlier meanings.

Today, though words like cruiser, destroyer and frigate are still widely used, it is less and less possible to make firm distinctions. These are easier with the Royal Navy than with the US Navy — but it is striking that the Type 22 and 23 frigates and Type 42 destroyers are much the same size.

For about two decades after 1945 navies combined earlier hulls with new kinds of weapons and sensors. Now virtually all the older ships are gone — and the dimensions of the revolution are all the more obvious.

In this period the active life of a warship has anyway become less defined by the durability of the hull than by the effectiveness of its weapon systems. At one time the Royal Navy, like many another, carried out mid-life refits that often cost more than the original build. The Batch 3 Leander HMS *Andromeda*, for example, had both Exocet and SSMs and Sea Wolf SAMs added, the 4.5 inch mounting, Seacat SAM and Limbo ASW mortar removed, electronics completely revised, triple ASW torpedo tubes added and helicopter hangar extended.

This three-year refit was intended to apply to all ten ships in the group, but in 1981 the policy of mid-life modernisations was abandoned and the programme curtailed after five conversions.

As to the future, while individual ships are becoming far more expensive, sea power still depends in part on sheer numbers.

And in his introduction, Norman Friedman points out that they are possibly more vulnerable in the type of warfare they are now likely to face.

Thanks to the very restrictive rules of engagement in local war where RN warships might be required to offer a "presence", surprise attack may well become the norm, he argues.

"Also, the Russian supersonic anti-ship missiles are now very much on the market. In the past the Russians probably would not have sold them in the Third World for fear of revealing their details to the West, prior to the big war.

"Now, with the big war most unlikely, that restraint is gone; and weapons are probably the most saleable Russian commodity.

"Ironically, then, Western navies are far more likely to face the best Russian-made weapons precisely because the Cold War is over..." —JFA

DON'T SET SAIL WITHOUT THEM

WEIGHTY both in terms of airdrop and information contained, the latest *Macmillan and Silk Cut Nautical Almanac* is well worth stowing aboard small boats sailing in home waters.

In its 15 years of publication, the Almanac has established a reputation for accuracy and clear graphics. Each year it has been improved and updated.

The 1994 edition, priced £22.99, runs to over 900 pages.

Published by Pan Macmillan, its editors are Wing Cdr Basil D'Oliveira and Cdr Neville Featherstone.

● The new edition of the *Macmillan and Silk Cut Yachtsman's Handbook* (Pan

Macmillan, £27.50) is a complete revision of a standard work first published in 1984.

It has two new chapters, on multihulls and racing, and new material throughout.

There are updated entries for satellite navigation, position fixing systems, sight reduction methods, the use of calculators and personal computers, boat handling and legal matters.

Edited by Cdr Richard Hewitt, the Handbook is designed to complement the Almanac.

Leased remembered?

THE TEN ex-American Coast Guard cutters offered to Britain in 1941 under the Lend-Lease Agreement are among the least-remembered warships of World War II.

Reading Ken Reed's account of them, *The Hand-me-down Ships*, it is hard to understand why. They were involved in a considerable number of actions — including the suicidal assault on the harbour of Oran by HMS *Walney* and *Hartland* — and were renowned for their endurance and seaworthiness.

In appearance and throughout, they bore little resemblance to the destroyers, corvettes, sloops and frigates of the time. The superstructure was located in a central position, fore and aft, taking up about a third of the vessel's length. Accommodation was superb throughout — the large wardroom, to which entrance was by an imposing staircase, was surrounded by a bannistered gallery, off which opened the officers' cabins and the Captain's harbour accommodation.

On the debit side, their minimal sub-division made them prone to sink very quickly if holed below the waterline — as was the case, graphically described here by the handful of survivors, with HMS *Culver*

(all were named for British coastguard stations) which fell to U105 off Brest on 31 January 1942.

Perhaps the cutters' finest hour was the tragic assault on the Vichy Fleet at Oran on 8 November that year — designed as a prelude to the Allied landings of Operation Torch.

Walney and *Hartland* were tasked to ram and penetrate the harbour boom and put specialist troops ashore to stop the French disabling shore installations — in effect, they were doomed to fight a battle "within four walls" and both were shot to pieces.

Eighty-one of *Walney's* crew perished and 34 from *Hartland*, while few among the 400-odd troops installed below decks survived. Capt. Frederick Peters, who miraculously survived the carnage in *Walney*, was imprisoned by the Vichy garrison — and was then killed when the Sunderland flying him home after his release crashed on landing at Plymouth.

— JFA

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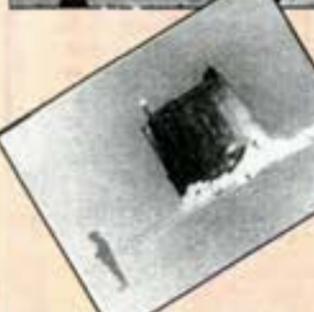
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was one of the most successful of all British frigate captains. Cochrane served in a number of foreign navies after his unjust conviction for complicity in the great Stock Exchange fraud of 1814. He was eventually proved innocent and his rank in the RN restored.

—JFA

At Malta

NELSON'S involvement in liberating the island of Malta after Napoleon had seized it from the Order of St John in 1798 is the subject of a booklet by Brian N. Tarpey.

Journal entries, letters and other contemporary sources are quoted throughout *Nelson at Malta*, to help bring the subject alive.

The booklet is available from Britfa Associates, 13 Colleshill Place, Bradwell Common, Milton Keynes, MK13 8DG at £2.95 per copy plus 50 pence for postage and packaging.

ILL-FATED END FOR UNFATED ADMIRAL

IN THE battle of the books, the invasion of Europe is already suffering from overkill. Latest of the hefty tomes purporting to paint the definitive portrait of the events surrounding 6 June 1944 is *The D-Day Encyclopedia* (Helicon £40) — which, curiously, is offered at £35 until 31 July.

Do the publishers expect the reading public, which by then will surely be satiated with the events of 40 years ago, to want to pay more after the pageant of commemorative events has passed?

In their desperation to explore every facet of the biggest seaborne invasion in history, the compilers have included a mass of detail that is sometimes peripheral, to say the least.

The principal personalities are treated to extensive biographic essays — but surely, in this context, the details of Hitler's early career are less relevant than the fact that he slept through the invasion (his staff were too scared to waken him with the news) and even afterward deemed a state visit by the Hungarian dictator Admiral Horthy to be of more pressing concern.

By the time Keitel and Jodl managed to pass on Rundstedt's request for mobile reserves in Normandy to be released to him it was too late — the Allies were firmly established ashore.

This had been managed in large measure thanks to the efforts of Admiral Bertram Ramsay, chief architect of the naval element of the D-Day project in which the Royal Navy played by far the biggest part — and yet Ramsay is accorded a smaller entry than either Keitel or Jodl.

The point is made that some USN officers considered his detailed planning excessive — but it stood the test of war and it was, above all flexible.

He himself was generously "most grateful to Providence" for the operation's successful outcome — though he had already made allowances for the handing of fate.

Fate was anyway none too kind to Ramsay, who was killed in an air crash on 2 January 1945. Thus "one of the great admirals" missed his chance to stand with Ike and Monty after the war as a member of the triumvirate of D-Day. — JFA

AMONG the fiction releases which may be of interest to naval readers is *Fletcher's Glorious 1st of June*, which carries on the adventures of Jacob Fletcher, first met in *Fletcher's Fortune*.

NN Fiction

Rolling tales both, full of the bawdy good humour of the late 18th century. The latter volume, published in hardback by Hodder and Stoughton at £15.99, follows Fletcher to the New World and back, taking in the great sea battle against the French of the title. (The earlier novel is available in Coronet paperback, at £4.99.)

The Darkening Sea by Alexander Kent (pseudonym of Douglas Reeman) is also a sequel, following *Beyond the Reef*. The 21st Richard Bolitho novel, it is a tale of angry passion, envy and adventure, published by William Heinemann at £14.99 hardback.



At Your Leisure



LOVE IN A COLD CLIMATE

CONSIDERING its high quotient of blood, bullets and lowlife characters, the title *True Romance* might be regarded as a touch ironical. But not so. Christian Slater plays a lonesome salesman in a comic book store who meets a bedraggled amateur hooker (Patricia Arquette). Two of life's losers they may be, but they do indeed find true romance together.

The only snag is a suitcase full of drugs which the couple inadvertently acquire, touching off a powder trail of violence as cops, mobsters and various other interested parties vie for possession of the stuff. The film is directed by Brit Tony Scott, with the same sharp eye for flashy visuals that he earlier displayed in *Top Gun*. The intriguing supporting cast includes Christopher Walken as a dangerously affable Mob enforcer, Dennis Hopper, uncharacteristically subdued as Slater's long-suffering father and Gary Oldman as a Rasta-fixated drug pusher.

The month's second 16mm release *This Boy's Life* offers evidence of yet another British director, Michael Caton-Jones — doing well in Hollywood. This is an adaptation of Tobias Wolff's best-selling memoir of life in late-1950s small-town America. Toby is on the verge of juvenile delinquency when his divorced mother meets the apparently good-hearted Dwight (Robert De Niro), a likely

prospect, she imagines, to help the boy settle down. She marries him and the family set up house in the unpromisingly named town of Concrete, Washington State.

Screen Scene

What follows is a Dickensian tale of hard times and oppression, as Dwight is gradually revealed as a bully and a tyrant. It's an absorbing, moving story, right up to its explosive climax. De Niro seems to enjoy himself hugely portraying the egregious Dwight, while Ellen Barkin is touching as Toby's bruised (psychologically, physically) mother.

To say that *Fire in the Sky* (an RNFC video release) is based on real events is perhaps to take too much for granted. Certain facts are undisputed: a gang of loggers spending the night in the wilderness came scampering back to town with a

breathless tale of flashing lights, strange machines descending from the sky, etc.; in the panic one of their number had been misled.

A search, and possible murder enquiry, was halted some days later when the missing man turned up with a shell-shocked expression and a bizarre tale of abduction by an alien spacecraft. The film is made on the basis that his story was genuine, and gives us — easily the best sequence — a strange, surreal account of the man cocooned in a scruffy hospital-cum-zoo and being probed and pumelled by some rather cross-looking dwarf spacemen.

Entertaining as all this is, however, audiences may prefer an alternative scenario whereby a bunch of bored lumberjacks sat by the campfire one night passing round the old Jack Daniels, and came up with the gosh-durndest wheeze... Old timer James Garner is a welcome presence as a wearily sceptical sheriff.

— Bob Baker



Above: Clarence (Christian Slater) and Alabama (Patricia Arquette) get to grips with a *True Romance*.

Search goes on for the perfect boot

IN HIS guide to *Weapons and Military Technology*, the latest Penguin Encyclopedia (Viking £20), Kenneth Macksey has given himself a wide brief.

Thus we find developments in hardware set alongside progress in "Food, military" — from which the RN was perhaps the first navy to benefit: as early as 1825 a polar expedition was able to make use of bottled, heat-sterilised preserved foods.

And under "Clothing, military" it is noted that sailors have traditionally worn more casual and practical dress than soldiers — who are still in search of a thoroughly satisfactory boot...

People are always more interesting than hardware, of course — and the most successful commanders have usually been, of necessity, innovators in their chosen profession.

A fresh attitude of mind counts as much as novel tactics in this respect and here Macksey's summation of Nelson is masterly: "At the root of Nelson's greatness in battle was an insistence, through manoeuvre, upon concentration of maximum firepower against successive parts of the enemy's line before he could counter-attack.

"But his genius lay in a vibrant offensive spirit, in humanity and in the devotion he inspired in subordinates by encouraging them to use their initiative with confidence."

Basic principles laid down as long ago as 500 BC by Sun Tzu — "All men can see the tactics whereby I conquer, but what none can see is the strategy out of which victory is evolved" — remain true today despite all the advances of modern technology.

And, Macksey observes: "The unbridled search for new knowledge through extravagant research and development can produce confusion and also obscure the identification of essentials, in addition to wasting energy, time and money" — an aspect of modern warfare that always attracts detailed publicity.

This is as undoubtedly true as is his following statement: "Setting aside the possibility of mutual destruction through loss of control of technology, it is not to be expected that the progressive urge will be abandoned." — JFA

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Stephen Hanbury

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The foreword is by Air Vice-Marshal R. Bullen CB, GM, MA, RAF (Retd). ISBN 1 872308 43 0. List Price £12.95 plus £1.25 p&p ON SPECIAL OFFER to readers PRICE £11.95 including p&p (UK). Cash with orders please. This special offer is only available by post from: NEWTON BOOKS, PO Box 26, Leicester LE2 6RR

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Two take the high road to £2,500

FORMER Navy nurse Shipmate Tom Vincent is not one to sit around when money is needed for hospital equipment. He put on his boots, took to the road, and raised £2,500 for Northampton General Hospital.

Accompanied by fellow shipmate Graham Allister, a former Merchant Navy radio officer, Tom — Hertfordshire branch chairman — set off from Milngavie, Scotland, and headed north for Fort William.

Taking high roads and low they completed the 153km. West Highland Way in eight days, celebrating Tom's 65th birthday en route.

Their Scottish yomp so

impressed Royal Marines members of Herts branch they awarded their intrepid chairman the coveted Commando green beret on his return.

His pride knew no bounds on the occasion of the presentation of the £2,500 cheque to Talbot Ward of Northampton Hospital where his daughter, Sue, works as a staff nurse.

The money has helped provide a therapy bath for patients in need of deep immersion treatment.

Celebrity tot time for Bill (95)



FIRST World War veteran Mr William Figg (95) received celebrity assistance for "Up Spirits" at the Royal Star and Garter Home in Richmond. He was issued his tot by RNA president Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidi and TV personality Richard Baker.

Shipmate Eddie Wells of Kingsbury and Kenton branch organises the annual celebration helped by members of Aldenham branch, and each resident of the Home received a tot.

The occasion was attended by Shipmate John Merrett, president of Aldenham branch, and Mr William Sparks the last of the "Cockleshell Heroes".

Pearl Day marchers defy rain

THE annual parade and service in remembrance of the attack on Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941, was not blessed with good weather.

Battling the rain in true naval tradition, the parade, organised by Southend-on-Sea branch, was led by The Royal British Legion (Hockley) Drum and Pipe Band and a US Navy and Marine colour party.

Thirty standards representing branches in the area and ex-Service associations were displayed as a the marchers, including 26 US airmen with their commanding officer, Lt-Col D. G. Webb, arrived at St Mary the Virgin Church for a service conducted by branch chaplain, the Rev. Roger Mason.

Douglas keeps the children spellbound

SHIPMATE Douglas Fielding of Huddersfield branch discovered how much children enjoy history when it is brought to life when he gave a talk and film show to pupils of Kirkburton Middle School on life on board ship during the Second World War.

Shipmate Fielding, who joined the Navy in 1939 and left at the end of the 1940s, served on Atlantic, Russian and Malta convoys. As he talked about those grim war-time days he had his audience of 150 boys and girls spellbound.

His presentation, supported by archive photographs and war medals, aroused such interest that he had many questions to answer before leaving the classroom to rousing applause.

A cold night did not deter 145 members of Chestnut branch from arriving in happy

mood for their fourth annual dinner. Mr Peter Rooke, a local author and historian, and his wife, were guests of honour.

Shipmate Jack Adams, branch president, proposed the loyal toast. Mr Rooke proposed the toast to the RNA and Shipmate Ron Joy, chairman, replied.

He thanked Doreen (Babs)

Branch News

Chalkey for organising the event and congratulated the branch on a growth in strength to more than 100 members.

Thelma Drew and Vernon Elphick were elected Shipmaid and Shipmate of the Year respectively.

The ninth annual dinner of Herne Bay branch was attended by 12 residents of Pembroke House, one of whom celebrated

his 94th birthday by having a dance.

Members of the local Sea Cadet unit, TS Triumph, who had been a great help during the evening received a tarpauline muster award of £55.

Cleethorpes branch is now open for business after a complete refit. It boasts an enlarged clubroom with dance floor and stage and a reregged main bar. The club extends a warm welcome to visiting shipmates.

Members of Purley branch mourn the loss of their loyal and dedicated secretary of 25 years, Shipmate George Cross, who died suddenly. He was No. 1 Area delegate for 15 years and was made a life member of the branch in 1983 on the occasion of Purley's golden jubilee.

Members of Redruth and Cambourne were pleased to welcome back their chairman,

Shipmate John Bennetts, after a long illness. He heard good news on his return — Shipmate Bob Lewry reported a healthy financial climate. There was good news, too, for Shipmate Ron Stokes. For his dedicated service as standard bearer he was awarded a statuette by the branch.

Thurrock RNA choir were in fine voice and led the singing at a Christmas service in St Cadd's Church. There was a big turn out for the branch Christmas dinner enjoyed by 170 shipmates and wives. It was followed by a disco and raffle, the proceeds of which were donated to charity.

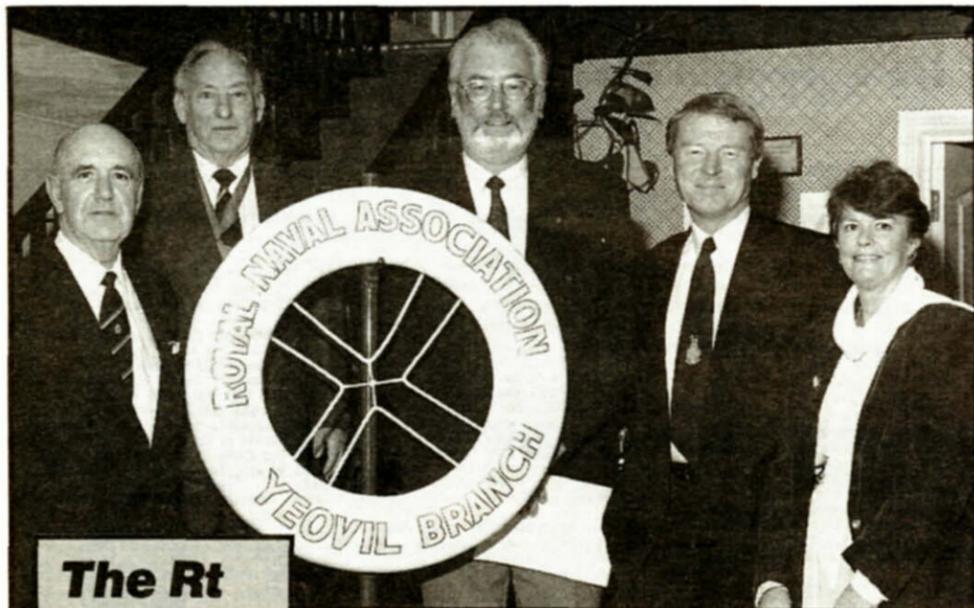
Oldham RNA Club remind people who bought tickets in the car draw that ticket stubs were due back on January 31 for the draw on February 14. If the 6,000 outstanding returns are not made immediately the draw will have to be postponed for a month.

Shipmates Jack Partington and Bill Rigby of Bolton branch advise old shipmates of HMS Roberts that they are eligible to apply for the Malta Cross 50th anniversary medal for service in the Mediterranean 1942-43.

In keeping with the caring mood of branches such as Torridgeside and Braunton, word has gone out to keep an eye on those shipmates living alone in case they have gone down with flu.

Selsey branch celebrated the anniversary of Trafalgar with a dinner at the local golf club at which the guest speaker was Mr Maurice Ayling.

A model of HMS Cairo was presented to Shipmate George Male who was serving in Cairo when she was torpedoed and sunk during Operation Pedestal in 1942. The model was the gift of CPO George Vella, currently serving, who spent 600 hours making it.



The Rt Hon. member

Paddy Ashdown, Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party and a member of Yeovil branch, keeps in touch with grass roots at a branch dinner. With him (from left) are Shipmates Doug Farge (president), Frank Kime (chairman), Bob Stapleton (PRO) and Mr Ashdown's wife, Jane.

Picture: Bob Dobson

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Expeds' highs and lows

ROYAL Navy expeditions have been reaching the heights and plumbing the depths from Ascension Island to the Pyrenees.

Nine members of the RN and RM Sub Aqua Association returned from a three-week exercise to Ascension Island. Entitled Hammer Hawk 93, the exped was planned to train expedition leaders and to gain higher British Sub Aqua Club qualifications for the divers.

Divers from HMS Seahawk, Sultan and Daedalus took part alongside those from TE Pyestock and RNH Haslar. The leader was CPO Steve Houghton of RN air station Culdrose.

Meanwhile HMS Drake and Portsmouth Command were undertaking separate expeditions to the Pyrenees. A group of 12 from Drake and accommodated ships spent a week hill walking there while the 12-man

team from Portsmouth reached a 10,000 peak.

In the UK, members of LS(MW) qualifying course opted to pothole for their course exped. They explored the mysteries of Swildon 1 cave in the Mendip Hills.

Canada memorial

A MEMORIAL in remembrance of 55 men of the Royal Navy who died while serving on the Pacific Coast of Canada has been dedicated in Victoria, British Columbia.

The memorial was bought and erected by the Victoria Branch of the Royal Canadian Naval Association. The service of dedication was attended by Lt Cdr Jonathan Woodcock.

Warm reception for dockyard

MAJOR developments for the benefit of visitors are taking place in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, home of HMS Victory, the Tudor warship Mary Rose, the Victorian ironclad battleship HMS Warrior and the Royal Naval Museum.

The Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust, which is responsible for the restoration and

new use of the dockyard's mainly Georgian and Victorian listed buildings, is laying out

more than £2.5 million on improving facilities for the 750,000 tourists who visit the maritime heritage centre every year.

At an overall cost of £2 million, a large Victorian wooden boathouse is being restored and fitted out to house a 350-seat restaurant, a dockyard exhibition area, education centre and retail outlet.

The trust is also spending £650,000 on building a visitor reception centre providing computerised ticketing and an introduction to the attractions.

Both facilities are expected to be ready for visitors in May.

Squadron keeps the peace



THE First Mine Countermeasures Squadron has been awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace at a ceremony in Rosyth.

Mr Colin Bass, technical director from Wilkinson Sword, made the presentation to FOSNI, Vice Admiral Christopher Morgan. The Admiral then presented the sword to CCMEA John Watson and the framed citation to AB(MW) Philip Fort who accepted them on behalf of the squadron.

The award was made for the squadron's contribution towards establishing good and friendly relations with the people of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania during a deployment to the Baltic in 1992.

Pictured at the ceremony are back, from left, Lt Cdr Andy Davies, the squadron's operations officer at the time of the deployment, Cdr Martin Littleboy, former Squadron Commander, Lt Cdr Simon Snowball, former CO of HMS Brocklesby and Lt Cdr Peter Lewis, former CO HMS Ledbury; front, from left, CCMEA John Watson, Mr Colin Bass, Vice Admiral Christopher Morgan and AB Philip Fort.

Support in Bath

AT the inaugural conference of the Naval Support Command opened in Bath by Chief of Fleet Support, Vice Admiral Sir Neville Purvis, a major step forward was taken in the formation of the organisation which formally takes effect in April.

The NSC will take in additional people from the Sea Systems Controllerate and the Fleet Engineering Staffs and will have over 24,000 people, including a naval contingent of 3,000, when it is fully formed. The conference was seen as an essential tool in bringing together all these organisations for the first time.

Master chefs

A £2 million package of improvements to RN and RM facilities has been carried out by Tarmac.

After a £600,000 upgrading of cooking and eating facilities at HMS Drake, RN chefs have been provided with a whole range of new high-tech cooking equipment in a computerised galley.

The contract followed a similar order to build and equip a new cookhouse and dining room for the RM Commandos at Seaton Barracks.

Also under construction is a £500,000 store to accommodate camouflage nets for the Royal Marines at Bickleigh Barracks as well as a major refurbishment of medical facilities at Coypool Barracks.

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POLICE OFFICER

Dramatis personae put MTB 71 centrestage

IT IS a story full of drama and characters — from the motor torpedo boat that ran agents to France to the ex-racing car driver who understudied James Bond, writes Chris Horrocks.

Add a few more ingredients — the ex-Wren mother of a famous tycoon, the coastal flotilla commander later knighted for his services to the brewing industry, the howling dog, and the war widow who received her husband's medals 52 years after his death — and you have a rich pageant.

It was in the early hours of June 22, 1941 that MTB 71, a Vosper 60-footer on a dangerous mission to the French coast, suffered engine failure in the Channel and was strafed by a German E-boat.

Acting Stoker PO Peter Marchant was killed by shrapnel as he dashed across the deck to repair one of the two engines.

At that very moment at the Marchant home in Bognor Regis, Sussex, ship's dog Pluto, ordered ashore because he kept falling overboard, began howling eerily — and Peter's wife Joan knew that something had happened to her husband.

War widow

Fifty-two years later, that war widow, now Mrs Joan Horrocks, whose second husband, a former Chief ERA, died in 1972, was astonished to discover that MTB 71 was still afloat on the Chichester Canal, just along the coast from her Southsea home.

The only surviving 60ft



Above: David Watson beside MTB 71 on Chichester Canal. He is trying to trace men who served in the motor torpedo boat, which he is in the process of restoring.

Picture: Chichester Observer

MTB, the boat had been home to Cyril Pudney for many years. On his death David Watson, former racing driver and one-time stuntman in James Bond films, began fulfilling a pledge he had made to Cyril to restore the vessel and preserve it as an example of the nation's maritime tradition.

A £500,000 project was launched in partnership with Hampshire County Council with the eventual aim of including MTB 71 in the Portsmouth Naval Heritage Area.

Meanwhile, contact was being made with key participants in the MTB 71 drama,

including surviving officers and shipmates from June 1941, some now living abroad.

Three of them were reunited at Chichester Yacht Basin, when in a special ceremony near MTB 71's canal berth Mrs Horrocks was presented with Acting Stoker PO Marchant's war medals by Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, former Coastal Forces Flotilla commanding officer, knighted in 1979 for his services to the brewing industry.

Mrs Horrocks had never received the original 1939-45 Star, Atlantic Star and Defence of the Realm Medal due to her

as a result of her first husband's service. A duplicate set had been obtained from HMS Centurion with the help of Len Reynolds, Coastal Forces historian.

Shipmates

The three surviving shipmates who joined other Coastal Forces veterans at the ceremony were torpedo man Dennis Burridge, of Worthing, engineer Eric Ashton, of Llandudno, and telegraphist David Alderslade, of Midhurst.

Also present were tycoon Richard Branson's parents, Ted

and Eve. Mrs Branson, a wartime Wren attached to the Coastal Forces Flotilla, presented Mr Watson with an Aldis lamp for MTB 71's "refit".

There too was Edwin Houghton, who helped build the boat for Vosper in Portsmouth in the 1930s, and Peter Marchant's brother, Ken, from Portsmouth. Chichester SCC provided a guard of honour.

As Mr Watson proceeds with his restoration project, he is still trying to trace others who served in MTB 71, whose active service ended when she was damaged in the Mediterranean later in the war.

Top dogs

KING George's Fund for Sailors has appointed Capt Martin Appleton as its new director general. He succeeds The Lord Burnham.

Capt Appleton joins KGFS after 36 years' Royal Navy service. His most recent naval appointment was as Commodore HMS Centurion.

During 1994 he will oversee King George's Fund for Sailors' announced distribution of over £2¼m in grants to more than 80 maritime organisations. The Fund covers all areas of seafaring — the Royal and Merchant Navies, fishing fleets and others.

Its coffers are £1,350 richer to date thanks to sales of the booklet *Able Seadog Just Nuisance RN*, written by Mrs Jean Radcliffe, secretary of the KGFS Eden Valley Committee.

She learns from Mr Eddie Redgrave (ex HMS Cumberland, now living in the Cape) that, "following a visit to South Africa last year by Capt. Murray Dunlop, President, HMS Ganges, the Simonstown Division has undertaken the refurbishment of the grave of Just Nuisance. This was set in motion by Mr John Davis and Mr Francis Glass of Ayr, who originally dug the grave.

"The South African Navy has agreed to signs and an easier access, and a member of RNA Cape Town has donated 90 kg of marble chips. Once the scrub has been cleared, suitable planting will take place to make the area worthy of this much-loved AB."

Copies of Mrs Radcliffe's booklet are available from her at Scaur Bank, Langworthy, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 1LW, priced £4 (£5 overseas) — cheques payable to KGFS Just Nuisance RN.

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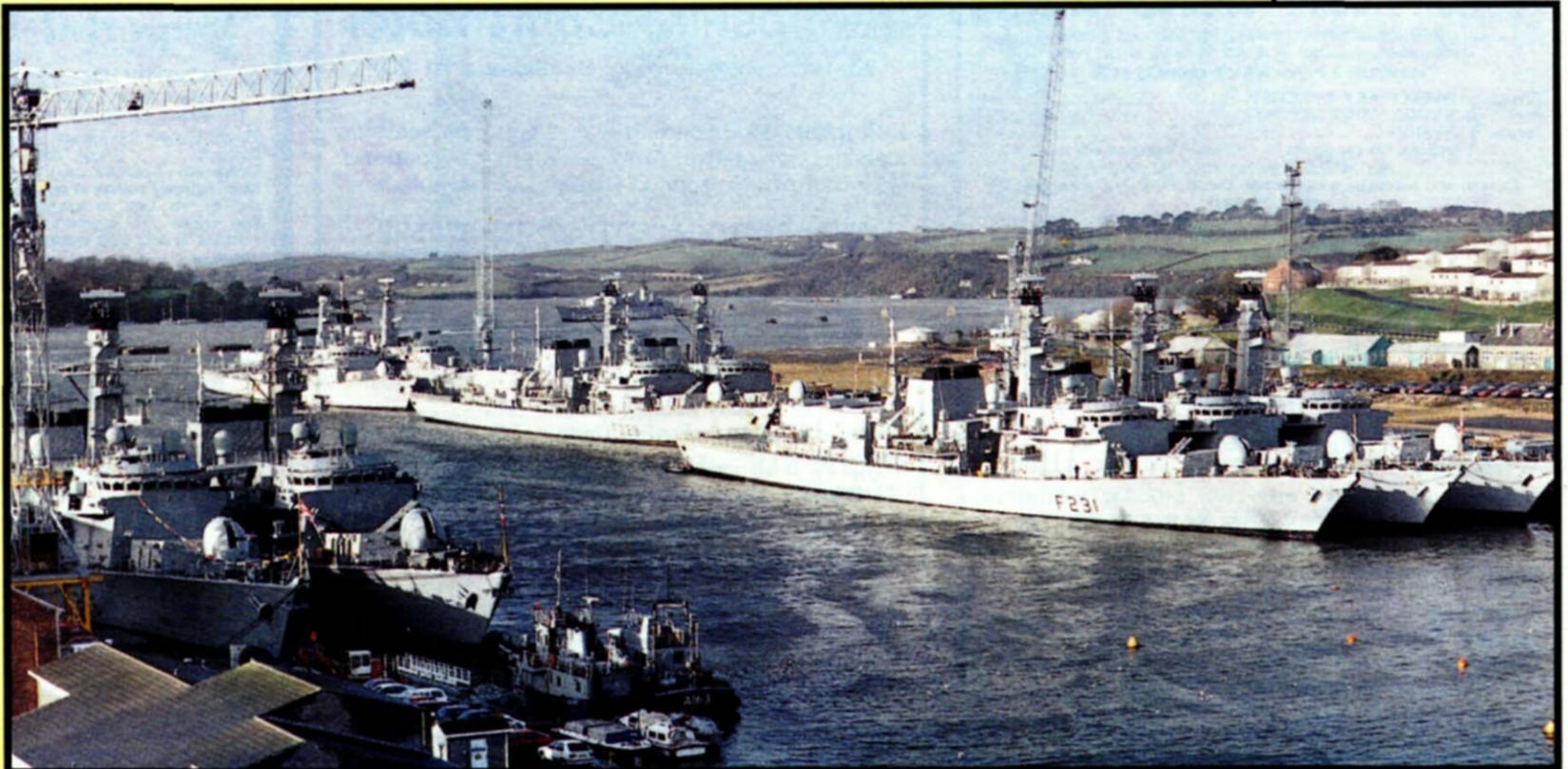
Picture that's in a class of its own

FOR the first time all eight Type 23 ships of the Sixth Frigate Squadron are pictured together, alongside Western Mill jetties, Devonport.

The opportunity was snapped up by Drake Photographic Section while the ships' companies were on Christmas leave. The Duke-class ships have now returned to sea duties across the globe and may never again be together in one place.

Latest of the class is HMS Westminster, the first Type 23 to have a functioning command and control system which enables all the frigate's weapons — including Harpoon anti-ship missiles and vertically launched SeaWolf anti-aircraft missiles — to be engaged from the Operations Room.

Other ships in the picture are HMS Montrose, Argyll, Marlborough, Iron Duke, Monmouth, Lancaster and Norfolk under the command of Capt James Perowne, Captain of the Sixth Frigate Squadron.



Cardiff drinks-in media successes



Mrs Gillian Wetherm uses Welsh whisky to top up the decanter awarded to HMS Cardiff for the ship's efforts in media relations over a year. The trophy, received by Cardiff's commanding officer, Cdr Neil Morisetti, is named after the late Desmond Wetherm and will be awarded annually.

FOR THEIR efforts in projecting a positive public image, HMS Cardiff has been presented with the Desmond Wetherm Fleet Award.

Cardiff is the first winner of the trophy which takes the form of a decanter mounted on a plinth of wood from HMS Victory. It was presented by Flag Officer Surface Flotilla, Rear Admiral Mike Boyce, at a ceremony on board the destroyer at Portsmouth Naval Base.

The award was commissioned by Mrs Gillian Wetherm, widow of Desmond Wetherm who for many years was naval correspondent of the Daily Telegraph and a lieutenant in the RNR.

One stipulation of which Desmond would approve is that the decanter must be kept full.

It will be awarded annually to the ship or naval air squadron which has worked hardest and most effectively to project a positive public image of the Royal Navy.

Cardiff, a Type 42 destroyer, gained success for her sustained efforts including her excellent national and regional media coverage during her relief work in the Caribbean in the wake of Hurricane Andrew.

She has also won praise for keeping up strong links with her affiliated city of Cardiff.

Runner-up

Also attending the presentation ceremony were representatives from HMS Brecon, the runners-up, and HMS Ark Royal and 845 Naval Air Squadron which shared third place.

Brecon won second place for her media relations during the dispute involving French and English trawlers off the Scilly Isles and during actions in providing aid when fire broke out on the Plymouth-Roscoff ferry.

Ark Royal was commended for her work during Operation Shop Window, a public relations exercise during which she circumnavigated mainland Britain. She was also praised for her media efforts on Operation Grapple off the coast of former Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile 845 NAS were, and still are, operating ashore in Bosnia and Croatia in support of the United Nations relief effort.

SPEAKER HAS ARK IN FRAME

SPEAKER of the House of Commons Miss Betty Boothroyd receives a signed and framed photograph of HMS Ark Royal from WRO Cathy McConnell during a visit to the House by young officers and by ratings who are candidates for promotion to officer.

The group from Ark were in the public gallery for Prime Minister's Question Time, meeting Madam Speaker just before the event.



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RNSA ENDS TASK AS BIG RACE ORGANISER

THE Royal Naval Sailing Association is to stand down from its 20-year-old task as the organising authority of the Whitbread Round the World Race when the current race finishes in June.

The Association's annual meeting was told that the RNSA would concentrate on events more appropriate to the needs of its members.

When the RNSA organised the first Round the World Race in 1973 which was the first fully-crewed circumnavigation race.

The Navy's yacht Adventure won three of the four legs. Since then the Association has led the field in the development of rules for major transoceanic racing.

'Proud'

However over the two decades in which the RNSA has organised all six of the races, the event has developed from one in which amateur crews competed in standard production boats into a major international media event with enormous commercial sponsorship, professional crews and state-of-the-art yachts.

The Commodore of the RNSA, Admiral Sir John Kerr, said today that the Association remained committed to its support of the current race. "We remain proud of what we have achieved but it is now time to move on to a new challenge."

Fight to save Navy's first sub

HOLLAND 1, the Royal Navy's first submarine, has been covered by a huge tarpaulin while work is carried out in an attempt to stop the boat's disintegration.

The submarine was recovered from the seabed in a remarkable state of preservation in 1981 and has been on display at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum at Gosport.

However, the problems of preserving iron and steel that has long been submerged in salt water have only recently been understood, and they are much more serious than those of ordinary rust.

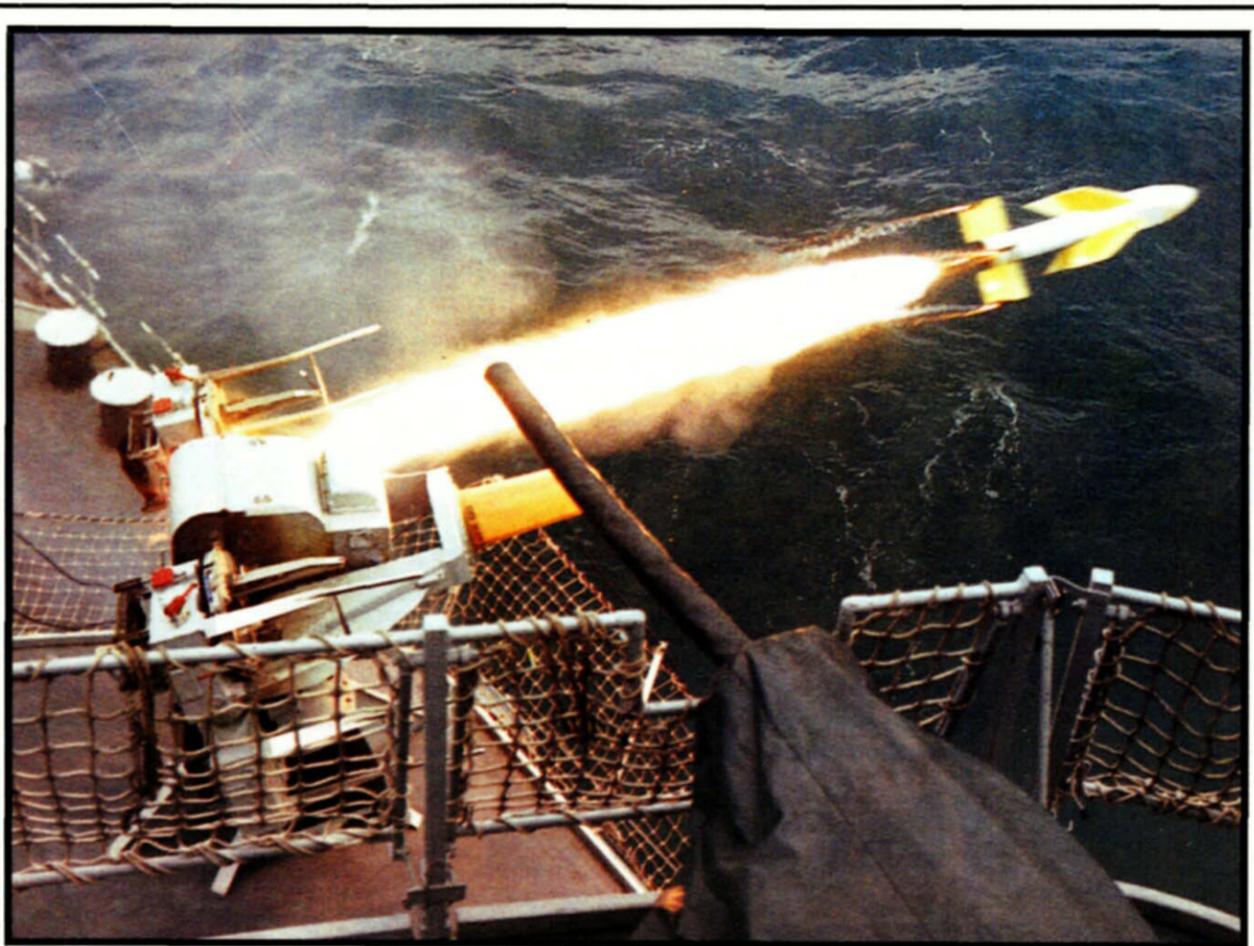
Protection

Salt in the seawater has penetrated every part of the boat's iron construction and now that she is exposed to oxygen in the atmosphere, chemical reactions are splitting the iron at its heart.

Under the 60ft by 70ft canvas marquee made by sail-makers at HMS Sultan, Holland's hull, stripped of paint during recent investigations, will be protected from the weather.

In October she will be immersed in a specially constructed tank of sodium carbonate solution which will wash out the salts and stabilise the situation.

The pioneering conservation work will take four years after which her tank will be converted into an air and temperature-controlled building to preserve her for future visitors and historians.



SEACAT'S FIERY FAREWELL

GOING out in a blaze of glory, the Seacat missile system undergoes one of its last firings in Royal Navy service.

The surface-to-air missile was successfully fired from the assault ship HMS Fearless against an aerial target towed by FRADU. The weapon, guided by AB(M) Donald (Tetley) Teahan, hit and destroyed the target, proving that the system is still effective despite its age.

The last GWS 20 seaborne optical tracking and guidance system will soon

be withdrawn and it is expected that Seacat will be removed from Fearless as it has been from her sister ship HMS Intrepid.

Meanwhile Fearless celebrated the 30th anniversary of her launch on December 19 with the cutting of a birthday cake by her commanding officer, Capt Sym Taylor, assisted by the youngster rating on board, AB(M) Billy Milward (18).

And as one of the last of the Navy's steam-powered ships, Fearless says she is unrivalled in boasting ten three-badge POMEM(M)s in her ship's company.

Frigate shares warm welcome with Lord Callaghan



Lord Callaghan accompanied by HMS Brilliant's commanding officer, Cdr James Rapp, signs the visitors book on board.

Brilliant visit to Swansea!

RATING her visit to Swansea as "brilliant", Type 22 frigate HMS Brilliant found by coincidence that she was sharing the South Wales city's warm welcome with another celebrity — former Prime Minister Lord Callaghan.

Portsmouth-born Lord Callaghan was in Swansea to receive the Freedom of the City, a ceremony to which the Lord Mayor invited Brilliant's commanding officer, Cdr James Rapp.

Lord Callaghan completed his wartime naval service as a lieutenant, and Lady Callaghan launched Brilliant's sister ship HMS Battleaxe. Memories were rekindled for both of them when they attended a cocktail party in Brilliant and met members of the ship's company.

Arethusa

The Lord Mayor returned the hospitality with a reception for the Brilliant visitors.

It was the first visit to Swansea by a major warship for over a year — a reflection on the heavy demands on ships' programmes. Nevertheless, the city's welcome was typically warm, and Swansea is keen to maintain ties with the Royal Navy even though her previously affiliated ship, HMS Arethusa, is now out of commission.

Brilliant arrives in Swansea for a memorable visit.





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SERVICE WITH A SMILE

"STAFF" at one of the last 24-hour service stations for several thousands of miles are pictured on this team photograph on the Aft Bridge of RFA Diligence.

Naval Party 2010, currently embarked in the forward repair ship in the Falkland Islands, spent Christmas and New Year away from home providing support to RN and RFA ships in the South Atlantic.

Despite a steady stream of customers, most of the naval party have been able to take a few days off to explore the islands and see the abundance of wildlife during their four-month tour.



Who's a pretty boy?



WEST Indies Guardship HMS Active, home later this month, has no Wrens amongst her ship's company but she does have a Jenny — a four-year-old African grey parrot, renowned throughout the ship (and, more recently, throughout the Caribbean!) for her very loud voice and extensive repertoire of tunes and sayings. Jenny was presented to the ship's rugby team after a match in the Gambia, West Africa, three years ago, and since then she has thrived on her shipborne life. She originally resided in the Stokers' Mess, but eventually the watchkeepers there decided that her extremely loud rendition of "Call the Hands" and the same opening bars of "The Sting", whistled repea-

tedly throughout the day, were too much, and that she had to go. She has now taken up residence in the Wardroom, adding to her already wide-ranging vocabulary, most of which is not suitable for publication in a family paper such as Navy News! She is pictured here enjoying a change of scenery on the bridge of HMS Active with her "minder" LMEM Glen Jones. When the ship was alongside at West Indian ports Jenny enjoyed her position at the gangway, where she took in the sunshine and showed off her talents to everyone passing.

Photo: LA(Phot) Gary Davies

Busy time for RNLI

FIGURES issued by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution show that they had another busy year in 1993, almost equalling the 1992 record number of launches.

They were called out 4,935 times during 1993 and 1,155 people were saved by RNLI lifeboatmen and women.

The RNLI operates a fleet of 272 lifeboats at 210 stations throughout the British Isles, with just over 100 lifeboats in the relief fleet. Since the RNLI was founded in 1824, more than 125,000 lives have been saved.

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With a record of academic and sporting success that is highly regarded by our parents, West Buckland's stimulating environment can help bring out the best in your child. Set on the edge of Exmoor, it is North Devon's only H.M.C. school, offering boys and girls educational continuity from the age of 5 through to university entrance. Day pupils and boarders are equally welcome.

An atmosphere that encourages development

West Buckland School

Preferential terms for members of H.M. Forces.

To arrange a visit or receive a prospectus, please contact:

The Headmaster's Secretary,
West Buckland School,
Barnstaple, EX32 0SX.
Tel: Filleigh (0598) 760281

A registered charity (no. 306710) educating boys and girls from 5 to 18

PROMOTE YOUR SCHOOL EVERY MONTH THROUGH THE NAVY NEWS EDUCATION SECTION



FOR DETAILS RING: 0705 826040

Sir Roger Manwood's School

Sandwich, Kent
CT13 9JX
Tel: (0304) 613286
Fax: (0304) 615336

Founded 1563

Grant Maintained Mixed Grammar School

11-18 (650 pupils) (6th Form 170 pupils)

100 Boarding Places

Boarding Fees £4350 pa — No Tuition Fees

1993 A-Level and GCSE pass rates 95%

Strong extra-curricular tradition

Applications for boarding places particularly welcome for entry age 11. Caring boarding for service children

Superb school grounds

Close to Sandwich Station for trains to London and Dover for Cross Channel Ferry Services (20 minutes)

Full details and prospectus may be obtained by writing or telephone the Headmaster



WHICH SCHOOL?

ISIS, the Independent Schools Information Service offers FREE book of junior/senior boarding & day schools in the South & West.

Please send two 1st class stamps to ISIS, "Skippers", Shipton Lane, Burton, Bradstock, Dorset DT6 4NQ
Tel: 0308 898045



PENRHOS COLLEGE AND JUNIOR SCHOOL

Girl Boarders 7-18

EXCELLENT FACILITIES AND HIGH STANDARDS

Forces Bursaries available

Prospectus available from:

Headmaster, Penrhos College
Colwyn Bay, North Wales LL28 4DA

Penrhos College exists for the education of children. Reg. Charity No. 525751

Upper Chine School

Headmistress: Dr Helen Harvey BSc PhD

SHANKLIN, ISLE OF WIGHT

Independent G.S.A. Boarding and Day School for Girls from 9-18 years
Many girls from naval families. Pupil/staff ratio 8-1
Entrance and sixth form scholarships, bursaries, drama and music awards available

For a free prospectus write or telephone (0983) 862208 Fax (0983) 864822
Reg Charity providing education for girls from 9-18

Wilton House School

Battle, Hastings, East Sussex TN33 9BS. 0424 830234

Co-educational boarding and day school

Head office and senior school: Catsfield Place, Battle

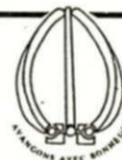
GCSE and A' Levels 13-18 years

Junior school: Broomham, Guestling, Hastings. 5-13 years

Small classes. Remedial and individual tuition arranged when required.
● Computer workshop, ● Swimming pools, ● Tennis courts, ● Games fields and horse riding. ● Escort services to and from airports.
Special terms for Service children additional to Service grants.

Established since 1954

Apply: The School Secretary



DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

The Manor, Church Lane, Bury, Nr Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1PB
Tel: 0798 831456

- * IAPS boarding, weekly boarding and day preparatory school for boys, 4 1/2 to 13 years
- * Excellent academic and music/arts record
- * Small classes ensure personal attention
- * Strong sporting tradition
- * Idyllic setting at foot of the Downs
- * Wealth of extra-curricular activities
- * New computer facilities

We understand the needs of Service families.

For further details contact the Bursar, Wg Cdr Adrian Gill

The aim of this charitable trust is to provide a first class education for boys

WARMINSTER SCHOOL

Coeducational, Day and Boarding
4 to 18 years old

- * Pupils can join at any age
- * Long experience in caring for Services families
- * Bursaries available, plus 6th Form Scholarships and awards at 11+
- * Continuity of education across the whole age range, within a caring, friendly community
- * An opportunity to keep the whole family together
- * Small class sizes, excellent facilities
- * High standards and clear expectations

Prospectus and further details may be obtained from Warminster School, Church Street, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 8PJ (Tel: 0985 213038; Fax: 0985 214129)

Warminster School is a registered charity providing education for boys and girls

Embley Park School

A Registered Charity which exists to educate children

CO-EDUCATIONAL
11-18 DAY &
BOARDING

Romsey, Hants
Tel: 0794 512206
Fax: 0794 518737



- * SMALL CLASSES
- * DEVELOP POTENTIAL
- * EXCELLENT ENTRY TO HIGHER EDUCATION
- * INDIVIDUAL CARE
- * GREAT TEAM SPIRIT

CHILTON CANTELO SCHOOL



YEOVIL, SOMERSET TEL: (0935) 850555

Independent Co-ed Day/Boarding School

Preparatory: 8-11 Senior: 11-18

".. where pupils achieve"

Termly fees (+BSA): Prep: £192 Senior: £240

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

SOUTHSEA, HAMPSHIRE PO5 3QW

Tel: (0705) 815118 Fax: (0705) 873603

Catholic Independent Boarding and Day School for Boys conducted by the De La Salle Brothers. Headmaster: Rev. Brother Cyril, FSC
Other denominations welcomed Girls accepted into the Sixth Form

33 Government Assisted Places Awarded Annually

Upper School 11-18 Lower: School 4-11 Boarding 8-18

Service Personnel can take up dayboy status on the parents retirement from the Services

New 1992: Sports Hall, Squash Courts, Theatre, Information Technology Labs, Sixth Form Common Room

Further information from the Headmaster's Secretary

REGISTERED CHARITY — FOUNDED TO PROVIDE EDUCATION

St Petroc's School

Ocean View Road

Bude

Cornwall EX23 8NJ

Telephone 0288 352876

Headmaster:

P. W. Blundell, B.A., A.C.P., Cert. Ed., I.A.P.S. Member

FULL BOARDING FOR £10 A WEEK*

Give your child an excellent chance of achieving his, or her, full potential

Give yourself peace of mind knowing that your son, or daughter, is being well looked after, no matter where you are in the world

Give your child the opportunity of learning in really small classes with plenty of individual attention

A really wide-ranging curriculum is on offer from swimming to C.D.T. to French

Parents receive written reports every three weeks

The school provides a family atmosphere, marvellous environment and a high standard of discipline

*St Petroc's accepts the full Services Boarding School Allowance as payment of fees (B.S.A. £1,645 and parents' contribution £183 per term).

The Headmaster will be happy to send you a prospectus or arrange a visit.
A registered charity founded to provide education.

INDEFATIGABLE SCHOOL ANGLESEY

I.S.A.I.

B.S.A.

A registered charity.
Our aim is to provide an education for Boys from 11-18 yrs of age.
Are you considering independent education but are put off by the cost?

- * At Indefatigable quality education is affordable.
 - * Service families pay the minimum contribution required under B.S.A. regulation.
 - * No charge for uniform, sports kit, text books, laundry etc.
 - * Wide ranging curriculum and activities including sailing, canoeing, climbing etc.
- Indefatigable is ideal for a boy who likes to play hard as well as work hard. If you think your son would benefit from coming to us then contact:

Mr P D White, Headmaster, Indefatigable School,
Plas Llanfair, Llanfairpwll, Anglesey LL61 6NT
Tel No: 0248 714338 Fax No: 0248 715876

Established 1884

BOVERIDGE HOUSE SCHOOL

CRANBORNE, Nr WIMBORNE, DORSET BH21 5RU

Headteacher: Miss P. Harper

Independent Boarding School for Children with learning difficulties and related medical problems.

School is in a Listed Building and set in rural countryside.

Entry requirements by interview.

Moderate fees (only just above Naval allowance)

TELEPHONE 0725 517

DOUAI SCHOOL

Independent HMC
Co-educational School
10 to 18 years



Dominus mihi adjutor

Douai is a Roman Catholic foundation which also welcomes Christians of other denominations. Girls were first admitted into the school in September 1993. Scholarships and assisted places are available.

Open Morning

Saturday 19 March — 10 am-1.00 pm

Douai has strong links with Royal Navy families

Details and prospectus from the Headmaster:

Fr Edmund Power OSB, BA, BD, PhD
Douai School, Upper Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5TH
(Tel: 0734 715200 Fax: 0734 715241)

Registered Charity Founded to provide Education

Education

Any parent seeking a school for their child today is faced with a bewildering variety of choices.

Striking the right balance between the rigours of a highly academic school career and the development of a fully rounded, socially able and aware human being is not easy. The choice of schools becomes all the more difficult given the added dimension of service life. The long absences and the constant moves make the choice of school one of the most important decisions any naval parent has to make. It is vital that any child in these circumstances be given the security and the continuity of academic development that she will need for her future life.

At Upper Chine, we have many years of experience in dealing with these issues, countless girls from naval families have been educated by us. Over the years, we have developed what we believe to be the very best of both worlds. Our pupils are educated to the highest possible standards.

Each year the academically able achieve outstanding results going on to University and ultimately to fulfilling careers in a wide variety of fields. Even the less able consistently achieve results that would be unthinkable in the harsher, less personal environment of many other schools. But this academic excellence is tempered by the realisation that we must also care for the individual's social and moral needs. After all, what is the use of a highly academic mind without the social skills, the understanding of others and the moral values to make sense of today's ever-changing world?

At Upper Chine we have used our own experience and that of others to develop a strategy that we believe makes us very special and which gives all our pupils the very best of education. This strategy includes

- ★ Single sex education
- ★ Small classes
- ★ Tailoring the curriculum to the needs of the individual
- ★ Academic excellence
- ★ A safe, secure and beautiful environment
- ★ A full programme of activities for boarders
- ★ A caring family atmosphere
- ★ Open channels of communication between parents and school
- ★ The development of the self discipline, self esteem and self motivation necessary to meet successfully the demands and challenges of adult life

With its close proximity to Portsmouth Upper Chine has been and continues to be the first choice for many parents from the Service. We are confident that a visit to the School will show you why.

Upper Chine's Strategy for Success



Proof that boarding's fun at Upper Chine

Bare boards, cold baths and gruel?

Modern boarding could not be further removed from the traditional Dickensian picture often painted. As a visit to Upper Chine would reveal, living accommodation is spacious and comfortable, warm and modern. Food is diverse, healthy and suited to the tastes of teenagers.

Parents are not only welcome in School and Lodge at any time but are encouraged to view their daughters' education as a co-operative venture. Boarding arrangements today are far more flexible than they ever were in the past. Boarders' parents are encouraged to visit whenever they wish, or can, and accommodation is set aside for such visits. Full boarders may even have friends to stay for the occasional weekend.

Girls benefit by being valued for their strengths which are developed not only in traditional school activities but also in a whole range of extra-curricular pursuits.

It is easier to establish sound habits of study at boarding school than in isolation, and the sense of community is hugely enhanced when young people take meals together, worship together and enjoy shared leisure activities in a boarding environment. Above all, boarding is fun!

If You Have a Daughter And are concerned with

- ★ The continuity of her academic progress
- ★ Her moral, social & spiritual development
- ★ The full realisation of her potential
- ★ Her ability to cope with the many problems of childhood and adolescence given the upheavals of Service life

Then, on **Saturday 26 February**, we will share with you some of the expertise that we have developed over many years in dealing with these issues. This is **not an open day** but an insight - especially designed for Naval families - into a very remarkable School.

Our structured programme of events begins promptly at 10am. Contact the School Secretary on Isle of Wight (0983) 862208 Upper Chine School Church Road Shanklin Isle of Wight PO37 6QU



FAIRFIELD

A GIRL'S PREP SCHOOL IN THE '90s

The youngest girls now enter Fairfield, the preparatory department, between the age of eight and nine.

A Fairfield girl, like every Upper Chine girl, is expected and helped to produce her academic best, to be socially confident, independent, innovative and sensitive to the feelings and aspirations of others.

The academic, social and spiritual foundations for these objectives are laid early in life and are the fundamental basis for any good preparatory school.

In Fairfield we strive to give a comprehensive academic groundwork helping each child to develop at her own pace.

The traditional concepts of self-discipline, courtesy and good manners are fundamental to Upper Chine's ethos and are encouraged and taught by example throughout the School.

The Resident Housemistresses and the Fairfield-based School Nurse provide a homely, caring and supportive environment. Young children need love, attention and, above all, time. All three are provided - in abundance at Upper Chine.

To each according to her needs

At Upper Chine small teaching groups and a staff pupil ratio of 1:7 allow the tailoring of the curriculum to the needs and benefit of the individual pupil rather than vice versa.

There are no restrictions on the choice of subjects. Timetables are constructed after choices are made. Sixth form timetables are individually tailored. Resident staff provide help and support outside the teaching day.

The very able can be moved ahead more rapidly, support work can be provided for those who are struggling. All this means that not only do the very able make best use of their potential but so do those of more limited ability.

Over the years we have seen repeated instances of girls of only moderate ability achieving excellent results - it is not uncommon for such girls to achieve nine or ten GCSE passes - Grade C or above.

Even girls with GCSE results as modest as five passes at Grade C or above often achieve the three A-levels required to secure a place in University or Polytechnic thereby setting them on the road to the career of their choice.



Single sex schools like Upper Chine have a winning track record

80 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Since the inception in London at the end of the eighteenth century, Upper Chine has evolved from Dame School through the Anglo-Continental College in Folkestone arriving in Shanklin on the Isle of Wight 80 years ago.

In 1914 subjects on offer ranged from fencing to dancing, elocution to embroidery and the prospectus listed "education" as optional.

Between the wars, girls' education laid rather more emphasis on good manners and social graces than on academic achievements.

By the 1950's and 60's that stage had long since passed and the tentative trickle of university entrants was becoming a steady stream, with Oxford and Cambridge by now realistic aspirations.

At the same time the curriculum broadened to cater for the evergrowing multiplicity of careers open to girls, whether in chemistry or carpentry, aerobics or aeronautics, dentistry or domesticity.

This breadth of choice has resulted in several widely diverse "achievements" among Upper Chine Old Girls which include the first member of the WRNS to become First Lieutenant of a naval establishment (HMS Mercury) the author of the world's first English-Japanese-Thai dictionary, the first woman commissioned into a Guards Regiment and a current Radio One DJ. Over the years, despite many changes in fashion, one thing has remained constant at Upper Chine; that is its aim to develop the potential of each individual and to equip her not only with the necessary educational qualifications but also the strength of character and sense of purpose to benefit from whatever opportunities life may offer.

However we maintain that none of these worthy intentions will be of any avail unless firmly based of moral values. Upper Chine has changed and adapted as and when necessary but its ideals and principles remain the same.



Independent Boarding and Day School
Co-Educational 130 pupils 9-18 years
Established 1891

- ★ Entry at any age
 - ★ Small classes
 - ★ Full range of abilities catered for
 - ★ Specialist help for slow learners
 - ★ Wide range of 6th Form courses
 - ★ Caring and friendly community
 - ★ Forces Fees - BSA plus 10%
 - ★ Central for all main airports
 - ★ All overseas pupils personally escorted to and from airports
- For Prospectus please contact the Bursar: Falcon Manor School, Greens Norton, Towcester, Northants NN12 8BN Telephone: 0327 350544 Fax: 0327 359203



Oakwood School

Co-ed IAPS Prep. School (7-13)

Pre-prep department (3-7)

Beautiful setting; small classes; excellent record

SCHOLARSHIPS for September 1994

50% awards available for boys and girls, 6 to 11.

Academic tests on 12th February.

Credit given for ability in SPORT, DRAMA or MUSIC.

GIRLS' BOARDING AT GENEROUS INTRODUCTORY RATE until end '94/95 academic year.

For details, please telephone: (0243) 575209



BEMBRIDGE SCHOOL

Bembridge, Isle of Wight PO35 5PH
Co-Educational Boarding & Day School

300 Pupils Senior School 13-18
Separate Junior School 7-13

- ★ Small classes and emphasis on individual attention
- ★ Excellent teaching facilities with wide range of subjects offered
- ★ Specialist help for children with dyslexia
- ★ Sailing, golf course, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- ★ Beautiful coastal setting with 100 acres of grounds
- ★ Supervised transport to and from the Island

Further details and prospectus from The Headmaster (0983) 872101
A Registered Charity which exists to provide education for children.

ADVICE ON BOARDING EDUCATION

Choosing a boarding school is one of the most crucial decisions you make as a parent. It is therefore important to undertake careful research and take good advice to ensure that the school will be suitable for your child. You are strongly advised to talk matters over with your Education Officer. Most Education Centres also have a range of helpful publications, and some are now equipped with a sophisticated computer programme which is a valuable aid to shortlisting. More specialist advice and comment on shortlists can be obtained from the Service Children's Education Authority, Schools Advice Section, which maintains a comprehensive bank of information on boarding schools.

Write to SCEA, HQ DGAGC, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2RG, or telephone Winchester Military 2933 (0962 887933).



EDGEHILL COLLEGE

Bideford, Devon EX39 3LY

Boarding, Weekly Boarding & Day

Co-educational 3-18

Large Sixth Form ★ Good Academic Results
The College is situated in 50 acres of grounds on the outskirts of Bideford, Devon

In addition to the wide range of academic subjects, an extensive sporting, music, drama and outdoor pursuits programme is offered.

Sixth Form Centre

The Sixth Form is for students wishing to follow a two-year 'A'-Level course

'A' Level courses are offered in 20 subjects

Regular transport to Exeter/Plymouth

Escorts to London and all major airports

Special rates for Service families

TELEPHONE 0237-471701

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Edgehill is a charitable institution for the education of children



BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS (3-18)

- An excellent standard of education provided by a fully qualified staff
 - A well disciplined, friendly, caring environment with small classes
 - Excellent teaching facilities including a new computer laboratory, new music block and assembly hall matched by a full curriculum including thriving sport and extra curricular programme
 - Daily transport from Torquay, Exeter, Bovey Tracey and Newton Abbot. Close to M5 and mainline rail station
 - Bursaries for service families
- Member of ISAI and accredited by ISJC



Buckeridge Road, Teignmouth, Devon.

Tel. (0626) 774138

Trinity School is a charitable institution for the education of children.



THE ROYAL SCHOOL HAMPSTEAD

Founded 1855

INDEPENDENT BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL GIRLS AGED 5 TO 18 YEARS

- ★ Traditional Curriculum
- ★ High teacher to pupil ratio
- ★ Continuity of education up to 'A' Level
- ★ Small, friendly school in extensive own grounds with excellent facilities
- ★ Flourishing activities include Sport, Drama, Dance and Music
- ★ Escort service for young girls to travel termini
- ★ Frequent educational and cultural visits
- ★ Very competitive fees closely related to Service Boarding School Allowance

For prospectus, write or telephone:
The Principal, The Royal School
65 Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead
London NW3 5UD
Telephone: 071-794 7708

Reg charity founded originally to provide for the education of the daughters of servicemen



HMS Campbelltown's Sevens Squad — (front l-r) PO Hunter, LSTD Hopkins, LPT Willetts and AB Harvey; (back l-r) PO Higgins, CPO Chillcott, LSEA Diamond, LSA Barker, LSEA Main and Lt Cdr Mardon.

BLACKETT'S EXPERIMENT JUSTIFIED

AT LAST, after the previous two fixtures had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, Navy selector Jeff Blackett was able to pick an experimental side for the match against Oxford University at Burnaby Road, writes *The Leprechaun*.

The match was open, fast and very exciting with the Navy losing by 24-13 to a spirited Oxford University side which contained four of the players who beat Cambridge at Twickenham in December. Although this was Jeff's last opportunity to try out new players before picking the squad for the run-up to the Army at Twickenham on 26 March, there was much to be pleased about because he and the spectators present witnessed several first class performances.

In the first 20 minutes Oxford were undoubtedly sharper in every phase of the game and they quickly rattled up 18 points against some very poor midfield tackling. The Navy start was decidedly slow as new players tried to fit into the team but their efforts gradually started to gell towards half-time.

In the second half the Navy immediately dominated with outstanding performances from a very mobile pack where Dixon (blind side) and Redwin (lock) made several incisive runs from broken play. Dixon scored a try after a drive down the touchline involving four of the forwards, and the overall Navy performance was capped by a 65th-minute try from Brown who outpaced his opposite number to score in the corner. The remaining Navy points came from penalty by Elkington.

The performance in the second half showed what the team can achieve by playing an expansive and mobile game. Debutants Eyre (full back), Brown and Redwin all staked their claims for a place at Twickenham while Dixon and Livingstone (scrum half) showed that they still possess many skills and a healthy appetite for the game.

Meanwhile, Rob Nairn tells *Leprechaun* that Devonport Services have had an eventful first half to the season in the Courage Western Counties League. Success against Avonmouth Old Boys, Bideford and Crediton and a hard-fought draw away to Spartans have been finely balanced by narrow defeats to Old Patesians, Wiveliscombe and Drybrook.

Close and exciting games against Redruth, Exeter and St Ives first fifteens, who all operate several leagues above the 'Oggies', only serves to emphasise the potential that is at the Rectory in what is a consolidation year, after two consecutive successful promotion campaigns.

Wayne Davis, Chairman of Selectors, has so far called upon some 60 players for first team

duty and is resigned to further disruption before April. He is quietly confident however that the 94/95 season will result in more silverware and a new fixture list for Devonport.

During HMS Campbelltown's recent Armilla Patrol the ship's rugby team produced a team to play a sevens match against the 'Dubai Exiles' at Jebel Ali. From this brief meeting sparked an idea that the ship should enter the Gulf State Sevens competition, except for the complication that the ship would be at sea on patrol. However, with tremendous help from Cdr David Sandiford (RNLO), who organised flights and accommodation, the lucky team (pictured above) had a tremendous rugby weekend with Campbelltown reaching the quarter-finals of the competition, which was won by the Dubai Exiles.

This competition at the end of November coincided with the Dubai International Sevens tournament (won by England) and the ship's squad welcomed the rare opportunity to rub shoulders with and watch some of the best rugby players in the world who were representing their countries in the tournament. LPT Willetts alerted *Leprechaun* to the story and particularly asked that the RNRU and the Sports Lottery be thanked for their financial help.

Finally, a plug for the RNRU 200 Club where the Secretary, Jonathan Dingle, unlike most lawyers, isn't just after your money. Founded last year, the 200 Club exists to support RN and RM Rugby, to raise funds and to give its members a sporting chance of winning one of an increasing range of prizes.

Currently the top prize is £200 and there is a monthly draw. For a £4 a month stake you receive a newsletter, promotions (of the rugby variety!) and, of course, an automatic entry into the lottery. Jonathan tells *Leprechaun* that membership is close to 100 and the push is on to reach the magic 200. Phone him in the MOD for more details: 071-218-6070.

APPLICATIONS for tickets for the inter-service rugby matches at Twickenham should be made to the Ticket Secretary, RN Rugby Union, HMS Temeraire, Burnaby Road, Portsmouth. The RN v Army match is on March 26 with RN v RAF following on April 13. Closing dates are March 5 and March 17 respectively and tickets — cheques payable to RN Rugby Union Ticket Account — are £8 (£4 for under 18s).

Cornwall exports sportsmen

WHILE on Armilla and Far East deployment, HMS Cornwall sent out her sports teams to compete regularly at rugby, hockey, football and hash-house running, and occasionally at squash, basketball, golf and cricket.

Just as Cornwall is a strong county for rugby, the Type 22 frigate is a strong

rugby ship. Of nine games, played in heat and high humidity, the ship's team won six.

The hockey squad won five matches and lost three; highlight was a 2-1 victory against the strong Sharjah Wanderers in the UAE. For the soccer team there were six matches and four victories. The highlight of the football season was participating in the Perth Cup at Pulau Tioman, in Malaysia. Naval teams from the host

country, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore also took part.

A further high point for the squad was a game in the National Stadium, Colombo — another victory.

Their good sense of team spirit paid dividends for the ship's hash-house runners. They regularly finished in high positions individually and often won team events.

Top seeds meet in final

ALL EIGHT seeded players reached the quarter finals in the open event at the RN Squash Championships at HMS Temeraire.

Lt Robin Young (1) (Phoenix, Whale Island) beat Lt Cdr Alex Johnstone (8) (CINNAVHOME) 3-1; LWTR Jason Youdale (4) (Neptune) bt MEM Rick Edmunds (5) (RM Poole) 3-0; POPT Ian Binks (6) (RNSLAM, Whale Island) bt CPOMEA Stuart Walters (3) (Vanguard) 3-1; and Lt Stuart James (2) (RM Poole) bt Cpl Brian Allan (7) (45 Cdo) 3-1.

The top two seeds, Young and James comfortably won their semis 3-0 against Binks and Youdale respectively. The final saw last year's winner, Young, well beaten by the five-times previous winner, James, 3-0.

The veterans' event was won for the second year running by Lt Cdr Alex Johnstone, who beat the new chairman, Capt Richard Pelly (MOD) 3-0 in the final. While in the Under 25s final it was the familiar face of Jason Youdale taking on Mne Simon Price (42 Cdo). Youdale won the match 3-1 to take his third title, but Simon played well and is a good prospect.

For the third year running the vintage final was contested by Lt Cdrs (RN ret'd) Mike Benson and Arnold Reed. Mike was again too strong for Arnold, running out 3-0 winner.

This year's final of the plate competition for first round losers in the open was contested by PO Joe Kearney (Neptune) and Mne Ian Wilson (42 Cdo). Kearney won the closely-fought match 3-0.

SPORT



Jolly pud!

AS FIRST crew over the line — the Sultan pair, Cdr Rob Hamilton and Lt John Waring won the Plum Pudding, in the RN and RM Amateur Rowing Association's Christmas regatta.

They are pictured receiving their prize from Mrs Walmsley, wife of Rear-Admiral Robert Walmsley, president of the RN&RMARA.

A dozen crews participated in the fun event, which covered a two mile course on the River Dart. Winners of the Plum Puddings Blade, for the fastest time, were the RN squad — POAEA Brian Kemp, Lt Rob Carr, Lt Adam Wright, Lt John Bonnett and Lt Penny Graham.

LUCKY FOR SOME?

LT CDR Chris Robison (819 Naval Air Squadron) is enjoying some fine early season cross country form. He has raced three times in major international events, saying his best form for the third.

Following a tenth at the Gateshead International and 16th against the top class opposition of the televised Durham International meet on New Year's Day, Chris raced for a Scottish national team in a five-way international in Turin.

He finished fourth, recording a time of 27 minutes 35 seconds for the 9.2km course. Just 11 seconds behind the Italian winner, he was the first British runner home.

Chris intends to compete in a series of indoor races through the cold weather to hone his performance. He is training hard for the RN championships in February, where he hopes to maintain his unbroken string of 13 consecutive victories. His attention will then be focused on the track where he hopes to qualify for the Commonwealth Games in Canada this summer.

PLAYING WITH STYLES

HMS Nelson was the venue for the RN Under 23 Basketball Championships, which were contested by three Command teams — Portsmouth, Royal Marines and Naval Air.

Competition was close, with Naval Air proving worthy champions. AEM Nobby Styles (RNAS Portland), the NAC captain, was named the championship's most valuable player. Results: Portsmouth 43, Royal Marines 42; Naval Air 62, Royal Marines 61 and Naval Air 68, Portsmouth 58.

Marines beaten by combined RN team

HELD over two days at HMS Drake, the Royal Navy Open and Intermediate Boxing Championships consisted of 20 bouts, with all boxers showing courage and stamina.

As the Royal Marines were so strong, it was decided to amalgamate the naval commands against them, so making a straightforward RN v RM competition.

Boxers and the 500 spectators enjoyed the exciting entertainment — none more than Mne

Harvey, who was named Best Boxer after his light-middleweight bout against LPT New. The final score was RN 31, RM 27.

Capt. Crawford, Hon. Sec. of the RNBA, thanked POPT Clive Barnes for organising the event.

MEIN HOST BEARS GIFTS



PLYMOUTH Command Squash Rackets Association proposed a toast to Mr Peter Gaskill-Brown, proprietor of the Brown Bear pub, the team's home hospitality venue, when he generously provided them with embroidered shirts.

Currently playing in the 3rd Division of the Devon County Squash League and seeking promotion for the third year in succession, the Command team finished ninth of the 40 teams in the Jersey Squash Festival.

Pictured (back l-r) are CCMEA Bob Giddings (capt), Surgeon Cdr Mike Roberts (chairman), Mr Gaskill-Brown and Mne John Muldown. In the front row are MEM Lee Rushbrook, CSgt Martin Sharp and Lt Cdr Mike Richardson.

SOCCER DIARY DATES

POPT Steve Riley and LAEM Nigel Thwaites were members of the Combined Services team which drew 2-2 with an FA XI at Spennymoor. POPT Eric Barrett came on as substitute in the second half and all gave competent performances.

The Navy begin their challenge for the South West Counties Cup with three matches in February — and support would be welcome at all games. February 1 v Somerset at Clevedon FC, ko 1930; Feb 5 v Devon at Burnaby Rd, ko 1415; Feb 15 v Hampshire at Burnaby Rd, ko 1930.

Combined Services play away to Belgium on Feb 22 at Leuven and at home to Holland on March 1 at Aldershot Military Stadium (ko 1930) in this year's Kentish Cup competition. This is an opportunity to see future Holland internationals in action.

Cricket Bajun style . . . and

Top right: RN team photograph with Everton Weekes, taken in front of the Sir Garfield Sobers pavilion at Kensington Oval.

Picture: Michael Owen



Right: Practice session on the beach — it's all go.

Picture: Lt Cdr Danks



Below right: The grass had worn a little thin on the inside of the Monte Angelo crater for the MCC touring side's match against a NATO CINCOSOUTH XI on the AFSOUTH cricket pitch.

SEVEN matches were played by the Royal Navy Cricket Club on their tour of Barbados, with wins against Windward (9 wkts), Police (5 wkts), the Barbados Defence Force (33 runs) and Banks Brewery (faster scoring rate when rain stopped play), writes Lt Cdr Jim Danks, tour manager.

The side lost to Pickwick (9 wkts), BET (96 runs) and the Wanderers (7 runs). The match against Pickwick was played at the Kensington Oval, the Bridgetown Test Match ground.

Daily temperatures of 29 degrees C. meant the 35 overs per side games were tiring and only twice did the Navy bat first, but the players learnt a lot from playing in a new country.

Their victory over the Police saw the constabulary losing to a touring side for the first time in seven years.

Lottery, and command and ship welfare funds for their support.

Leading run maker for the squad, which was captained by Maj. Charles Hobson, was PO Paul Barsby, with 163 runs and a top score of 50 not out. CPO Stuart Adams made 52 against the Wanderers. LWTR Gary Braithwaite was the leading wicket-taker, including three in one over against the Banks. Left arm spinner AEM John Mann conceded just over three runs an over from 39 overs.

MEA David Garbutt enjoyed the experience of bouncing a few batsmen when the pitch suited his pace bowling. And there were good all-round performances from Lt Mike Bath and Mne Andy Procter.

President

During the tour the players met Clyde Walcott, President of the ICC, and Everton Weekes — two members of the famous 3Ws — and Mr Peter Short, Vice President of the Barbados Cricket Board. All commented favourably on the performance of the team.

Capt. and Mrs Robin Shercliff hosted a reception for the tourists and club guests. Thanks are recorded to them and to CPOWTR Simon Goddard, for arranging the fixtures.

The team also wish to thank the Sailor's and Fleet Amenities Funds, Sports

● COURSES for cricket umpires and scorers, leading to membership of their official association, will be held in HMS Sultan, commencing at 0800 on March 7 and finishing at 1600 on March 9. Details of both courses are available from CCMEA P. Beard, Nuclear Training Group, Rutherford Block, HMS Sultan (tel. Sultan ext. 2663).

Italiano!

TEAMS from two of Nelson's ships introduced the Italians to cricket back in 1793, when a match was played within sight of Mount Vesuvius. And if the game hasn't quite displaced soccer in the affections of the Italian people, the MCC recently conducted a 12-day bicentennial tour to whip up further interest.

The British Services contingent serving at the NATO HQ of CINCOSOUTH put up a team captained by Cdr. Martin Pickering for the match to be played in the Naples area.

On winning the toss, he put the MCC in and in they remained until declaring on 191 for 3. Legspinner Harry Latchman (ex-Middlesex and Nottinghamshire) was the ace up the MCC's sleeve, although Pickering made 45 before being out lbw and Bob Penfold and Mark Bateson had a spirited last wicket partnership of 36.

Penfold, more accustomed to the oval ball, smote the cricket ball to various unconventional areas of the playing field in scoring 21. NATO's innings closed at 155 - a win for the MCC by 36 runs.

The Italian Cricket Association generously sponsored a reception after the game. The NATO side had performed better than could have been hoped against a team including two ex-first class players, seven with minor counties experience and two from good club sides.

Other touring sides would be made most welcome in Italy. Anyone interested should contact Cdr Pickering, HQ COMNAVSOUTH BFPO 8, who can put them in touch with the Italian Association.



Wrens storm national title

HAVING come through the RN championships and the regional qualifiers at Bath University, a Navy team competed in the National Biathlon Championships in Sheffield.

The sport consists of a 4,000 metre run followed by a 300m freestyle swim for men and a 2,000m run and 200m swim for women.

LWTR Vicky Norton (CTCRM), WREN Allie Devlin (Portland) and LWPT Trudy Lambert (Heron) won the ladies event at Bath with a total of 5,571 points. In the men's competition two RN/RM squads were entered and it was not until the final heat of the swimming that the A-team of Lt Andy Price RM (Cdo Log), WTR Ian Boon (Drake) and PO Mick Flaherty (Osprey) won through with a total of 6,942 points.

The nationals proved tougher, with the run following a very hilly cross-country course and the swimming taking place in the 50m Pond Forge Olympic pool.

As feared, the run took its toll. Injuries pushed the ladies' team score down and it was only a gutsy set of swims that saw them winning the event for the first time.

Other commitments forced PO Flaherty to scratch and he was replaced by AEM(R) Neil Morton (Portland) at the last minute. However, all three men ran hard and swam well to finish second to the Army team, which included two internationals.

Final positions — RN Women: 13, Norton 1606; 15, Lambert 1587 and 24, Devlin 908.

Team placed first. RN Men: 5, Boon 2007; 12, Price 1660 and 16, Morton 1549. Team placed second.

Muddy glory



EXERCISE Perham Pursuit, the Army-hosted Inter-Service Mountain Bike Race, took place on Salisbury Plain and provided keen competition in arduous conditions. First place went to the Army (Cpl Fielder), but Royal Navy and Royal Marines riders took the next half-dozen places — 2, Sgt Kim Abbott (RM Poole); 3, PO Andy Gale (Cardiff); 4, CPO Chris Turvey (Collingwood); 5, Cpl Dave Dummett (Comacchio Gp); 6, Cpl Lee Kukor (Comacchio Gp); and 7, LWEA Paul Roberts (North Corner Group, Nelson). The muddy trio above are (l-r) Jim Oakley, Chris Turvey and Andy Gale.

In the swim

FOLLOWING the nationals in Aberdeen, swimmer POAEA(WL) Neil Tait has been selected for Scotland's Commonwealth Games squad.

His intensive training programme in the run up to the Games will concentrate on periods at training camps, the first of which is in Florida later this month.

Neil will spend 18 days there, training alongside swimmers from the Centre of Excellence, a body set up to help elite athletes fulfil their potential on the international scene.

Canada

He will return for a competition in Leeds, before flying out to Canada with the Scottish team to train in the pool in which the Games' medals will be settled. He will also compete in the Games trials at the same venue.

Two weeks after returning from Canada Neil, who is serving at HMS Daedalus, will compete in Edinburgh. There he must meet the qualifying times to secure his swim in the Games — in the 200m and 400m freestyle events.



Neil Tait flies beneath the surface in this underwater shot by LA(Phot) Richard Thompson.

NAVY CAMERA CAPTURES DRAMATIC RESCUE FROM DOOMED SHIP



Lives on the line

THIS is the moment of deliverance as POACMN Gary Davies, suspended on his helicopter's winch wire, saves a seaman from a sinking freighter.

The dramatic rescue 130 miles off the Scillies was captured by naval cameraman PO(PHOT) Bernie Pettersen from an accompanying helicopter. Other crewmen in the stricken ship,

Sweetie Sandra, can be seen amidships waiting their turn to be lifted.

In what RN air station Culdrose described as a textbook operation, three Sea Kings from 771 Naval Air Squadron brought to safety the entire crew of 26 Filipinos and Croatians before the Sweetie Sandra settled beneath the choppy seas.

The 20,000-ton freighter was carrying steel coils from St Petersburg to

Wilmington, USA, when the Croatian master declared a Mayday on January 14.

For the first time a naval Jetstream fixed-wing aircraft was used as on-scene commander. The Jetstream, an observer training aircraft also from Culdrose, guided four Sea Kings to the stricken ship — one of them, from 706 NAS, acting as standby aircraft

with PO Pettersen on board.

Falmouth Coastguard co-ordinated the rescue.

● The Sweetie Sandra incident came as figures were released that RN, RAF and Coastguard helicopters saved 1,463 people last year — 110 more than in 1992. Biggest single increase was for Navy crews at HMS Gannet who were called out 230 times compared with 168 the previous year.

Forces to get new big review

A NEW major review is about to be launched dealing with career and manpower structures in the Armed Forces as well as terms and conditions of service.

The year-long independent review will start in the spring, and is seen by Ministers as ensuring that conditions and deployment patterns will be appropriate for the 21st Century.

Although not part of the defence costs study, the review will take account of developments which will flow from the study, in particular the examination of MOD HQ, the command structure, recruiting and manning, and support.

In dealing with terms and conditions the review will study the need for cost-effective recruitment and maintenance of discipline; the requirements of Service life and the need for flexibility in the light of uncertainties over the pattern of future demands on the Forces; and current practice in areas such as length of service, career and deployment patterns, and rank and trade structures.

Pay

All elements of pay will be examined in consultation with the Armed Forces and Senior Salaries Review Bodies.

Composition of the review team will be announced, but before their work begins in-house preparations will be conducted.

Meanwhile, Principal Personnel Officers will begin their planned review of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme which may result in new arrangements.

Members of the current scheme, whether serving or retired, will have reserved rights to the present AFPS, although serving members may be given the opportunity of transferring to any new scheme.

Shake-up for Area Flag Officers

POST of Flag Officer Portsmouth is to be abolished and the roles of Flag Officer Plymouth and Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland are to be widened in a major reorganisation of the Royal Navy's regional command structure.

From April 1 this year FOSNI (currently Vice Admiral Christopher Morgan) will be known as Flag Officer Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland (FOSNNEI).

His area of responsibility will expand southwards to a line which follows Home Defence Region and county boundaries between the Rivers Dee and Humber. His headquarters will remain at Pitreavie near Rosyth Naval Base.

From April 1 next year, Flag Officer South will be established at Plymouth and will be responsible for those areas south of the Dee and Humber.

Although the title of Flag Officer Portsmouth will be abolished, the area will remain an important one for the Navy with the establishment there of a new headquarters for naval personnel and training under the Second Sea Lord.

Britannia heads for Big Apple

THE Royal Yacht has started a two-month deployment to the USA and Caribbean.

HMY Britannia left Portsmouth on January 21 for New York for a series of commercial events and business seminars between February 10-16.

On February 21 she is due to arrive in Belize where the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh will embark the next day for the start of their Caribbean tour which includes the Cayman islands, Jamaica and the Bahamas.

The deployment represents another busy schedule for Britannia which last year spent 157 days at sea.

DUKE VISITS YOUNGEST SHIPMATES

NAVY NEWS subscriber Mr Kevin de Lacy may well have been surprised at what he started when he suggested to a teacher friend of his wife that her pupils might write to the Duke of York.

Mr de Lacy had read in the paper of the Duke taking command of minehunter HMS Cottesmore and saw a ready-made subject for letter writing practice for the youngsters of Cottesmore St Mary Roman Catholic Primary School, Hove.

The children wrote and were amazed and delighted when Lt Cdr The Duke of York announced he would like to meet them. This he did in a 90-minute visit, touring the classrooms, attending assembly and chatting to as many of the boys and girls as time allowed.

Headmaster Mr John Coleman said the visit went off extremely well, with the smiling Prince making friends all round. He told the children about his ship and his own job on board, while they presented him with a poem and drawings and sang him a selection of sea shanties.

Almost as if unaware of the Duke of York taking a close look at his schoolwork, ten-year-old Christian Bailey is unabashed during Prince Andrew's surprise visit.



Picture: Andrew Hasson





Navy News

As we approach our 40th birthday, to improve our services Navy News has prepared a questionnaire for you to air your likes and dislikes - and to give us a better idea of our readership.

Over the past ten years the serving Navy has reduced by a quarter - and a good many veterans of the world wars have sadly 'crossed the bar'.

Yet Navy News circulation has remained remarkably close to the peak it reached after the Falklands War. Clearly we are acquiring many new customers - and we would like to know more about them.

We know that each copy of the paper changes hands many times - and naturally we would rather everyone bought their own! But before you pass yours on, if you can find time to tick a few boxes and drop this form in the post - no stamp needed if posted in the UK - you will be helping us sort out the way ahead for the newspaper of the Navy in the Nineties.

ALL REPLIES WILL BE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Jim Allaway
EDITOR

READER QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Could we please have your age group?

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|---|
| Under 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| 25 - 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| 35 - 49 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| 50 - 65 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| Over 65 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |

2. Are you male or female?

- | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|---|
| Male | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Female | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |

3. What is your current location?

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Naval base UK | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Naval base overseas | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| HM ship | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| In the UK | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| Overseas | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |

4. What is your occupation?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Serving Naval Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Serving Naval NCO | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| Serving Naval other | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| Royal Navy retired | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |

5. How often do you read Navy News?

- Every month 1
Most months 2
2 or 3 times a year 3
Less than once a year 4

6. For how long have you been reading Navy News?

- Less than a year 1
1 to 3 years 2
4 to 10 years 3
over 10 years 4

7. Do you generally find it easy to obtain your copy of Navy News?

- yes 1
no 2

8. How do you usually get to read Navy News?

- Read it in a library 1
At work / on a circulation list 2
Have it passed on by another reader 3
Buy it over the counter 4
Buy it on subscription 5

9. If you buy your copy of the Navy News do you pass it on to others?

- yes 1
no 2

10. If yes, how many people read it?

- One 1
Two 2
Three 3
More than three 4

11. What is your opinion of the price of Navy News? Is it:

- Too expensive 1
About the right price 2
Too inexpensive 3

12. As a reader, what is your general opinion of Navy News? Are you:

- Very satisfied 1
Reasonably satisfied 2
Not very satisfied 3
Dissatisfied 4

13. What do you find MOST interesting about Navy News? (CHOOSE ANY 3)

- General Royal Navy news 1
News of promotions, etc 2
Profiles of Navy ships 3
Family news 4
Letters 5
People news 6
Historical subjects 7
Feature articles on current Naval subjects 8
Royal Naval Association news 9
Sports news 10

14. What do you find LEAST interesting about Navy News? (CHOOSE ANY 3)

- General Royal Navy news 1
News of promotions, etc 2
Profiles of Navy ships 3
Family news 4
Letters 5
People news 6
Historical subjects 7
Feature articles on current Naval subjects 8
Royal Naval Association news 9
Sports news 10

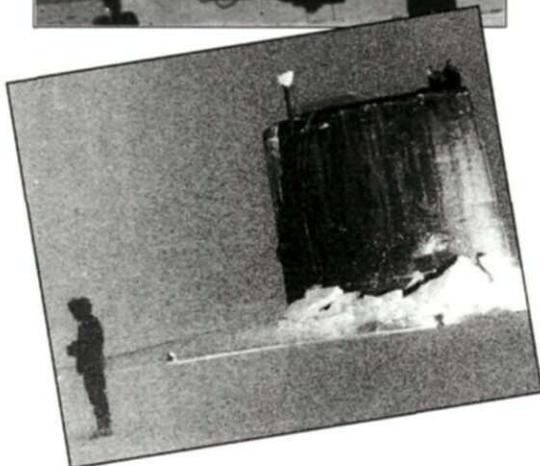
15. What do you find most useful about Navy News? (CHOOSE ANY 3)

- Technical information/advice (DCIs, etc) 1
- "Notice Board" 2
- "At Your Leisure" 3
- "At Your Service" 4
- Classified advertisements - Education 5
- Accommodation 6
- Resettlement & courses 7
- Property, removals 8
- Miscellaneous 9
- General display advertisements 10

16. What would you like to see more often in Navy News? (CHOOSE UP TO 3)

- Relevant non-RN news 1
- Relevant non-RN feature articles 2
- Competitions 3
- Special offers 4

Other..... (Please specify)



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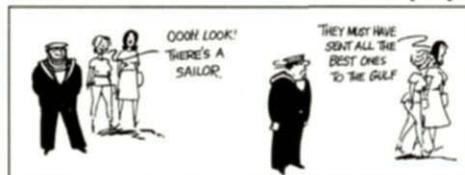
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Thank you for completing the Navy News reader survey. For our own records we would like to collect your name and address and completed forms will be entered into a prize draw which offers the chance to win one of ten sweatshirts (see below). Please note that it is NOT NECESSARY to reveal your full name and address, however, to help in our analysis, we would at least like to know the area in which you live. Thank you.

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Please do not enclose
any other correspondence with your reply

If you are lucky enough to win a sweatshirt, what size would you like?

Small Medium Large Extra large

We may wish to follow up this survey with further research, please put a cross in this box if you ARE willing to be contacted.

We may like to send you information on topics we feel will be of interest to you. Please put a cross in this box if you would NOT like to receive such information.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP, IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED