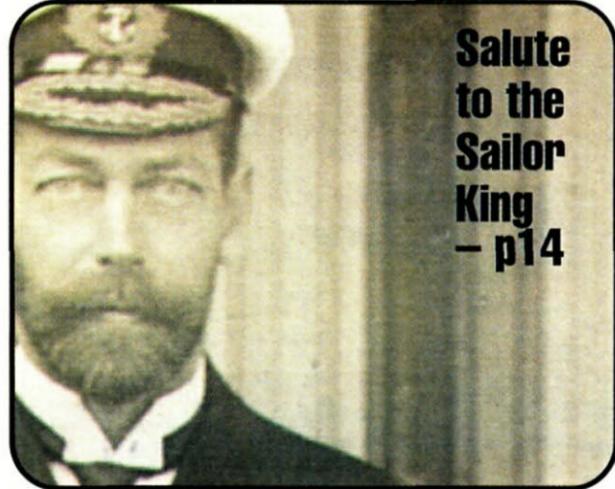
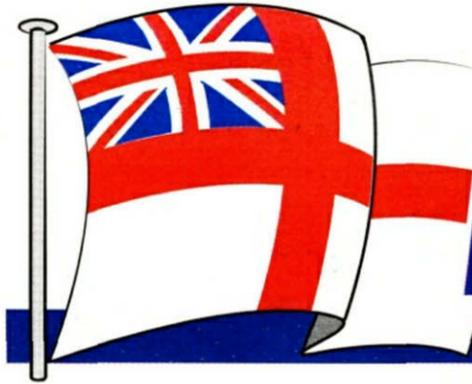


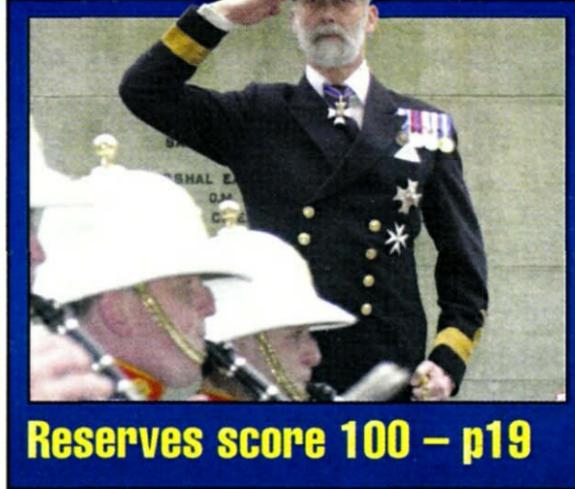
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Salute to the Sailor King - p14



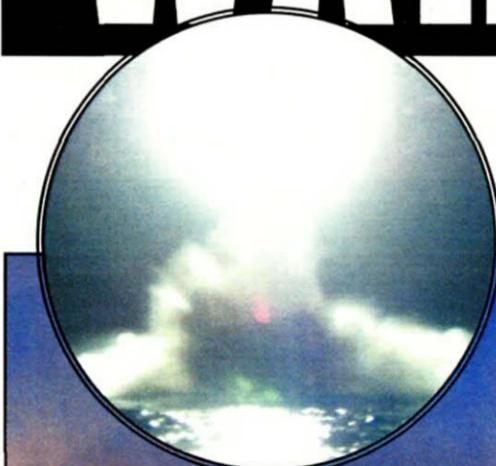
Reserves score 100 - p19



2SL tailors his message - p31

# OPENING SHOTS IN WAR ON SADDAM

*'The coalition forces must disarm the Iraqi regime. That is our task, and we shall prevail. We will then return Iraq to her people.'*  
- Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Chief of Defence Staff



● **TANK BUSTERS:** Royal Marines from 40 Cdo fire a Milan anti-tank missile during training in Oman. The picture was part of PO(PHOT) Steve Lewis' winning portfolio in the RN Photographic Branch's Peregrine Trophy Competition.  
INSET: A Royal Navy Tomahawk missile launched at Saddam's Iraq, viewed through the firing submarine's periscope

AS Navy News went to press, Royal Marines were in the front line of the onslaught against Saddam Hussein.

Amid all the media and political agonising over the morality of the conflict to come, their mood was perhaps summed up by an RM officer on exchange duty with his American counterparts: "We only hear from the vocal minority - we'd like to hear from the silent majority," he said.

Meanwhile Chief of Defence Staff Admiral Sir Michael Boyce's message was unequivocal: "The actions on which we are about to embark are just and lawful, and will be conducted in accordance with international law," he said.

"The coalition forces must disarm the Iraqi regime. That is our task, and we shall prevail. We will then return Iraq to her people."

Eight personnel from 3 Commando Brigade Royal

- Turn to back page
- See also centre pages



■ FLOWER CLASS CORVETTE CUTAWAY NEXT MONTH

This shot of HMS St Albans steaming through some unpleasant waters won the Maritime Books Prize for LA(PHOT) Clews in the RN Photographic Branch's Peregrine Trophy Competition.

# Goffers!

## Common terms of service for all nurses

**COMMON Terms of Service (CTOS) are being introduced for all Regular Forces nurses from April 1.**

It is some time since the Services Personnel Policy Board endorsed the principle that "it is more important that the terms of service for the medical services are consistent with each other than with their parent Service".

CTOS for nurses will be implemented at the same time as they are being provided for medical and dental officers.

Overall they will provide an opportunity to remove "long standing differences" in Terms of Service that hinder operational interchangeability and have proved

divisive in tri-Service recruiting efforts.

The proposals for nurses CTOS deal with career management elements only. Nurses will remain in the Pay 2000 structure and within the Armed Forces Pension Scheme.

Broadly, the new CTOS will be:

- Sailor, soldier and airman nurses will continue on their current engagement

- All non-commissioned personnel will enter a standard 22-year engagement with a manning control point at nine years. An extension beyond 22 years may be

possible but in accordance with single-Service rules and requirements

- Maximum age for retirement will be 55

- Individuals who successfully apply for a commission will enter commissioned service as an officer on the new CTOS

- Existing single-Service commission structures to be replaced by three new commissions – Short, Medium and Full.

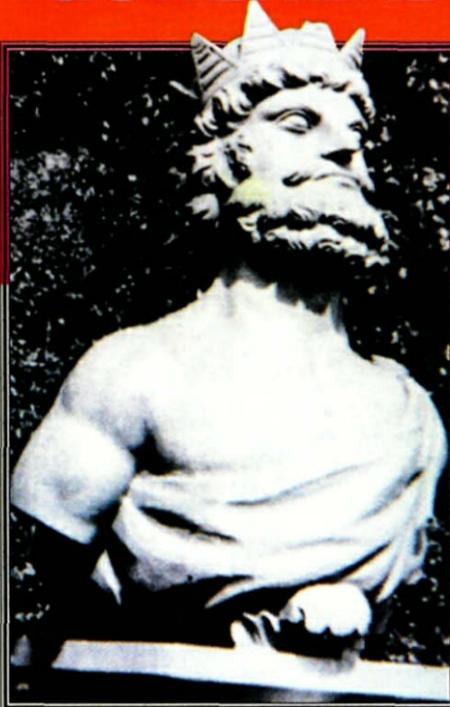
Short Commission offers an initial engagement of six years with an option to leave at the three-year point. This may be extended up to a total of eight years subject to Service requirements. Likewise those commissioned from the ranks may extend to qualify for a pension. Medium Commission is for 16 years and Full to age 55.

Promotion beyond lieutenant will continue to be by selection to requirement and will remain a single-Service responsibility. Maximum rank on entry will be lieutenant.

Normal retirement age for commissioned officers at Captain and below will be 55.



## FIGUREHEADS



### HMS FOUAROYANT

A RARE relic of Nelson's fleet and one of the few Naval figureheads not in one of our national collections, HMS Foudroyant's crowning glory takes the form of a bust carving of a bare-chested Neptune.

This Foudroyant was the second ship of the name, the first being a prize taken in 1758 and broken up in 1787. She was built as a 2nd/3rd rate of 80 guns at Plymouth Dockyard and launched in August 1798.

She took up station almost immediately as Nelson's flagship in the Mediterranean. Later she saw active service in Brazil under the command of Sir Sydney Smith when she went to help with the rescue of HMS Agamemnon's crew.

By 1812 her service life had come to an end and she was stripped to a hulk, used first as tender to the Gunnery School Cambridge and later in her own right as a training ship for junior ratings at Devonport.

By 1890 she was found to be surplus to requirements and put on the sales list. Originally sold to German ship breakers for £2,000, following a public outcry she was saved for the nation and bought by Geoffrey Wheatly Cobb, a wealthy industrialist of Caldicot Castle in Wales.

Restored to her 1799 appearance, she was used as a private boys training ship until she was wrecked off Blackpool Sands while on a fund raising cruise in 1897.

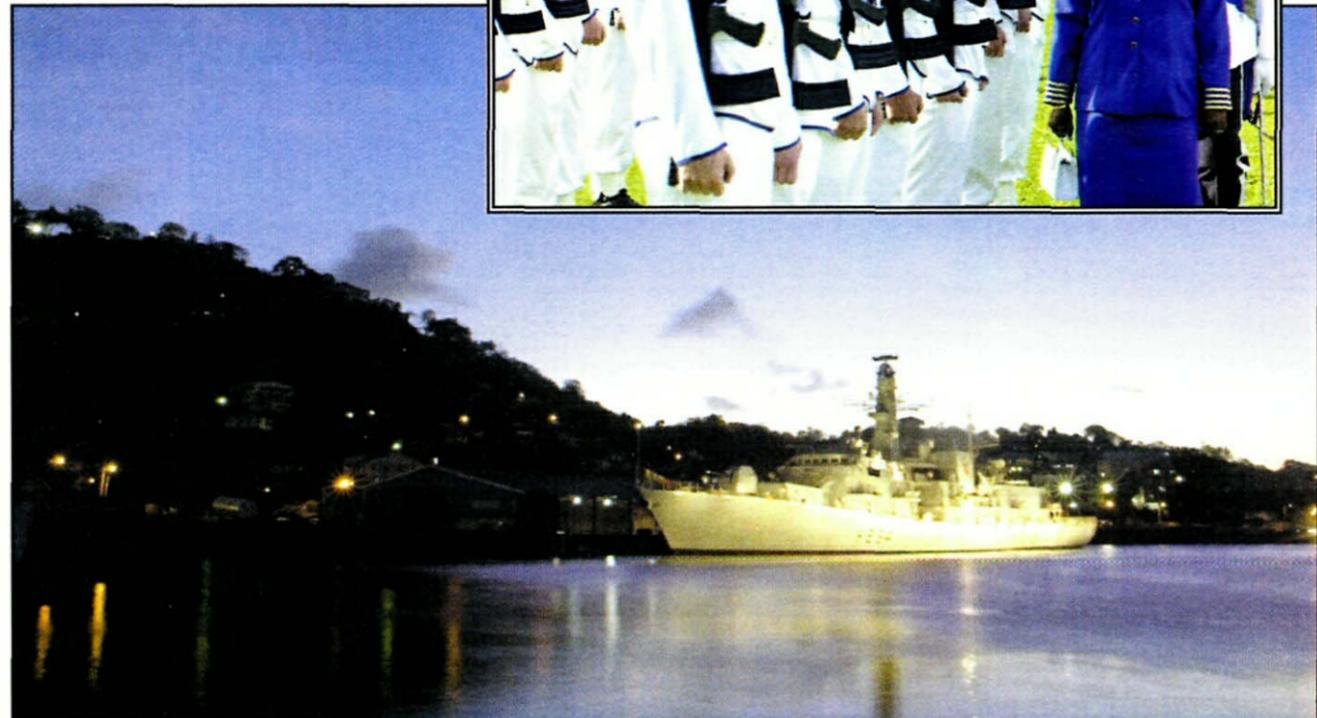
Her figurehead was removed and sent to Cobb's home, where it remains under cover after an extensive restoration carried out in the workshops of the Historic Dockyard at Chatham.

## Independent spirit of St Lucia

**ON PARADE** for St Lucia's Independence Day celebrations are Ship's Company of HMS Iron Duke, paying a three-day visit to the Caribbean island.

They were inspected by the Governor General, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy at the parade at Minoo Phillip Park in the town of Castries, where the Type 23 frigate is pictured alongside (below).

Also present were the Prime Minister, Dr Kenny Anthony, who was joined by the Commanding Officer of Iron Duke, Cdr Philip Warwick. See also page 4.



● Royal Marines from 45 Commando advance towards an enemy position during a training exercise in Oman – another top action shot by PO(PHOT) Steve Lewis, RM Portfolio winner in the RN Photographic Branch Peregrine Trophy competition



## £35m MOT ordered for three destroyers

A £35 million contract for maintenance work on three of the Royal Navy's Type 42 destroyers has been placed with Fleet Support Ltd in Portsmouth.

HMS Exeter has already started her docking period, due to run until July 2004, and will be followed by HMS Southampton and HMS York.

Docking periods for essential maintenance and updates are carried out every four years to ensure ships are kept in a good state of repair, ready for operations.

There are currently 12 Type 42s in the Fleet. Used to provide air defence for task group operations, they are armed with the Sea Dart medium range defence missile system, the automatic rapid-fire 114mm gun, anti-submarine torpedo tubes and the Phalanx close-range gun system.

They also carry the high speed multi-purpose Lynx helicopter armed with anti-submarine weapons.

# Morale boost for burgled Joel (98)

AFTER learning that our oldest living and longest serving submariner had been burgled, HMS Trenchant's officers invited him for a visit to cheer him up.

Joel Blamey (98) was delighted to accept. In view of his age, medical advice was sought – and since his GP, Dr Richard Ward, is also an ex-submariner, he agreed to accompany him on his visit.

HMS Trenchant is currently in refit at Devonport, so his hosts took him round the decommissioned nuclear submarine HMS Courageous, part of the Heritage Centre at Devonport Naval Base, instead.

Joel, who lives nearby at Newton Abbot, had a good look around the weapon stowage compartment, mess decks and galley, talking animatedly about his unusually long service in submarines – 28 years in total.

The former Marine Engineering Officer joined L52 in 1926. Other boats included HMS Porpoise, which became the first British submarine to sink a U-boat in World War II – and ironically the last RN submarine lost in the war, Joel by then serving in HMS Stroungbow.

In all, he survived over 200 enemy depth charge attacks and was awarded the DSC and DSM.

His memoirs, *A Submariner's Story* (Periscope Publishing £17.99) were reviewed in *Navy News* December 2002 edition.

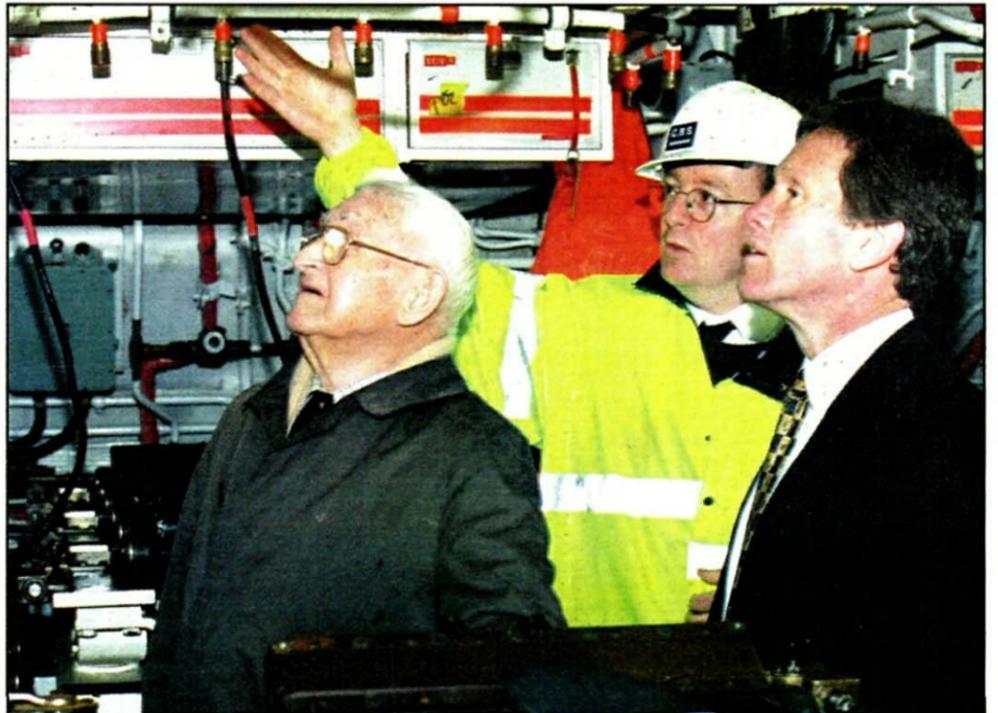
Final part of Joel's visit was a drink and a curry lunch in the Wardroom of HMS Drake, where Trenchant's Commanding Officer Cdr Jon White greatly enjoyed his reminiscing.

"It was such a privilege to meet Joel, who had a fantastic career in the Service," said Cdr White.

"The Submarine service is a

close-knit community and maintaining links with our history is one way of learning for our future."

● EX-SUBMARINERS: Joel Blamey and his GP, Dr Richard Ward in HMS Courageous



## New standards for submariners



BUILDERS of the RN's new submarines BAE Systems Astute Class Project have presented the Dorset branch of the Submariners Association with a new Standard (left).

It will be dedicated at St Mary's Church, Weymouth on June 14 during the town's annual Military and Veterans Festival.

During World War II, Weymouth was one of the country's biggest embarkation points for the D-Day landings and acted as a military base for many thousands of troops.

For all Festival and Parade enquiries during the week of events from June 14-20 call 01305 838558

South Kent branch, formed in 2001, will hold a dedication service for their own first Standard at Lydd Church on June 7. For details contact Ken Budd on 01797 361779.

## Cardiff hands over Armilla patrol baton to Richmond

DESTROYER HMS Cardiff has handed on her Armilla Patrol duties to Type 23 frigate HMS Richmond.

Richmond's passage through the Suez Canal, with Royal Naval Defence Attache Cdr Holihead on board, heralded a change of weather, from the chilly Mediterranean to a warmer Red Sea.

A sunny Sunday afternoon allowed some relaxation after the first phase of the voyage east, and a chance for some upper deck maintenance gave the 'dabbers' a head-start in the sun-tan race.

But training continued apace, with the focus firmly on the tasks ahead, including fast-roping practice by the ship's boarding teams and replenishment at sea from both RFA and US Navy vessels. The ship's 4.5in gun was also fired.

The fast-roping serials were led by Lts Wagstaff, Rowberry and Brown, who 'boarded' the frigate's flight deck from her Lynx helicopter.

Since taking over from Cardiff, Richmond has been involved in maritime interdiction operations (MIOPS) in the Gulf, seeking ships of all sizes who are breaking the UN embargo against Iraq.

She recently experienced her first sandstorm of the deployment - these 'ghubars' occur in the spring, and not only reduce visibility on the upper deck but also leave behind a mess to be cleared up.

Richmond is currently operating with US Coast Guard cutter USCGC Wrangell.

## Sailors talk to politician about Fresco

GLASWEGIAN politician Dr John Reid met sailors from HMS Glasgow during a private, informal visit to Portsmouth Naval Base to canvas opinion on how the firefighters' strike is affecting Service personnel.

Dr Reid, the Labour Party chairman and former Armed Forces Minister, spoke to a cross-section of the ship's company, 170 of whom are trained to take part in Operation Fresco, covering for striking firefighters.

The latest of the 24-hour stoppages, which had been scheduled for March 20, was called off by the Fire Brigades Union as the latest pay offer was considered by officials.



● A fast patrol boat heads away from HMS Iron Duke watched by the frigate's Lynx helicopter

# Duke goes west

JUST days after taking part in independence celebrations in the Caribbean island of St Lucia (see page 2), HMS Iron Duke had dashed across the Atlantic to demonstrate the UK's commitment to the troubled state of Sierra Leone.

In a move designed to see how long it took to deploy a substantial force, Iron Duke caused quite a stir when she arrived in Freetown, making front-page news and leading to the ship's Commanding Officer, Cdr Phil Warwick, appearing on local television.

The ship and her Royal Marines exercised with local forces and soldiers of the Royal Gurkha Rifles - a first taste of maritime operations.

Iron Duke, which was supported by RFA tanker Black Rover, is due back in the Caribbean early this month.

## Carrier is Battle of Atlantic flagship

AIRCRAFT carrier HMS Invincible is to be the flagship of the Battle of the Atlantic commemorations next month.

Organisers of the event, which marks the 60th and final such commemoration, said that the carrier's presence will be a fitting tribute to the Battle of the Atlantic veterans who will gather in Liverpool from all over the world.

The ship is an appropriate choice, as one of her primary roles when she was designed was as an anti-submarine platform, though in practice she and her sisters have proved versatile in a number of roles, from conventional aircraft carrier to helicopter assault ship.

Although she will provide an impressive backdrop to the ceremonies, the 20,000-tonne ship will not be open to the general public.

Other nations which took part in the campaign, the longest sea battle of World War II, intend to send ships to the event.

Among those expected in Liverpool from April 30 are ships from France, Germany, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands and Poland.

The Merchant Navy will also be represented, as well as national and local politicians.

Cdre John Madgwick, Naval Regional Officer for the North of England, said: "The fact that Invincible will be the flagship is a tribute to the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy veterans who will attend."

"She is one of the most impressive ships in the Royal Navy fleet, and will be a fitting centrepiece for the commemorations."

Invincible recently returned to Portsmouth after almost two years out of action, having undergone a £65 million refit at Rosyth, carried out by Babcock BES.

Work undertaken included strengthening the flight deck for the operation of Merlin helicopters, introducing a fully-networked IT system, and an overhaul of her propulsion gearbox.

Liverpool is hosting the commemorations as it was the HQ of the Western Approaches Command, which countered the U-boat threat in the Atlantic; 1943 was seen as the year in which the battle swung decisively in the Allies' favour.

For more details, see website [www.battleoftheatlantic2003.com](http://www.battleoftheatlantic2003.com)

# Northumberland is on duty in the Med

DEVONPORT Type 23 frigate HMS Northumberland has taken up her duties with the Mediterranean NATO squadron.

The warship sailed from the West Country in mid-January for a seven-month deployment, initially with Naval Task Group 2003, but she has now formally integrated into Standing Naval Force Mediterranean (SNFM), a group which normally comprises around eight frigates and destroyers.

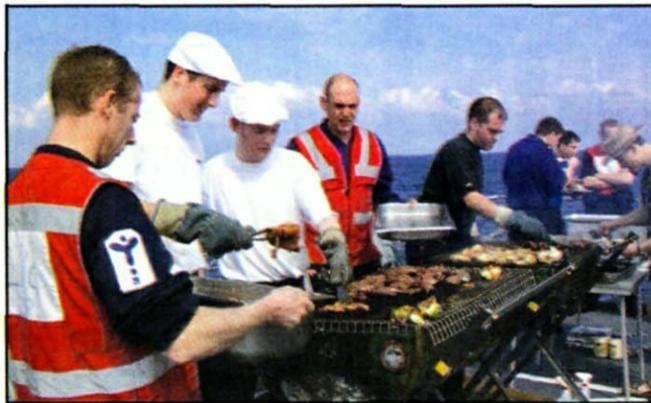
One of her main roles will be on Operation Active Endeavour, monitoring local and strategic shipping routes for vessels engaged in terrorist activities.

She will also exercise with NATO and non-NATO countries, and her Commanding Officer, Cdr Alex Burton, identified the multinational environment as one of the major benefits to his ship's company.

Northumberland's first stand-off was at Marmaris in Turkey, where the first two days were taken up by combined training and integration, including a sports day.

A barbecue was held in the evening - despite poor weather - at which all ships provided a selection of their national foods.

The Commodore of the Force,



● The 30 Man Mess preside over a flight deck barbecue on HMS Northumberland in the Mediterranean

Cdre Philip Wirth, presented trophies to winning sports teams, and to mark his birthday the Northumberland chefs baked an enormous cake for him.

Then it was out to sea again for SNFM exercises. One serial saw Northumberland towing the Dutch ship HNLMS Van Der Hulst, demonstrating the frigate's ability to deal with a salvage emergency.

Northumberland hosted Cdr Wirth, who toured the frigate and saw a presentation by the Heads of Departments, and the Dutch ship's team used Northumberland's flight deck as a 'merchant ship' during boarding exercises.

The British frigate's specially-trained boarding team is some 30 strong, giving her this valuable capability 24 hours a day, seven days a week, using either sea boats or fast-roping from the frigate's Lynx helicopter.

The Lynx crew themselves have

been busy, checking merchant ships, carrying out photographic exercises, making surface sweeps or transferring personnel - such as when Cdr Burton nipped over to the French nuclear aircraft carrier FS Charles de Gaulle for lunch.

Pancake Day was the chance for the chefs to show what they can do, and 380 pancakes - prepared and cooked in the traditional fashion - were duly served up.

The weather in the early stages of the deployment was "awful", with the upper deck regularly out of bounds, but as the conditions settled and the temperature rose, so the ship was able to stage the first barbecue of 2003 on the Flight Deck, hosted by the 30 Man Mess.

With Northumberland's PTI away on adventurous training, LWEA Rich Gray organised a brighter cricket session, which resulted in the 30 Man Mess claiming the Ashes from the Chiefs'

## Shoreham set for deployment

THE ROYAL Navy's latest mine-hunter is gearing up for her first deployment, having already hosted a senior American officer on board.

Rear Admiral P.J. Ryan, Commander Mine Warfare Command US Navy, visited HMS Shoreham and a Hunt-class vessel while discussing combined MCM operations.

Shoreham has been undergoing a demanding series of sea trials and training, both off the South Coast and in Scotland - including the first of a new five-week Basic Operational Sea Training (BOST) package.

Former Commanding Officer Lt Cdr Tom Guy handed over the ship

to his successor, Lt Cdr Mark Honnoraty, last month.

Lt Cdr Guy now takes up a post in Whitehall.

The ship is due to complete her preparations soon, and will leave for her first operational deployment in the near future.

She has already been flying the flag in foreign waters, with visits to Bayonne in France and Stavanger in Norway, as well as a good run ashore in St Peter Port in the Channel Islands.

The ship was commissioned in her affiliated town of Shoreham-by-Sea in July.

● HMS Shoreham

Picture: Vosper Thornycroft



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# Ships of the Royal Navy No 569



## Hunt dons different patrol role

**T**HE SIXTH of the Hunt class mine countermeasures vessels, HMS Dulverton shifted from her mine-clearance role to become a Northern Ireland Patrol Vessel.

The ship regularly conducts patrols in Northern Irish waters and has been converted

to meet the requirements of the task.

Her hunting and sweeping gear has been replaced by a boat deck equipped with high-speed sea boats. These boats carry boarding parties to other ships.

The ship is affiliated to the Somerset town of Dulverton and values links with 'Old Dulvertons' who served in her predecessor.

The present HMS Dulverton is only the second to bear the name, with her forebear a Type II Hunt class escort destroyer that distinguished herself in World War II despite a brief two-year lifespan.

Her hull was laid down on July 16, 1940, and less than one year later, she was launched on April 1, 1941 and completed on September 27. Dulverton was assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet, and in early January 1942 she arrived at Suez to join the 5th Destroyer Flotilla.

In her time she took part in local escort and patrol duties,



● HMS Dulverton, one of three Hunt-class mine countermeasures vessels converted to Northern Ireland Patrol ships

including Malta convoy operations and as close escort of the convoy during the Second Battle of Sirte in March 1942 when the light cruisers of the Mediterranean Fleet stopped the Italian Fleet. In December Dulverton escorted the first convoy to arrive at Malta since March, marking the end of the siege of the island.

She then moved on to Sicily, and from July 1942 was part of the

Eastern Task Force. In October she was part of forces intended to seize and protect the islands of Leros and Kos. On November 12 she returned to Leros with two other destroyers to support the garrison when German aircraft attacked the three warships five miles off Kos with 'glider bombs'.

One of these missiles struck Dulverton on the bridge, inflicting fatal damage. Three officers, including the Captain (D) of the 5th Destroyer Flotilla and 75 ratings were lost, but 120 men were safely taken aboard her consorts, and HMS Belvoir scuttled the wounded warship.

### Facts and figures

**Class:** Hunt class mine countermeasures vessel  
**Pennant number:** M35  
**Builder:** Vosper Thornycroft, Woolston  
**Launched:** November 3, 1982  
**Accepted:** October 5, 1983  
**Commissioned:** November 4, 1983  
**Displacement:** 675 tonnes  
**Length:** 60.3 metres  
**Beam:** 10.4 metres  
**Speed:** 14 knots

**Complement:** 32  
**Propulsion:** Two Deltic diesel engines driving fixed pitch propellers through ahead and astern gearboxes  
**Weapons:** 30mm gun, General purpose machine guns  
**Special:** Dulverton is one of three Hunts to be modified as Northern Ireland patrol ships. Minesweeping gear has been displaced by three Rigid Inflatable Boats

### BATTLE HONOURS

Libya.....	1942
Sirte.....	1942
Mediterranean.....	1942
Malta Convoys.....	1942
Sicily.....	1943
Salerno.....	1943
Aegean.....	1943
Kuwait.....	1991

## AIRCRAFT OF THE ROYAL NAVY No 78



● Blackburn Baffin S1358 of 810 Squadron

Picture: Fleet Air Arm Museum

### Blackburn Baffin

THE BLACKBURN Baffin was intended to be an improved version of the Ripon as a torpedo-bomber.

Despite the changes and replacing the Napier Lion engine and its heavy water-cooling system with an air-cooled radial engine, the Baffin's performance was not significantly better than the Ripon and the aircraft only survived in Fleet Air Arm service for a few years.

A Tiger and a Pegasus engine were trialled in the two prototypes, known as Ripon Vs, in 1932-33 and the 421kW (565hp) Bristol Pegasus IM3 engine was triumphant and provided the powerplant for the Baffin torpedo-bombers.

The name Baffin was given in September 1933, and 29 pure-bred Baffins were built. In addition almost 70 Ripons were converted with structural and engine changes into Baffins.

The two-seater Baffins worked in 810, 811 and 812 Squadrons and served from the carriers HMS Courageous, Furious and Glorious.

The Baffin was short-lived, with 812 NAS the first and last of the squadrons to run Baffins, taking them on in January 1934 and losing

them again just under three years later in December 1936. September the following year saw the poor Baffin consigned to obsolescence.

But their brief history did give them a chance to shine by leading the formation of aircraft from the Fleet Air Arm in the Jubilee Naval Review in 1935 as part of 810 Squadron.

The Baffin was built of both wood and metal, and covered in a fabric shell. It had a maximum speed of 136mph at 6,500ft that dropped to 125mph at sea level.

At 100mph the aircraft's range extended to 450 miles, and it had an operating ceiling for service at 15,000ft.

Furled, its wings were only 17ft 10in but unfolded and ready to fly, they stretched across a span of 45ft 6in. In length the aircraft was slightly shorter, with a tip-to-tail distance of 38ft 4in.

As a torpedo-bomber ordnance disposition was flexible. Regular armament consisted of one fixed Vickers and one free-mounted Lewis machine gun. One 1,576lb MkVIII or MkX torpedo could be carried, or alternatively one 2,000lb bomb. But if multiple ordnance was needed, six 230 or 250lb bombs, or three 530lb bombs, could be carried instead.

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## Letters

# JACK

BY TUGG



### Hunted for 36 hours

ON JANUARY 17, 1943 I was a leading stoker in HM Submarine United when, after sinking an Italian destroyer we were chased and harassed by other destroyers and E-boats and kept submerged for 36 1/2 hours – a record for a diesel-electric boat.

Our skipper was 23-year-old Lt John Roxburgh, who was the youngest skipper in the Med.

For years after, our gunlayer Cyril Balls arranged for several former crew members to have a drink of spirits on the anniversary.

Sadly, now there are only two of our little group left – but I understand that our skipper turned out to be Vice Admiral Sir John Roxburgh and if any more of the crew are still with us I would really love to get in touch. – **H. E. Beale**, Cowley, Oxford.

Admiral Roxburgh, who later commanded the carrier HMS Eagle and was Flag Officer Submarines 1969-72 before his retirement, is still active on the golf courses around Hindhead. – **Ed**

### Surrender survivor

HMS LONDON saw the end of World War II at Sabang, Sumatra, where the surrender of local Japanese forces was accepted on board by Cdre Poland from Vice Admiral Sueto Hirose on August 31, 1945.

The ship's company was employed in restoring local services and I was part of the transport team, repairing local transport under Cdr Bob Gillespie – he is still going strong.

The surrender document was signed on the table in the Captain's cabin. For many years this was in the care of SNSO Armament Depot, Ernesettle. More than 60 years later, the table, of polished mahogany in immaculate condition, stands in a conference room in the headquarters of Flag Officer Sea Training in HMS Drake, Plymouth, together with a framed record of the surrender ceremony.

It may be viewed on application to Lt Donna Marie-Pickard on 01752 555709. – **G. Bruty**, Plymouth.

# When it pays better not to fly Navy . . .

AS A Divisional Officer in a tri-service environment, I awaited the pay rise signal with some trepidation.

My fears were fully justified when I got to the final section, which concerned RAF Airmen retention packages.

Having conducted a cursory review of the rationale behind the decision to award all airmen at the 17-year point with a £20,000 bonus, I strode off to conduct some Divisional counselling with the rather sad looking LAPO(ACMN) in my Division.

Having explained to him that, if he continued to work every hour available to him, and also maintained his output at 110 per cent for the rest of his time in the RN, he might just get 2OE, I then moved on to the fact that he also stood a chance of, eventually, reaching the hallowed rank of CPO(ACMN).

Realistically, the prospect of Warrant was fairly remote due to Branch requirements.

At this stage I stopped and felt obliged to move on to a review of the potential opportunities available to him were he to transfer to the RAF.

Not only would he become a Flight Sergeant within a very short time frame, he would also get an increase in flying pay, the opportunity to serve to the age of 55, a virtual guaranteed Warrant and, in all probability, a £20,000 bonus when he reached the 17 year point . . .

Something of an oversimplification of the facts, perhaps, and, some would argue, a rather cynical view. However, that is the way I see it. I will, no doubt, be accused of being parochial and lacking an appreciation of the big picture. However, I do find it particularly difficult to extol the virtues of continuing to pursue a flying career in the RN when, from every possible angle (promotion, daily pay, flying pay, additional service, increased pension) the RAF offers a far superior package.

Once again, it appears that the warfare element of the RN has been misrepresented and, once again, the RAF has put forward a particularly strong argument in support of one of its specialisations. – **WO(S) G. R. Parry**, Maritime Data Centre, BFPO 52.

Letters to the Editor should always be accompanied by the correspondent's name and address, not necessarily for publication. email correspondents are also requested to provide this information.

### Feathers ruffled

I LAUGHED out loud when I saw Tugg Willson's cartoon of the bird sanctuary (February issue).

It took me back to the Spring of 1972 when I was on my last six months before release.

I was drafted to Lossiemouth to be regulating chief at the bombing range at Tain on the Dornoch Firth.

The Buccaneers from Lossiemouth did bombing runs along the Firth regularly and it could be very noisy.

I was sitting in my office one morning when the phone rang and a very loud voice announced that he was Colonel Mac-something and the blankety-blank noise of these blankety aircraft was frightening his birds and I was to put a stop to it.

Using my initiative, I gave him the number of the Commander (Air) at Lossiemouth and said goodbye.

I never heard more so I assume he was placated by a few drinks in the Wardroom. – **J. Flynn**, Edinburgh.

# Siren's song: Rapid sounds her last gasp at Rosyth

IN RESPONSE to C. W. Childs' "Whooping Siren Gone" query (February issue) I can say that probably the last time it was heard in Rosyth was 1973, the whooping being produced by the Artificer Apprentice Sea Training Ship HMS Rapid (pictured below on a visit to Aberdeen).



Every weekday morning at 8.30am three blasts on the starboard siren signalled the Rapid had slipped and was moving astern to turn and make her daily trip down the Forth.

It was said that people in the dockyard and surrounding area set their clocks by the siren as it was so distinctive and loud.

I said starboard siren, because we could never get the port siren to function. Several times in the three years I was in this ship the Captain's request to "fix" it was carried out, but to no avail.

It would be removed to the workshop, stripped down, inspected, cleaned and, making sure it rotated freely, refitted. Next time steam to sirens was opened and a test tried, the result was always the same – a whoosh of steam would be emitted followed by what sounded like the heavy sigh of an old Chief Stoker giving up his last breath.

Basically the thing was just worn out and there were no spares to be found. These old sirens did have moving parts in them and did require some maintenance, so I suppose it was logical to move to something that just had a vibrating diaphragm.

Rapid paid off for disposal in mid 1973. – **Bob Proud**, Blyth.

She was later used as a target ship and finally sunk by a torpedo from HMS Onyx in the Western Approaches. – **Ed**

### Canute medal

WE HAVE recently seen the 50th anniversary of the East Coast floods when I was one of many who took part in Operation King Canute.

It was the worst peacetime disaster of the 20th century with upwards of 24,000 homes affected and 32,000 people displaced. From a Service perspective, more people died than in both the Cyprus and Aden campaigns.

Having completed my National Service artificer training in HMS Defiance, I arrived at my port division on February 6 and was the very next day dispatched to Queenborough on the Isle of Sheppey.

Nearby, the dockyard at Sheerness had been overwhelmed, resulting in the corvette HMS Berkeley Castle being capsized with several smaller vessels suffering a similar fate.

The submarine HMS Sirdar was sunk in dry dock in 36ft of flood water – an ignominious situation for the boat that starred in the film *Morning Departure*.

Recognition of various acts of bravery included the Albert Medal and George Medal. Wouldn't the 50th anniversary be a splendid time to recognise all those thousands of unsung heroes who took part in the relief operation with a commemorative medal?

Those who took part in Operation King Canute may register their interest with me in the first instance. – **M. J. Sismey**, Stamford, Lincs.

### Greek to me

I HAVE had this old photograph for many years and wonder if it is possible to identify the ships and the harbour? It is obviously somewhere in Greece. – **M. Foulston**, Barnard Castle, Co Durham.



No. 585 48th year

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# UNIFORM FALLS SHORT OF SAUDIS'

OVER the past two years I have worked with the Dutch, Belgian, German, Norwegian, Polish, American, Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti navies.

The thing that stands out clearly with all these forces is their uniform. The Kuwaiti Navy has an exact copy of the German uniform

with the exception of headgear and the Saudi uniform is based on the American design.

Without exception, the one thing that all these navies have is a decent coat, usually three-quarter length and with a detachable liner for more temperate climates. The Saudi one even has a concealed hood.

These coats can actually be worn over a woolly pully and the wearer can still work. Not for them a Number 4 shirt, with tiny pockets unable to take a pen, that need to be purchased two sizes too large to allow for shrinkage.

How about a white shirt, again at least one size too large to get a

decent sleeve length? Ties that do not finish halfway down the chest making the wearer look like a schoolboy and footwear that is of good quality, affords decent protection from the elements and does not allow water to slop over the top and soak the feet? - Lt A. Parton, HMS Bangor

## No place like home

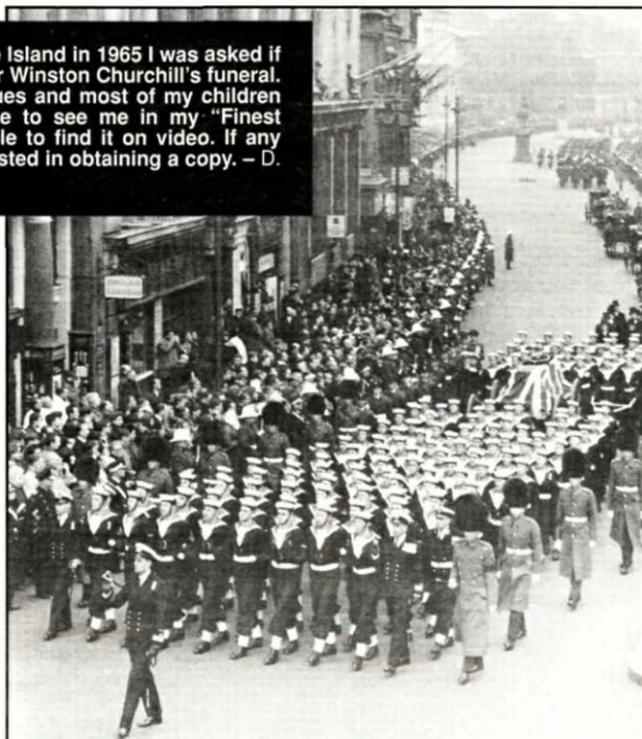
MANY congratulations to the RN in taking positive steps to improve single living accommodation (February issue).

I am somewhat surprised that the Leading Wren believes that the main retention problem is due to the poor standard of shoreside accommodation.

Perhaps she would like to deploy for months on end in a ship or submarine in the accommodation endured by the vast majority of the Fleet. - POMEM(M) K. E. Tanner, HMS Monmouth

## Finest hour

WHILST on a course at Whale Island in 1965 I was asked if I would mind taking part in Sir Winston Churchill's funeral. Now my friends and colleagues and most of my children and grandchildren would like to see me in my "Finest Hour", but I have been unable to find it on video. If any such exists, I would be interested in obtaining a copy. - D. Bowman, Parkstone, Dorset



## Start-up favour returned in kind

I AM a war pensioner (RN) with a bone disease from diving (decompression sickness-related) and now run my own business in Cumbria.

In the last eight years I have had a full hip replacement and a hole drilled in the other one. I have had help from the Royal British Legion with a business start-up grant - £4,000, interest-free, paid off over three years.

This paid for things like computers, fax machine, printing facilities - all the things required for starting a small office. I am eternally grateful to RBL and in conjunction with the RNA am a Poppy Appeal organiser and so return the favour in kind. - D. M. Horsman, Kendal, Cumbria

# Singing lesson for all heading East of Suez

I HAVE just finished reading the February issue and in particular the letters page in which a number of correspondents have provided lyrics for popular Naval ditties.

I am now a more mature person and love singing. I am involved in the Liverpool Philharmonic

Community Choir and have also sung in local operatic society productions over a number of years.

I have never had any formal singing lessons, but attribute much of my singing prowess to some long nights spent in hostels in various parts of the world, singing for Her Majesty and England. The sods opera, I'm certain, was a breeding

ground for future Russell Watsons.

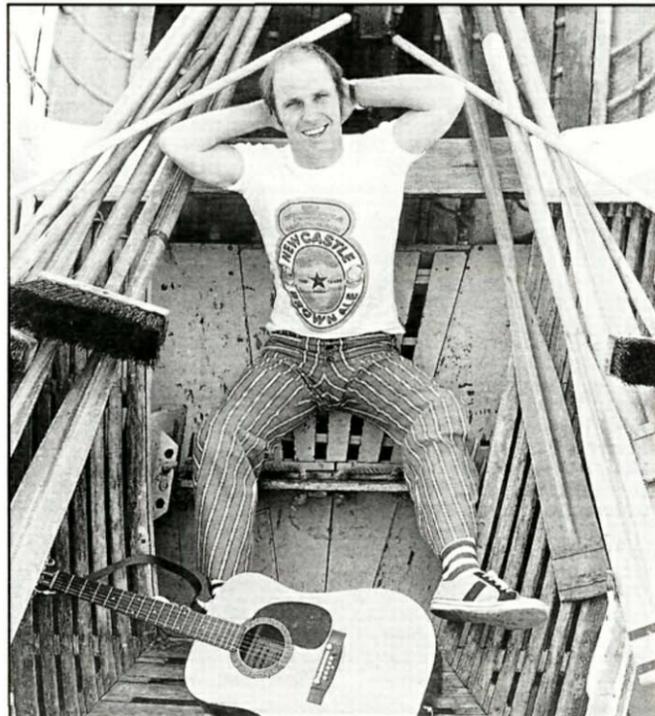
It is sad to reflect that these days we don't often, if ever, hear young people burst into song spontaneously, and certainly not in a pub. Mind you, to start up a chorus of an Eminem song would be damn nigh impossible.

Singing is therapeutic, it makes you feel good, it brings down barriers and can be the ingredient to a recipe for laughter. I defy anyone to sing the Twelve Days of Christmas with the words I was taught by the older hands and not fall about. I would commend it to the young in today's ships companies, especially those going East of Suez. - A. L. Shields, Warrington

THE FILTH printed on page 6 of February's edition must run close to your being prosecuted for publication of lewd matter.

I normally expect to pass the publication to my wife and children. Under no circumstances can I wave the muck in the published verses in front of their eyes. A repeat will lose you a regular subscriber. - G. T. Baynes, Wareham, Dorset

● **CAREER SONGSTER: PO Gunnery Instructor John 'Shep' Woolley left the Navy nearly 30 years ago to concentrate on his other career as a singer/song-writer/comedian - and he is still in great demand, especially by RN audiences. Shep was featured in Navy News in January, 1976, promoting his second LP, Songs of Oars and Scrubbers and Other Dirty Habits**



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## People in the News

### Cradle to grave for Atherstone

A VISIT to Liverpool took the ship's company of HMS Atherstone from cradle to grave in just 24 hours.

On Sunday, February 23, OM(MW)2 Jonathan Rowan saw his daughter Millie christened using the ship's bell.

Millie's is the first christening to take place on the minehunter, and in grand Naval tradition, her name will be engraved into the ship's bell as a permanent record of the ceremony.

Jonathan said: "My first visit to my home town of Liverpool on a Royal Navy ship - I felt so proud to have the christening on board."

"I was at sea so missed Millie's birth and first birthday so it was great to be able to make the christening."

"To have it on board was what I always wanted. I want to thank the captain and all the ship's company for making it happen."

The next day as HMS Atherstone left Liverpool, at the wishes of his family the ashes of Able Seaman Louis Robert McKinley were committed to the deep in a designated burial area just outside the port.

# Siblings are united - thanks to Navy News

A BROTHER and sister have met each other for the first time - all because of Navy News.

Clarie Davies, a former civil servant, separated from his wife, Jessie, when his son Allister was six years old. He had not seen his son since a boating holiday when Allister was 11.

Allister continued to live with his mother in Plymouth, taking the surname Woodward, while Clarie remarried and settled down in Aultbea in the north of Scotland. Clarie and his second wife Ann

had a daughter Miranda, but neither Allister nor Miranda knew of the other's existence - until an article appeared in the January edition of Navy News on the new role of Executive Warrant Officer, focusing on Allister (45), who is the EWO on board HMS Chatham.

By chance, Miranda (20) had also joined the Navy, and was due home on Christmas leave, so Clarie bought a copy of Navy News. It was the unusual spelling of Allister that caught his eye.

"When Dad told me he thought that Allister was his son I couldn't believe it. I didn't know I had a brother," said Miranda.

"But he wasn't one hundred per cent sure. I just had to call the ship to find out if he was my brother."

"As soon as I got back to Portsmouth from leave I rang the ship, which was alongside in Plymouth."

"As I dialled the number I had very mixed feelings. I was excited but felt very nervous at the same time."

Allister said: "I was piped to take a phone call on the flight deck. This voice said to me 'I am Wren Writer Davies - recognise anything about that?'"

"And I said well, no, but I know the name Davies - it used to be my surname."

"She said 'I think I am your sister.' I nearly fell on to the flight deck and was completely stuck for words."

They established that they were indeed brother and sister, but as HMS Chatham was about to deploy to the Arabian Gulf, they would not be able to meet for at least six months.

But then fate took a hand. Miranda was working with the UK Maritime Battle Staff in HMS Excellent, on Whale Island in Portsmouth, and she was told she would be deploying to Bahrain as part of Operation Telic.

Once in the Gulf, it was a question of waiting for the ship to call in, which happened when the frigate hosted a visit by Secretary of State Geoff Hoon.

Miranda said: "I just had to get down to the ship. I thought I'd go

at lunchtime. I took the shuttle bus from the HQ to the Pier and as we were approaching the ship saw him walking up the jetty."

"I shouted at the driver to stop and jumped off the bus. It was a good job I recognised him from the photo in Navy News."

After an emotional reunion, the two said they were "chuffed to bits".

Allister said: "To find I've got a gorgeous sister is fantastic. My kids, Samantha (20) and Ashley (17), are so excited to meet their new family. They can't wait to meet their granddad, aunt and all the others."

Allister said he had always wanted to trace his father and had even gone through the phone book with his wife, calling all the listed Davies. However, he had no luck at the time.

"I plan to meet up with my dad when the ship returns to the UK, and when we get home Miranda and I will definitely keep in touch," he added.

Miranda said: "It's so amazing how we got together. If I hadn't gone home for Christmas leave I doubt that my Dad would have bought Navy News and seen Allister's story. I'm on a real high right now."

### Edinburgh is driving to success

THE FIRST European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) has been completed on board HMS Edinburgh. PO Tarquin Ellison took advantage of the ship's new computer learning facility by using it to study and take the exam, whilst carrying out his usual duties.

The Royal Navy is promoting studying whilst being deployed by equipping its ships with up-to-date technology and facilities.

HMS Edinburgh was the first deployed ship to benefit from this new learning initiative, and the ship's company can now study for the ECDL, learn a new language or undertake management training modules within the facility.

Edinburgh has had a Fleet Education Officer since January to oversee the training.

One-to-one interviews have been conducted to promote this new service and many individuals are now able to return home with extra qualifications under his or her belt.



● Sir Nicholas Hunt helps mark the restoration of HMS Cavalier

## Admiral flies flag for ship

WORLD War II destroyer, HMS Cavalier, had a visit from Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt to celebrate the latest phase of her restoration.

Sir Nicholas, who is the chairman of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, broke out his flag on the main mast for the first time.

Since October 2002, HMS Cavalier, which is a memorial to all those who have lost their lives at sea during the war, has had extensive work carried out as part of a major restoration scheme.

This has ensured the preservation of the ship is maintained, and has even seen her being repainted to the same colour scheme she wore as part of the Far Eastern Fleet in the 1960s and 70s.

A team of volunteers have also helped with the renovation, including installing a new jackstaff and restoring the ship's wardroom.

The process, which has been funded by a number of individuals and charitable trusts, including the Heritage Lottery Fund, is due to be finished by the end of this month.

### Golf club gets lucky on lottery

THE ROYAL Navy's Sports Lottery has given a grant of £5,000 to the Culdrose Golf Club, enabling them to buy equipment.

WAEA Elle Skuse, from 849 Squadron, also won £1,500 in the weekly draw.



● OM Sean and his father CPO John Ronald

### A family affair

OM SEAN Ronald is following in his father's footsteps by embarking on a Naval career.

Sean has successfully completed the eight-week Royal Naval Training course at HMS Raleigh, Torpoint.

Sean's proud father, CPO John Ronald, watched during the Passing Out Parade. John's oldest son Scott is also in the Navy, a MEM on board HMS Ocean.

John said: "The Royal Navy offers excellent career prospects, and I am delighted that both my sons have chosen a career within the Senior Service; I hope they have as much fun as I have had!"



● The Portsmouth branch of the Gideons generously donated bibles during a visit to HMS Excellent. The bibles were given to the wardroom, senior rates messes and to HMS Bristol to place in cabins.

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### Sailors show off their key skills

A TEAM of four young Navy sailors came second in the National Key Skills Competition, beating teams from both the RAF and Army.

The competition, which takes place every two years, included a presentation and demonstration of the six 'Key Skills', which form a fundamental part of the Advanced Modern Apprenticeship.

The Navy's group used the theme of teamwork to demonstrate how emergencies, such as a fire, are dealt

with onboard a warship.

The team, consisting of Mark Tynan, Wendy Frame, Tim Roslender and Chris Powell, are undertaking the Marine Engineering Artificer Qualifying Course at the shore training base, HMS Sultan.

Mark said: "The whole emphasis of our presentation was to prove the Navy's motto 'The Team Works'. That's why we demonstrated a possible problem at sea and how it would be dealt with by any of the Navy's ship's companies."



● Left to right: Mark Tynan, Wendy Frame, Tim Roslender, Chris Powell

# Building bug bites across Naval estate

SPRING in Portsmouth has been heralded by a sudden blossoming – but the spring flowers are joined by bricks and mortar as building begins across the Naval estate.

Admiral Sir Jonathon Band, Commander-in-Chief Fleet, was joined by the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Elaine Baker, at the ceremonial turf-cutting for the start of the new Fleet Headquarters Building at HMS Excellent, Whale Island.

The new headquarters will be named the Leach Building after Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, First Sea Lord during the Falklands Conflict in 1982.

Inspired by the coastal forts in the Solent, the building will feature terracotta on the seaward side with a tower at the southerly end. The headquarters will be set within a carefully-constructed landscape of trees and plants chosen for their sturdy nature and ability to survive the rigorous sea air.

The new building will unite the scattered elements of the Fleet Headquarters who currently work

in ten different buildings at sites including Portsmouth Naval Base and Whale Island.

The building is expected to rise rapidly with the next major milestone of 'topping out' expected in August. It is planned that staff will move into the new purpose-designed building in May next year.

Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral James Burnell-Nugent has overseen the ceremonial start of the construction of an atrium for Victory Building.

The youngest worker in 2SL's headquarters Adam Colwell, aged 20, hefted a spade to begin the work for the lofty new covered area at the heart of Victory Building.

This atrium will provide a rest area for all personnel who work within the headquarters, particularly the civilian staff who up to now have lacked a dedicated place.

Away from headquarters, Adm Burnell-Nugent has been viewing rooms that have yet to be built.

The admiral and sailors have been able to take a look at the type of new single-living accommodation rooms which they can expect to find at HMS Nelson in the near future.

The first mock-up of the hotel-

style room was visited by the Second Sea Lord, who also asked some Nelson ratings what they thought of the facilities.

The en-suite rooms will feature soft neutral blue or green colour schemes for curtains and beds, carpets and quality textiles, with burgundy chairs, pastel paints, double glazing and subtle lighting.

Showers will have screens instead of curtains, there will be heated towel rails and versatile drawers, cupboards and desk units.

Increased storage for kit has been made a priority, and there is ongoing consultation over the provision of movable storage for those deployed on ships where there is no space to take all possessions.

WWTR Sonia Ellison said: "I live in the old RN accommodation in Britannia Block in HMS Nelson where we each share with five others. There's no privacy or personal storage space."

"This new place is light years ahead – homely, attractive and spacious. You could study or relax in peace and quiet. I would move in immediately if I could."

OM Jason Newell said: "This is brilliant – so much better than the old tower block I live in. The best thing would be not to have to share any more. It will be a godsend."



● Councillor Elaine Baker at the wheel, Admiral Sir Jonathon Band turns the first turf for the new Fleet Headquarters

Command Warrant Officer WO Eddie Seaborne remarked that it was important that personnel ensure the mess-deck ethos was not lost; he hoped that they would use the single rooms for study and privacy but make full use of communal areas.

The HMS Nelson project is being handled by the Warship Support Agency with Balfour Beatty as prime contractor.

Separate projects are also under way at RNAS Cudrose, HMS Raleigh, BRNC in Dartmouth, HMS Excellent, HMS Collingwood and RM Commando bases across the country.

## Submarine museum hoists the Jolly Roger

A NEW exhibition about the Jolly Roger is planned for the Royal Navy Submarine Museum in Gosport.

Opening on Monday April 14, the exhibition Flying the Flag – the story of the Jolly Roger will explain the long-held tradition of submarines flying Jolly Rogers and go into the meaning of the intriguing symbols that appear on these distinctive flags.

A selection of Jolly Rogers will be on display together with photographs of submarines and their crews from the extensive collection held at the museum.

Local children will attend the launch dressed in pirate gear as part of Easter holiday activities.

### QHM's new boat on patrol

The Queen's Harbour Master has a new harbour patrol launch to be seen around Portsmouth.

Picture: POA(Phot) Gary Davies



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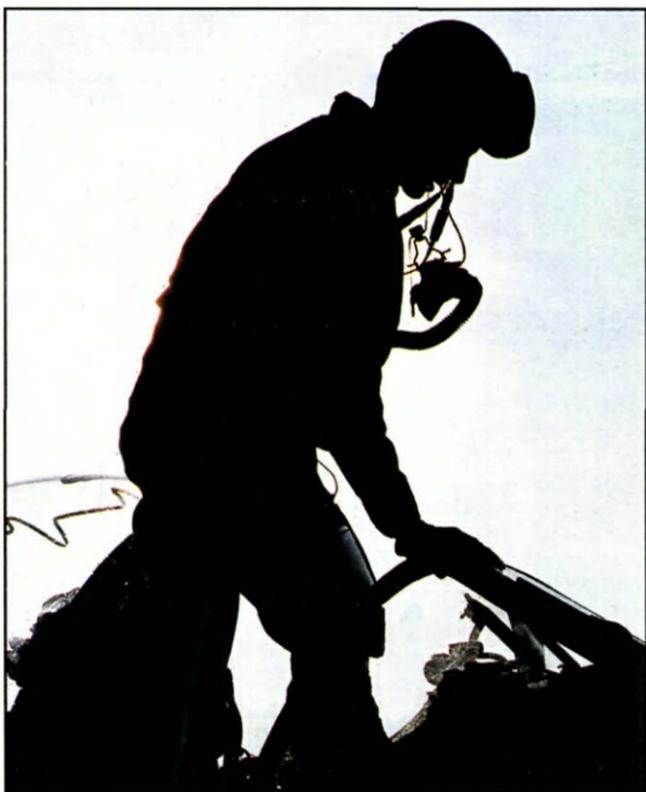
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● A Royal Navy Sea Harrier pilot in the cockpit of his aircraft

# Harrier aces tackle French 'attackers'

**S**UCCESSFUL deployments overseas with the Americans and Portuguese have been followed by a training session a little closer to home for the Sea Harriers of 801 Naval Air Squadron.

But the series of manoeuvres based at a Lincolnshire air station still had an international element.

The squadron detached to the North Sea Air Combat Manoeuvring Instrumentation (AMCI) Range at RAF Waddington, where French aircraft provided the opposition.

The squadron detached to the North Sea Air Combat Manoeuvring Instrumentation (AMCI) Range at RAF Waddington, where French aircraft provided the opposition. French Air Force Mirage 2000 RDIs and the formidable Mirage 2000 RDYs firing the Mica missile – a weapon with a similar performance to the Sea Harriers' potent AMRAAMs – meant the Royal Navy pilots had a real challenge on their hands.

The ACMI range offers real-time tracking and a debriefing facility which gave the pilots a chance to fine-tune their air-to-air skills before embarking in aircraft carrier HMS Invincible later this year.

The serial was hampered by the weather on occasions, but the squadron still enjoyed a packed flying programme, working with and against both types of Mirage 2000, and the British aircraft and their pilots emerged with great credit against opponents who were both competent and aggressive.

The final mission saw four Sea Harriers and four Mirage 2000s defending a simulated HMS Invincible against seven Mirages which were trying to sink her.

The attacking aircraft were destroyed for the loss of only one friendly Mirage.

When the pilots returned to the debriefing room, they were able to run through the combat again from a 'god's eye view', which confirmed kills and allowed them to glean far more tactical benefit from the sortie than would have been possible in open airspace – racking up the pilots' experience and capability in the air-to-air arena.



● A French Air Force Mirage 2000 and a RN FA2 Sea Harrier of 801 Naval Air Squadron pictured on the Air Combat Manoeuvring Instrumentation Range during exercises from RAF Waddington (above)



## Pictures by LA(PHOT) Brad Bradbury

● Lt Cdr Weightman, Senior Pilot of 801 Naval Air Squadron, shares a joke with the ground crew as he waits to be strapped into his Sea Harrier before a sortie (right)

● A French Air Force Mirage taxis at RAF Waddington during exercises on the North Sea Air Combat Manoeuvring Instrumentation Range (below)



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**SINGLE WHITE FEMALE, 35,** slim, three children. Seeks friendship/relationship. **Box Apr 1**

**SARAH (22) (5'7")** Brown hair, hobbies/interests - ask me - Seeking male pen pals (22-30). **Box Apr 2**

**ANNIE, DIVORCED** survivor. Outgoing, GSOH, enjoys theatre, DIY (of necessity), Calamity Jane! Ex-Communicator, Seeks male penpal with GSOH. **Box Apr 3**

**SINGLE MUM 28.** Seeks male's 30-3 - 40's for friendship/relationship. **Box Apr 4**

**41, ATTRACTIVE FEMALE,** no children, enjoys sport. Requires male penfriends. **Box Apr 5**

**PRETTY 45, DIVORCED.** You handsome 40-50. Warm, affectionate, loyal. **Box Apr 6**

**GEORGEOUS LADY GODIVER (21)** Seeks handsome Sir Galahad for correspondence + fun (21-30yrs). **Box Apr 7**

**SINGLE GUY (32), GSOH.** Seeks female Sailor, 25+ South East. **Box Apr 8**

**ATTRACTIVE, MODERN,** outgoing, blonde Sussex bird 40's, GSOH. Want's to corresponde with Guys 35-50. **Box Apr 9**

**SEXY, SLIM,** bubbly brunette, 35, divorced. Seeks loyal, genuine 30+ Serviceman for friendship/relationship. **Box Apr 10**

**FEMALE 31.** Seeks male's for companionship possibly more. **Box Apr 11**

## PERSONAL

**MARAGRET, 59, WIDOW.** Good sense of humour and caring, wishes to write to a genuine, caring Naval gentleman for friendship/relationship. **Box NN 0401**

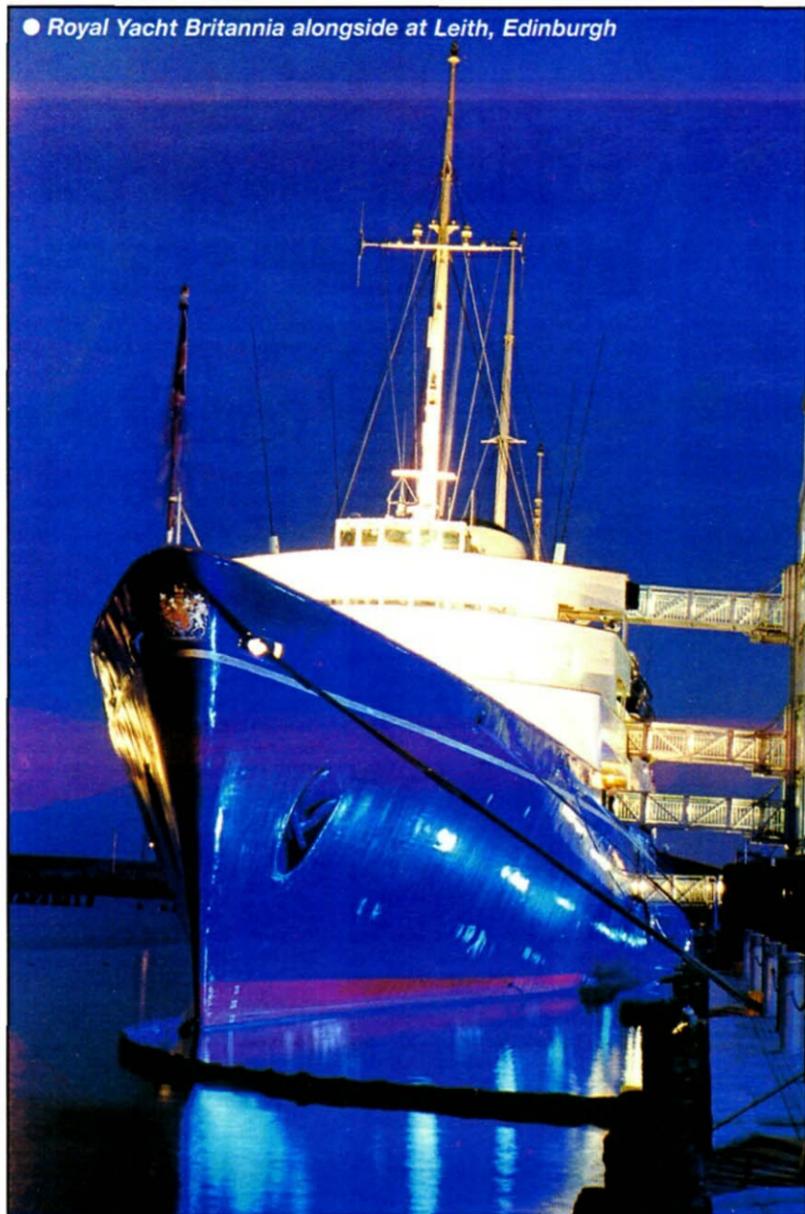
**-PEN PALS-** LINK LINE is a British Registered Charity committed to bringing people together as pen friends. Get to know a companion or partner, like yourself, before you meet. Just exchange letters until you feel comfortable with your new friend. **Details: SAE; Linkline (NN), Box 7358, LONDON N1 5QF.**

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**You must be over 18 to advertise in this column.**



● Royal Yacht Britannia alongside at Leith, Edinburgh

# Britannia's birthday party best

AS EVER, brass gleams and silver shines on the Royal Yacht Britannia at the historic port of Leith in Edinburgh as the men and women in the 'crew' clean, polish and prepare for Britannia's 50th birthday festivities.

At Britannia's launch on April 16, 1953, at the Clydebank shipyard of John Brown & Co., Queen Elizabeth II said: "I am sure that all of you who are present here realise how much the building of this ship meant to the late King, my father."

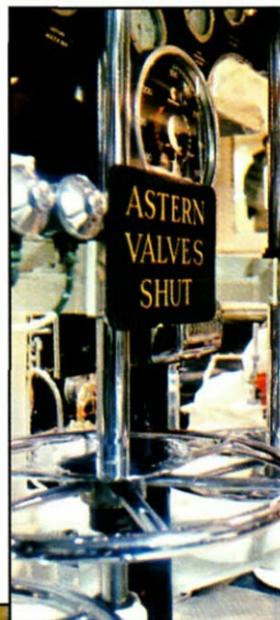
"He felt most strongly, as I do, that a yacht was a necessity and not a luxury for the Head of our great British Commonwealth, between whose countries the seas is no barrier but the natural and indestructible highway."

And so HMY Britannia continued the 300-year tradition of Royal Yachts, travelling a distance of over 1 million nautical miles carrying members of the Royal Family to 968 official visits at over 600 ports in 135 countries for almost 44 years.

In her time she was under the command of nine admirals and finally one commodore, and during royal tours was manned by 220 Yachtsmen, 21 officers, three season officers and a Royal Marine Band of 26.

December 11, 1997, saw Britannia decommissioned at Portsmouth Naval Base before moving to her current home at Leith in 1998, returning to the Scottish shores from which she was born.

For further details, call the information line: 0131 555 5566 or visit the website on the Internet at [www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk](http://www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk).

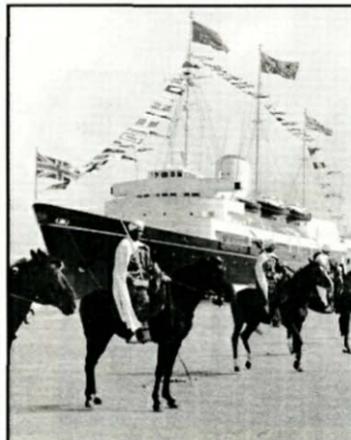


● Top: the engine room of Britannia still shines in immaculate condition and (below) the maintenance team keeps pace with the constant demands  
Photos: LA Phot Brad Bradbury

## Fifty years around the world



● At the commemoration of the Normandy landings in 1994



● At Tunisia in 1980



● At Philadelphia in 1976



● Providing care for the refugees from Aden in 1986



● Passing HMS Eagle in 1957



● In Sydney harbour in 1970



Photographed in the State Drawing Room on board Britannia.

### The Royal Yacht Britannia 1953-2003 50th Anniversary China Collection

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the launch of The Royal Yacht *Britannia*, this official commemorative fine bone china range was commissioned exclusively for The *Britannia* Collection. The combination of *Britannia's* crest, the crisp blue of the Bridge and Laundry Room and the gold and brass ornamentation throughout the ship was the inspiration for the design.

This magnificent range, which is made in England and finished by hand, includes two special Limited Edition pieces, a 10" Commemorative Plate at £75.00 (Edition 500) and a Neptune Beaker at £49.00 (Edition 1000), both presented in a satin lined gift box together with a Limited Edition Certificate. The other pieces that complete the range are a Hinged Pillbox & a Tea Cup and Saucer, both £30 each, a Tankard at £20 and a Coaster/Dish at £12.75, all beautifully gift boxed and complete with a collector's card. Prices do not include postage.

To order your commemorative china please call our gift shop direct on 0131 555 8811 or shop online at [www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk](http://www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk)

*Britannia* is owned by The Royal Yacht *Britannia* Charitable Trust. Your purchase will help to preserve and maintain this historic ship.

OCEAN TERMINAL, LEITH, EDINBURGH, EH6 6JJ

# Helping Hands

## Race across land and sea

A FIVE-MAN team from Faslane are tackling the 2003 Scottish Islands Peaks Race in May this year.

The five, MoD and Babcock Naval Services (BNS) personnel, are a combination of hill-runners and sailors.

The sailing course is 160 nautical miles against fierce tides and tough conditions, while the runners cover 60 miles and 11,500ft of climbing in some of the roughest terrain in the world.

The team plan to turn their

blood, sweat and tears into charity cash for the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust and the Children's Hospice Association Scotland.

The Naval Base is offering support to the ultra-fit five, including the in-house manufacture of oars designed to guarantee both minimum weight and maximum strength.

This is the first time that a team from Clyde Naval Base have entered this tough and demanding event.

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**"The Bletchley SHARK in the Atlantic"**  
17-18 May 2003

This event commemorates Bletchley Park's contribution to winning the Battle of the Atlantic and will have an overall naval theme.

For further information please contact  
**Christina Cordes on 01908 63 11 37**  
or at [cordes@bletchleypark.org.uk](mailto:cordes@bletchleypark.org.uk)

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**RANGERS** **PEUGEOT** MILITARY SALES

**ANTARCTIC and ARCTIC Bone China Mugs**

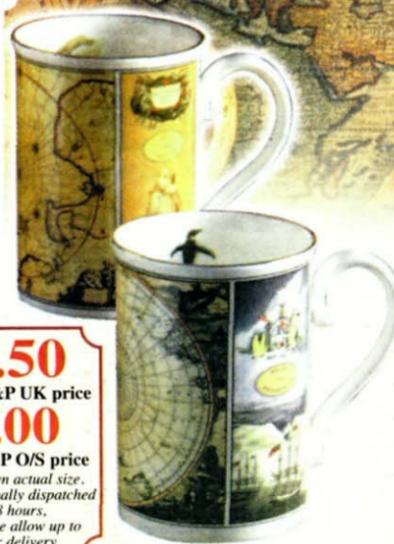
By the end of the 15th Century, adventurers and merchants suspected the Earth was not round and were starting to discover lands afar. In 1795 the UK Hydrographic Office was formed to develop much needed charts for the areas the Royal Navy sailed in. For over 200 years, the UK Hydrographic Office has built up a collection of over three million documents relating to the sea. Amongst these archives are the charts featured on these exceptional bone china mugs. Elegantly decorated with either Polic Arctic or Polos Antarctic maps. To make these mugs unique, each features either a Polar Bear or Penguin which is relevant to their destination. Both are finished with a real gold trim and fine detail.

To order these Bone China Mugs please phone us on **023 9282 6040**

with your credit card details, or fill out the coupon on page 4. Cheques payable to Navy News to accompany orders. For orders outside UK payment can be made by Cheque/International Money Order in £ Sterling and drawn on a UK bank for the amount shown.

The Business Manager, Navy News,  
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**£9.00** Each inc P&P O/S price  
Items not shown actual size. Orders are normally dispatched within 48 hours, however please allow up to 28 days for delivery.




David Watson presents Tony Denley with his new scooter  
Picture: courtesy of Somerset County Gazette

## Tony lives life in the fast lane

A DISABLED former Marine has found a new lease of life after being presented with an electric scooter worth £3,500.

Tony Denley, who suffers with osteoporosis of the spine, joined the Royal Marines in 1964. He served in five ships, including HMS Albion, London and Fearless, and has also served in several Commando units such as HQ 3 Commando in Singapore and 43 Commando.

The scooter, which was paid for

by the Royal Navy Benevolent Trust (RNBT), the Royal Marines Benevolent Trust, and the Royal British Legion (RBL) along with other charities, was presented to Tony by the Legion's Appeals Officer Major David Watson, in conjunction with the opening of the new RBL Poppy shop in Taunton.

Not only has the scooter given him back his independence, but he can now leave the house when he needs to, without having to rely upon friends or taxis to take him out.

Tony said: "They've done me proud and given me back my quality of life. The scooter is also covered over so I can go out in all kinds of weather."

He contacted Navy News to let people know how much help these organisations can give and what a difference they can make to someone's life.

"They've come up trumps again," Tony said.

Tony, who is delighted with his new-found mobility, was previously helped out by the Royal British Legion some three years ago when he had lost his job as a chef.

The Royal Navy Benevolent Trust offers financial aid to anyone on a low income who is connected to the Royal Navy or Marines. They can help with aspects such as rent or mortgage repayments, food and medical care.

The trust also cares for older people, supports other organisations such as hospices, and gives advice on welfare matters.

For more information on the RNBT contact them on 023 9269 0112 or email: [rmbt@rmbt.org.uk](mailto:rmbt@rmbt.org.uk).

## Efforts inspired by cancer scare

EMMA WHITWORTH, a member of the FTRS at HMS Sultan, will take part in the Great Walk of China in an attempt to raise over £1,000 for the Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity.

Emma will fly out to China on August 19, where she will walk the 143km of the 15th leg of the trek.

As well as asking for sponsors and writing to large companies for help, she has also held a car boot sale which raised £80, and is currently organising a charity night.

Emma, whose mother recently had a cancer scare, said: "It opened my eyes up and I realised that all this money was needed for research. I thought I could help and take part in a life-changing event at the same time."

Anyone wishing to sponsor Emma should call her on 07876 767394.

## Racing the sun

A NEW fundraising event is looking for Naval personnel to take part and boost cash for Action Research, a leading medical charity.

Race the Sun takes place in the Lake District in September, and comprises three events: cycling, climbing and canoeing, all to be completed by sunset.

Each team of four needs to pay a registration fee of £150, and pledge to raise at least £1,800. For more details contact Gay Rose on 01462 634646 or email [events@actionforcharity.co.uk](mailto:events@actionforcharity.co.uk).

## Cooking up a tasty treat

ROYAL NAVY chefs from HMS Drake cooked up a treat for the children of Marlborough Primary School, giving them a taste of Navy life.

Stir-fry beef, chicken curry and fruit smoothies were all on the menu, although the children also got the chance to try an operational ration pack.

The cookery presentation is part of the school's moral and health education week, and a team of six chefs and a steward went along to show the children what the crew of a ship typically eat.

Warrant Officer Terry Carew is the Supply Officer Catering Support of HMS Drake. He believes the day helped educate the children about the importance of having a balanced and nutritious diet.

"We aim to show children and their parents that there are other tasty options to sweets and similar fast foods, which can be prepared in as little as 20 minutes," said Terry.

## Fareham centre revamped by Collingwood crew

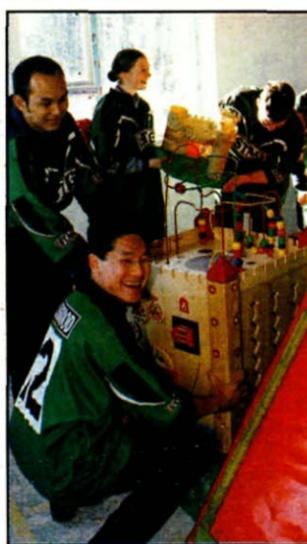
VOLUNTEERS from HMS Collingwood, Fareham, have taken time out to help the KIDS Family Centre with a £500,000 refurbishment programme.

The centre provides care and support for children with special needs, and this new project will ensure that they have state-of-the-art facilities and a new residential respite care unit.

The refurbishment has been funded from a variety of sources including a Government single regeneration budget grant, collections made by the centre and a phenomenal £300,000 donation from the KIDS' landlord, Charles Moor.

Officers and ratings of HMS Collingwood gave up their time to help clear out rooms in preparation for the builders.

They also got involved with various DIY jobs around the centre.



Collingwood volunteers at the KIDS Family Centre



Crew members from HMS Severn created an outdoor classroom for Manor Infants School, Hampshire. The children will be able to plant fruit and vegetables as part of their lessons.  
Picture: POA Phot: Gary Davies

# Helping Hands



## Best on the pitch wins tournament

THE BRITISH and International Sailors' Society is gearing up to hold two charity events.

Its annual six-a-side football tournament will take place on April 27 at United Services Sports Ground, Portsmouth.

They are currently looking for teams of six players, along with three substitutes, to take part.

Louis Shaw took part in the tournament last year. "It was a good opportunity to raise funds for a local charity. With sponsorship of only £65 per team, this is a real fun day."

The society will also be holding a two-and-a-half hour Go-Karting endurance activity on May 17 with each team completing 300 laps. Teams of six drivers are currently being recruited.

Included in the day is a 'Sin Bin' where misbehaving participants will end up. Contestants may bribe their way out by making a donation to the society, or even pay to put someone in there.

Registration for the event is £30 and the winners of the competition will receive trophies and champagne.

The society provides practical and spiritual support for seafarers, as well as retirement homes and counselling.

For a booking form or further information about either event call Kelly Wearne on 023 8033 7333.

## Strong limbs required for bike challenge

THE VIETNAM Cycle Challenge, raising money for the Childhood First charity, is due to take place this October.

The 11-day challenge is to cycle 630km over six days, through the Marble Mountains in the North and down to Saigon in the South.

Childhood First has worked with children and young people who have been affected by abuse or emotional trauma for over 30 years. The challenge events have raised almost £200,000 to date.

Participants are asked to pay a £300 registration fee and to pledge to raise £2,300 in sponsorship. In return, all accommodation, biking equipment and fundraising ideas and support will be provided.

Call 020 7928 7388 or email [s.stephens@peperharow.org.uk](mailto:s.stephens@peperharow.org.uk).

## 10km race boosts funds



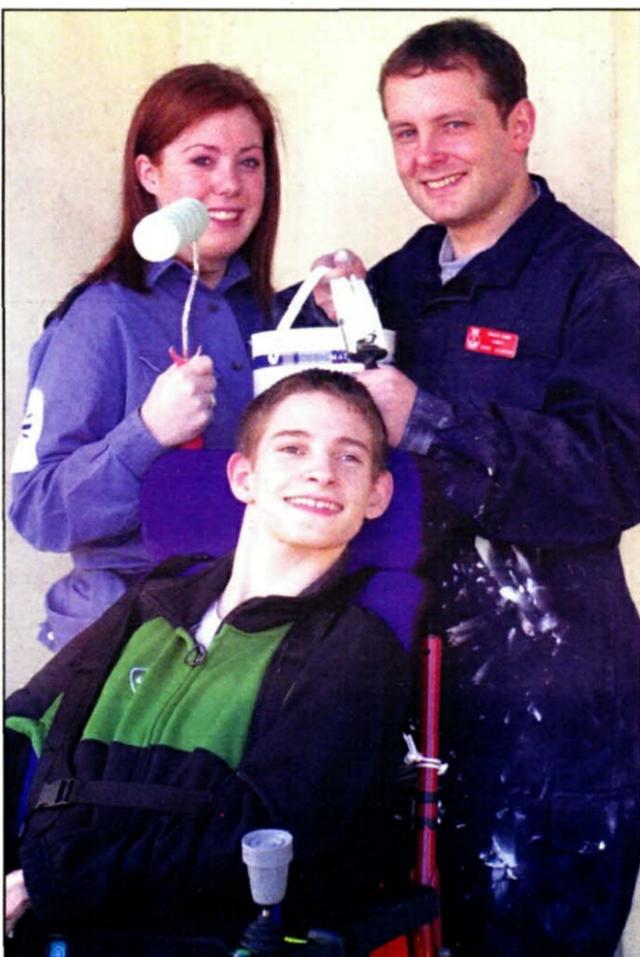
● POPT Caron Fincher

THE COLLINGWOOD 10km road race has boosted funds for the Gosport and Fareham branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The race, organised by POPT Caron Fincher, took place on October 20. Runners paid an entry fee and were also encouraged to seek sponsorship to raise £500.

The money gathered from their hard work will be used to look into cures and other methods of helping people with multiple sclerosis.

The Fareham Naval establishment has also raised £182 during the Royal Navy Boxing Championships, and this money will shortly be put to good use in charity coffers.



● LOM Brian Rose and OM Fiona Robinson with Ross Berry, a pupil at Dame Hannah Rogers School

# Just like old times for Brian

FORMER painter and decorator Brian Rose has picked up his paintbrushes once more, despite starting a new career in the Royal Navy.

Volunteers from HMS Albion have gathered up their tools to help redecorate the Dame Hannah Rogers School in Ivybridge.

LOM Brian Rose joined the Navy five years ago, but memories of his earlier life must have rushed back when he was one of six sailors who gave up their time to help redecorate one of the school's bungalows.

The school, which offers residential and day places for young people with physical difficulties, is aiming to raise £1 million to pay for the next stage of its modernisation programme.

They have six bungalows in their grounds, which houses its further education students, and HMS Albion spent three days redecorating one of them.

Brian said: "We like to do whatever we can to help and jumped to the call when we knew there were jobs to do."

HMS Albion, which is one of the Royal Navy's new amphibious assault ships, has been built by BAE Systems in Barrow-in-Furness. The school, which has a long-standing relationship with the Royal Navy, has been adopted by the ship.

Dame Hannah Rogers Trust Chief Executive John Evans said: "We are very grateful for HMS Albion's help in decorating our bungalows. To be adopted by the ship is a great honour."



● Three of the Faslane Four: LOM Hank Hankshaw, Lt Lig Hill and CC Karl Hoditch - WO Whisky Walker is the missing man

## Navy takes to the streets of London

MANY people connected to the Royal Marines and Navy will be taking part in the Flora London Marathon on April 13 out of desire to raise money for their favoured charities.

Chris Lowe, a Corporal in the Royal Marines CCF section of the Royal Hospital School, will be running in the marathon in support of the National Asthma Campaign.

He was a cadet on Exercise Fire and Ice last summer, and aims to join the Royal Marines as an officer. Chris has a personal reason to run for the campaign. He suffered with asthma as a child, an ailment that he has now overcome, and is hoping to get sponsorship for £1,500.

"I want to put something back into those who have supported me with dealing with asthma, which will benefit others in finding possible cures or treatment," said Chris. If you want to sponsor him, call 01892 723715.

Two more Naval runners are CPOMEA Jonathan Braithwaite and CPO Bob Mapes who are tackling the gruelling distance on behalf of the Solent Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre.

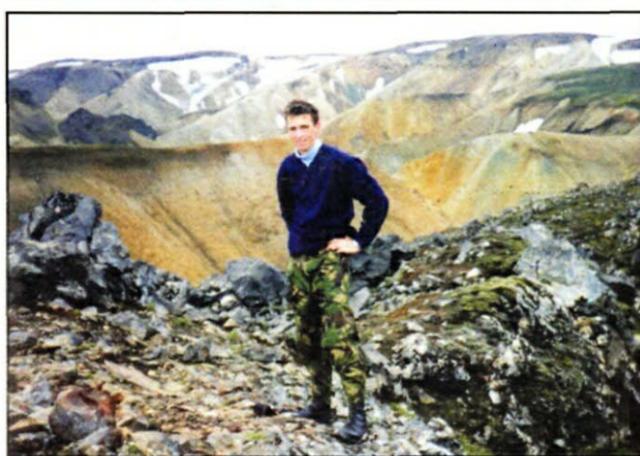
Both men have pledged to raise £3,000 for the centre. To sponsor them contact Jonathan on 023 9242 8097.

Bob Thomson, from the Gosport Royal Naval Association, has his targets set on charity cash for the Rainbow Centre in Fareham that assists children with motor impairment, commonly caused by cerebral palsy. Bob can be contacted on 023 9254 3196.

The hills around Clyde Naval Base have proven the ideal training ground for the 'Faslane Four': Lt Lig Hill (who is running for Children with Leukaemia, Phoebe Lyle Trust Fund), WO Gordon 'Whisky' Walker (Children's Hospice Association Scotland), CC Karl Hoditch (MacMillan Nurses) and LOM Paul 'Hank' Hankshaw (Rainbow Trust).

For Lig, it will be her first and, if she is to be believed, last attempt at the race; but Whisky is a veteran - it's only his second marathon, but he ran his first 18 years ago; Karl has already tackled the Dublin and Stranraer marathons; and Hank is looking to better his time from last year.

Picture: LA Phot Jeff Brown



● London Marathon runner Chris Lowe who will race the streets of England's capital for the National Asthma Campaign

# DON'T FORGET OUR SEAFARERS

## A Time to Remember

One chance we have to remember the debt we owe to our seafarers is with a legacy. For many of us making a Will is a daunting prospect and often a task that is left "until tomorrow".

King George's Fund for Sailors (KGFS) can help - we have a free guidance booklet entitled "Your Will". Free copies are available by completing the coupon below or by telephone

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or email  
[seafarers@kgfs.org.uk](mailto:seafarers@kgfs.org.uk)  
Visit our website at  
[www.kgfs.org.uk](http://www.kgfs.org.uk)



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Tel: 020 7932 0000

The data you have supplied will be used for administrative purposes and to keep you informed of fund-raising and other activities.  
 I Prefer NOT to receive further mailings

NW/1/03

# A regal life shaped by the ocean's call

**G**EORGE V's 15-year career in the Royal Navy gave him a strong sense of discipline and duty to the Empire that would serve him well as a hardworking and dedicated modern monarch.

George's promotion to the throne was in itself an unexpected event, for it was only with the death of his elder brother Prince Albert Victor, known as Eddy, that George's Naval career was brought to an end, and he turned his eyes from the business of nautical command to affairs of state.

But his years in the Navy left an indelible mark on the king. Many years later while dining at Sandringham or Windsor he could be seen absent-mindedly tapping his biscuits upon the wooden table-tops in legacy to the years of weevil-ridden ships' biscuits.

At the age of 12 in September 1877, Prince George joined the training ship Britannia at Dartmouth as a Naval cadet, accompanied by his brother Eddy and their tutor Rev John Neale Dalton.

George as second son had long been headed for a Naval career, but his elder brother was expected to become king.

Queen Victoria preferred a public school, Wellington College, for her eldest grandson, but the tutor Rev Dalton stressed the beneficial effect of George's influence on Eddy's studies, and advised that both boys should remain together.

Concerns were then voiced by the Queen that a nautical education might encourage national prejudices or a feeling of superiority, but in time the decision was taken that the pair would go to Dartmouth.

Perhaps the success of the princes' uncle Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, in the Royal Navy served as an example of the potential benefits of a life at sea.

The only concession to their rank at Britannia was the provision of a private cabin, yet the other older boys took advantage of a unique opportunity to lord it over their regal fellows.

Over the two years the strength of George's personality overcame his initial nickname of Sprat to earn the popular title of PG, an acronym of Prince George.

With two years at Britannia under their belts, the two princes passed out in 1879 to join a gang of 16 young midshipmen in HMS Bacchante under the command of Captain Lord Charles Scott for three years.

Once more the decision to keep both boys together provoked earnest debate among the highest echelons of British society.

One of the key issues of concern was the risk to the royal line if one ship should be lost holding two princes but in the end it was decided that both boys should continue on together, each exerting a positive influence upon the other.

And so began three years of travel and exploration, encountering different cultures across the world and experiencing the full extent of the empire.

In the months between September 17, 1879, and August 5, 1882, the boys sailed on three major cruises, still accompanied by Rev Dalton in an adjoining cabin.

The first lasted eight months and took the princes from the Mediterranean to the West Indies.

**"Unselfish, kindly, good-tempered, he was an ideal shipmate."**

King George V is often portrayed – as in the TV series *The Lost Prince* – as a dull, irascible martinet with no interests beyond shooting and stamp-collecting, but as this description by one of George's fellow midshipmen in HMS Bacchante shows, the modern image belies the contemporary reality. *Helen Craven traces the Naval career of the Sailor King.*

The second was the shortest, only a matter of a few weeks with the Channel Fleet and Reserve Squadron that involved visits to Bantry Bay and Vigo.

The final was a major world cruise of two years during which boys became men and the exotic impact of the Americas, Africa, the Far East and Middle East burst upon young minds.

Bacchante sailed on September 14, 1880, on a long journey through South America, South Africa, Australia, Japan, China, Singapore, Egypt and to the time's Holy Lands. The voyage brought many new experiences, including a mysterious encounter with the ghostly Flying Dutchman.

This period saw the beginning of certain practices in the young George that he would preserve throughout his life. He became a regular diarist, a habit he kept daily for the next 56 years, diligently noting weather conditions, whether at shore or at sea.

On the negative side, this stint of seamanship also revealed the Sailor Prince's most unfortunate seasickness, an ailment that his sense of duty would not allow to hinder him in any way.

The physical legacies of this round-the-world trip were the array of tattoos collected by the two youngsters, ranging from red and blue dragons in Tokyo to five crosses at Jerusalem (tattooed it seems by the same man who had branded their father years earlier).

Fortunately the report sent back from a journalist in Barbados that the princes' faces were marred with tattoos was erroneous, a misunderstanding caused by the presence of lily pollen on the royal noses. But the report sparked a furious letter from father to son about the 'ridiculous boy with an anchor on his nose!' and asking why the tattoo had not been put elsewhere.

**T**hese years at sea with his brother as companion, exploring the world and visiting royal relatives, yet constrained within the discipline of Naval life, had a lasting impact on the thinking and attitude of the future king.

In part through the Royal Navy, George was taught to understand both duty and responsibility, and he held true to these principles throughout his life and reign.

It was not until the summer of 1883 when he joined HMS Canada as a midshipman in the North America and West Indies Squadron that George faced life alone, without brother or tutor.

He lived the genuine life of his rank, his hammock tied up alongside his fellows in the crowded gunroom.

By the time of his return to England in July 1884, George had attained the rank of sub lieutenant

and headed to the Royal Naval College Greenwich then on to HMS Excellent for further training in the nautical arts and sciences.

George's next draft was HMS Thunderer, an elderly battleship in the Mediterranean fleet that undertook a major refit in Malta – where George's uncle Prince Alfred was Commander in Chief.

This time with his uncle is thought to have introduced a few more Naval habits to the young man.

A love of stamp-collecting passed from uncle to nephew, a pastime which was to produce an ultimately a philatelic collection unrivalled in the world.

George's characteristic beard first appeared in this season of his life, to his mother and brother's dismay.

Temporarily transferred to Dreadnought, the young man returned to British shores for a brief spell to mark his grandmother's Golden Jubilee in 1887.

HMS Orantes bore the prince for a few weeks to Gibraltar before he joined the battleship HMS Northumberland.

**J**uly of 1889 saw a high point of George's Naval career – his first command, Torpedo Boat No.79. At 128 feet in length and with a top speed of 19 knots, the 75 ton boat saw George distinguish himself when he went to help Torpedo Boat No.41 in difficult conditions and towed his sister boat to safety.

After a gunnery course at HMS Excellent, George's next command was a more imposing vessel, the first-class gunboat of 805 tonnes, HMS Thrush, with a ship's company of seven officers and 57 men.

By the time of Thrush's return to Plymouth in July 1891, George had merited promotion to commander.

There was no portent that this bright Naval career was about to end, and it seemed George's star was rising in the Royal Navy.

The death of his closest companion in his youth, his elder brother the Prince of Wales, from pneumonia on January 14, 1892, brought his Naval career to a premature end.

Later in the summer of that year, the newly-titled Duke of York, Earl of Inverness and Baron Killarney took command of the 3,400-tonne armoured cruiser HMS Melampus for weeks of exercises in Tor Bay, Mounts Bay and then the Irish Sea.

At his marriage to Princess May of Teck, later to be known as Queen Mary, Prince George wore his freshly-acquired Captain's uniform.

But it was not for another six years that George would return to sea in his last command as Captain of the cruiser Crescent in exercises around Ireland and Scotland. It seems this final experience was not a happy one; homesickness and seasickness combined to make



● **Three generations of kings: King George V, King Edward VII and King Edward VIII**

All images courtesy George Malcolmson

George earnestly wish for land.

While his full-time career in the Navy ended, with his promotion in the life of the nation so rose his uniformed rank, and with his accession to the throne on May 7, 1910, came the title Admiral of the Fleet.

One of George's enduring passions pre-dated his Naval days, but it seems the Navy even had a lasting effect upon that.

Once when indulging in his much-loved sport of shooting he

commented: "I can't hit a feather. But I've been at sea for a good many years and one doesn't see many pheasants there."

George's Naval career stood him in good stead throughout his life. As king, he stood at the head of a ship of state travelling through difficult and turbulent times, as empire shrank and world conflict erupted.

His in-depth knowledge of the Navy and the military life meant that the Admiralty could rely on

■ See Newsview, page 20



● **King George V inspects sailors in HMS Iron Duke, Jellicoe's flagship in the Battle of Jutland in World War I**

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AS HIS ADJUTANT GENERAL

AS NAVAL CADET

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THE REIGN OF H.M. KING GEORGE V 1910-1936

WILLIS' CIGARETTES

THE KING AND QUEEN IN THE ROYAL YACHT "BRITANNIA"

**THE REIGN OF H.M. KING GEORGE V 1910-1936**

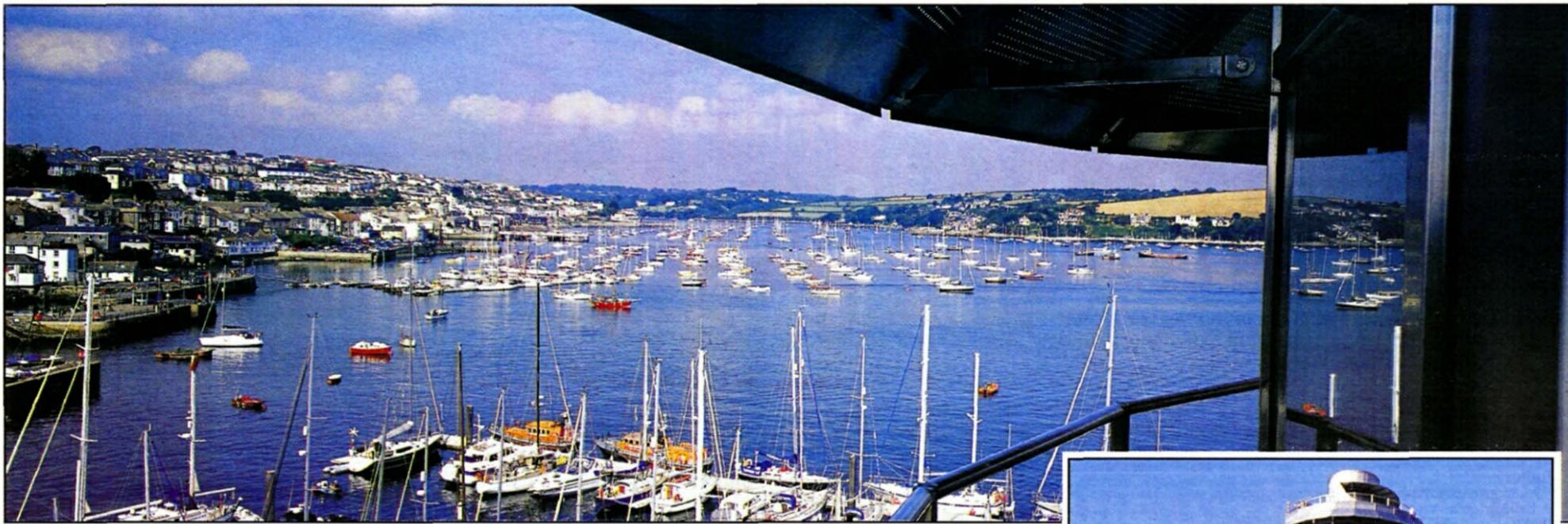
WILLIS' CIGARETTES

REVIEW OF THE FLEET AT SPITHEAD

**THE REIGN OF H.M. KING GEORGE V 1910-1936**

WILLIS' CIGARETTES

ROYAL VISIT TO H.M.S. "VICTORY"



● The view over Falmouth Harbour from the look-out tower of the museum (right). The tower is some 30 metres high, and at its base is a tidal pool which can be viewed through strengthened windows five metres high.

# Museum builds on Falmouth's heritage

NOWHERE in Cornwall is more than 16 miles from the sea, according to the tourist literature.

But few places can be as close to the water – in spirit as well as location – as Falmouth.

And it was here, on a commanding site overlooking the Falmouth Harbour, that the new National Maritime Museum Cornwall was built.

The museum is an example of the benefits of joining forces, as it was born out of the broadly-similar needs of two separate organisations.

One was the internationally-acclaimed National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, which had a valuable collection of more than 100 small craft which was too extensive to display to best effect en masse, and which spent much of the time in storage, being dusted off for temporary exhibitions.

The other was the tiny Cornwall Maritime Museum, which had a fascinating story to tell but was in danger of being stifled by its poor back-street location, attracting only 5,000 or so visitors a year.

When the two museums made separate bids to the Heritage Lottery Fund, it was suggested a joint bid might bear fruit – and the result was the National Maritime Museum Cornwall, a key element of the £27 million redevelopment of three acres of Falmouth waterfront. Funding was also secured from the South West Regional Development Agency and European Union sources.

The attractive, spacious museum was designed by architect M.J. Long, and draws on traditional maritime themes – much of it is clad in oak planking, and the most prominent part – the look-out

## Mike Gray visits the National Maritime Museum Cornwall

tower – is reminiscent of a lighthouse.

Visitors first experience a huge gallery with a combination of suspended craft and a wall of images and sounds.

At the top of that ramp is access, through galleries, to another massive open space at the heart of the building, which allows a wide variety of boats to be seen from all angles. The suspended flotilla includes modern powerboats, yachts and coracles.

There are plenty of hands-on activities, covering all aspects of seamanship, including navigation, weather forecasting and ship-handling.

Smaller galleries include a section on Royal Navy ship's boats, as well as river racing, fishing and other leisure and work pursuits, and the Cornwall Galleries focus on the county's connections with the sea, looking at industry, work and communications. A major draw is the look-out tower, standing 30 metres high and giving splendid views over Falmouth Harbour and the town itself.

It stands in a tidal pool, and at the foot of a wide spiral staircase visitors can watch through two 5 metre high windows as the water ebbs and flows bringing marine life into view – the base of the windows is at low water mark, while the top marks spring high tides.

The Tidal Zone also features a fascinating machine which allows visitors to spin at their own speed through the tidal cycle at points around the Cornish coast – a mesmerising glimpse of how St Michael's Mount becomes an island, or how the water drains from a fishing port leaving boats high and dry, flooding back to drive tourists off the sands.

One boat has a Naval connection through the Duke of

Edinburgh – though the name Bluebottle has a Goonish resonance which the Duke's eldest son would appreciate.

Bluebottle was a Dragon-class yacht given to the Duke and the Queen as a wedding present in 1948.

She had a successful racing career, culminating in a bronze medal at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, and was retired shortly afterwards to Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, where she served as a training craft for almost 40 years.

She was showing her age by that stage, but after a leaky trip from Dartmouth to Falmouth she was lovingly restored by Maurice Hunkin and his son Louis – son and grandson of Charlie Hunkin, who gave Bluebottle her first major refit 50 years before – and Marcus Lewis.



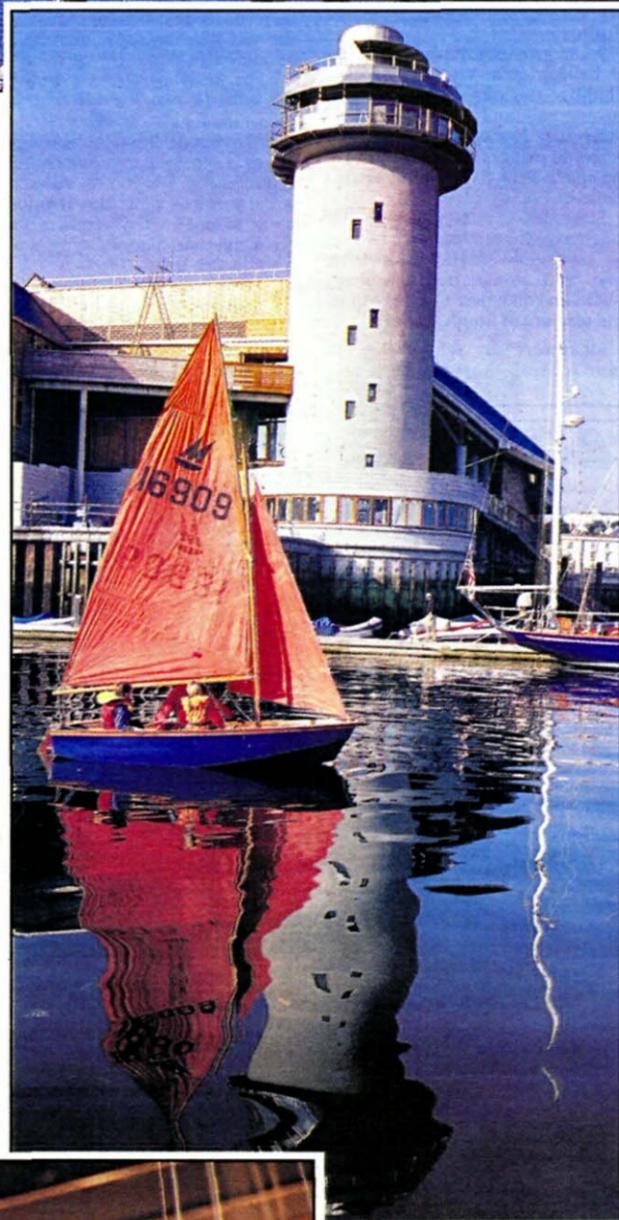
Using a combination of new and traditional technology, the exhibit was brought back to her prime – including her distinctive Britannia blue paintwork.

Prince Philip unveiled the building's foundation stone in 1999, and the Queen chose the museum as the first stop on her Golden Jubilee tour last year, gaining it widespread publicity.

Just last month the complex was officially opened by the Duke of York – the final act of the launch phase, during which time more than 115,000 visitors have been through the doors. Managers at the site confidently predict in excess of 180,000 visitors each year.

Museum Director Peter Cowling has announced that he is to step down in September after four years involvement.

"My job as midwife should be finished by the end of our first full season, by which time our new baby will be ready to face the world," said Mr Cowling.



## New life at heart of old town

THE National Maritime Museum Cornwall is located on Discovery Quay, a leisure and tourism complex round a waterside piazza in Falmouth.

The piazza was designed to hold up to 4,000 people for concerts, exhibitions and other major events, and the surrounding development will include restaurants and shops.

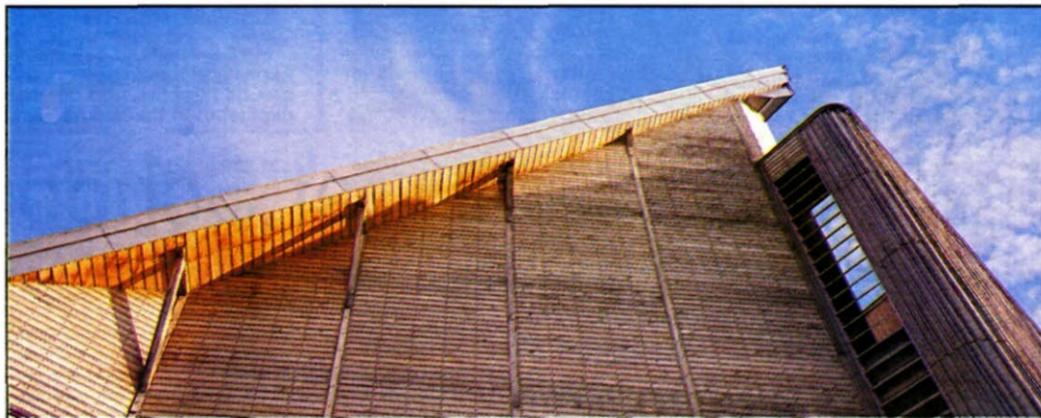
The museum is open daily from 10am until 5pm, and admission charges are £5.90 for adults, £3.90 for senior citizens, students and children. Family tickets cost £15.50, and under-fives are admitted free.

The museum is 300 metres from Falmouth Town (The Dell) station, and summer visitors are advised to park out of town and use the shuttle service.

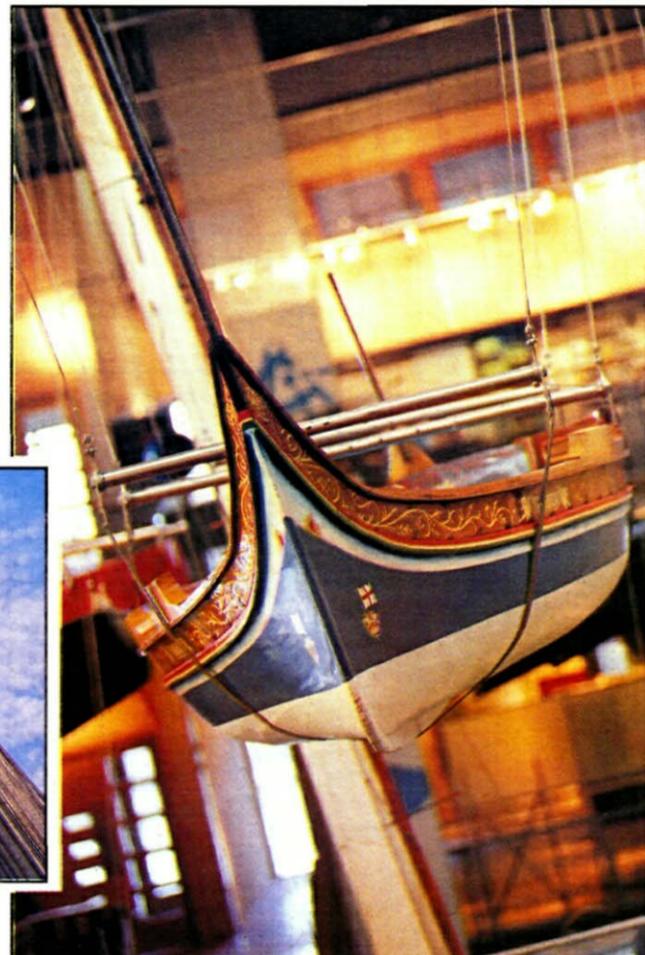
The museum is fully wheelchair accessible, and guide dogs are welcome.

The museum also has a lecture theatre.

For more details telephone 01326 313388, email enquiries@nmmc.co.uk, or see the museum website at www.nmmc.co.uk



● More than 16km of green oak planking was used to cover the building (above), giving the structure a nautical feel, while a Maltese dghaisa adds a splash of colour to the Flotilla suspended in the main museum gallery (right)



# Endurance sees life at both ends in S. Georgia

**A**SIDE from her main effort in survey work, HMS Endurance has lately managed a wide range of training exercises, including ice-cliff winching, diving and high-altitude flying.

During her third work period in and around South Georgia the ice patrol ship's company have also found time for some fascinating wild-life studies.

Small groups got ashore by boat or helicopter to visit the derelict whaling stations at Leith and Stromness – and St Andrews Bay, which they found home to 130,000 breeding pairs of King Penguins in the space of a few hundred square metres.

Stromness is remembered as the sanctuary Shackleton and two of his colleagues found after their epic boat voyage from Elephant Island and hike over the mountains and glaciers of South Georgia.

Observers say that there are more fur seals there now than ever

before, due to lack of competition from whales and the abundance of food in the ocean.

A spokesman for the Endurance told *Navy News*: "This is easy to believe, as many areas, including the old whaling settlements, now abound with thousands of them.

"Fur seals can look adorable, but have grown a reputation on board for ferociousness.

"This is not altogether misguided, as a seal bite can quickly turn septic and make you ill. Also, fur seals seem to have the temperament of dogs. They growl a deep rumbling snarl and often run at any who disturb them.

"Most people soon discover that their bark is worse than their bite. If one crouched or sat down amongst them, then they would approach out of curiosity, sniff,

prod, maybe take a nip at a boot or ankle.

"If they continue to run at you, then a clapping of hands and standing your ground normally scares them off.

"In one of the buildings at Stromness we saw three huge elephant seals lying top to tail. These lumbering giants with horribly running noses were making rude noises from both ends and had obviously been there for a couple of days, judging by the smell.

"These seals were so massive that nobody could see how they entered the building. The doorway was only about three feet wide and they were five feet wide if they were an inch."

The Endurance met up with HMS Leeds Castle during the last week of the work period last month.

She had the Governor of the Falkland Islands Howard Pearce embarked to make his own examination of South Georgia (of which he is also Commissioner) and its conservation issues.

Later she returned through rough and ice-strewn seas to the Falklands with Mr Pearce – who threw himself into the spirit of a training serial by being winched off in an RAF Sea King helicopter.

● **FEROCIOUS:** A fur seal gets barking mad



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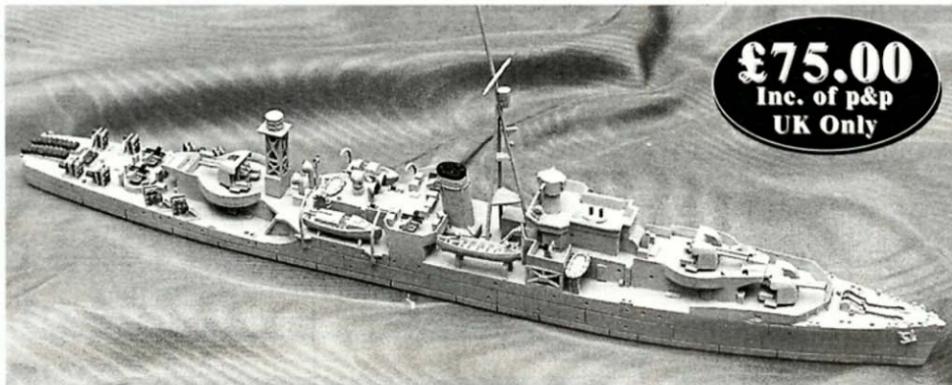
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LAIRG Brownies, seen here trying HMS Sutherland's Lynx helicopter for size, were among the many visitors to the Type 23 frigate when she visited her namesake affiliated county.

Alongside in Invergordon – the nearest suitable berth – she had her messes named for the local communities at Lairg, Brora, Dornoch, Durness, Golspie and Kinlochbervie with which she has established strong links.

They hosted children from schools and youth groups in these areas and in return the sailors were treated to some Highland hospitality, each mess being hosted to a Ceilidh.

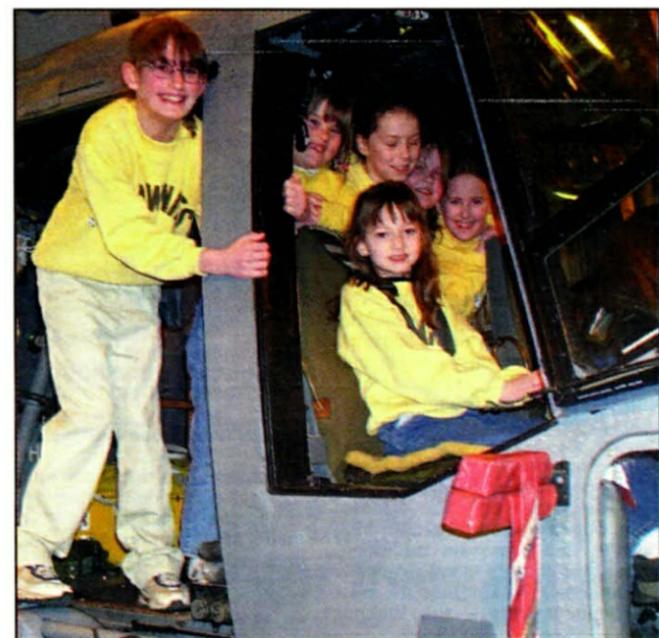
Nearly 1,500 people from the region came on board during the week-end visit. The ship's company challenged their hosts at a variety of sports, including golf at the Royal Dornoch Club.

The 'Sutherland Lions' rugby team even managed an 8-8 draw against Ross and Sutherland RFC, with sterling performances from LOM Griz Sissons and CMEA Drew Blakey.

Sunday Service at Dornoch Cathedral was led by the Rev Susan Brown (on whom it is said the Vicar of Dibley is based!).

The ship then headed north for Loch Erribol for another two day visit, this time to the communities of Durness and Kinlochbervie.

## Sutherland holds a Highland fling



From here her Lynx helicopter was able to provide a demonstration of its manoeuvrability to a large number of schoolchildren. She then led a task group for a major NATO

exercise off the Sutherland coast. HMS Sutherland has maintenance and training planned around her base port before deploying to the Middle East

## New front for Met School

AFTER 43 years in the same building at a Cornish air station, the Royal Navy's Met School has moved to Devonport.

The RN Hydrographic, Meteorological and Oceanographic School has trained thousands of RN forecasters and observers since it moved to RN air station Culdrose from HMS Harrier in South Wales in October 1959.

Several, including David Braine, Richard Edgar and Philip Avery, have gone on to become famous faces on regional and national television.

The unit will relocate with the other facility of the school based at HMS Drake and the merged sections will be known as the Maritime Warfare School, Hydrographic and Meteorological Training Group.

The new unit is expected to be up and running by the early part of this month.

To mark the end of meteorological training at Culdrose, a Ceremonial Sunset was staged with a met balloon launched flying a paying-off pennant. A number of former staff instructors and METOC/HM branch officers and ratings attended.

No civilian jobs will be lost as a result of the move.

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# At Your Service



## Calling Old Shipmates

**HMS Sirius 1969-70:** Mario Borg seeks ex-shipmate PO REM Terry Bateman. Contact Mario on 01284 787390.

**HMS Contest:** Members of No 6 Mess 1946-7 are asked to contact Ray Warner for info regarding the 8th Flotilla reunion in September. All other commissions welcome. Contact Ray at 16 Ormerod Gdns, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2LP, tel: 020 8640 7829.

**HMS Surprise:** Seeking Tony (Stirling) Hayden, 1960-2 commission; contact 'Jan' Keith Woolacott, 'Keimar', Newlands, Landkey, Barnstaple EX32 0ND, tel: 01271 830913.

**HMS Ajax 1941-43:** Kenneth (Yorky) Byram seeks Jack C. Grey (Dolly), who married Dagenham girl Hazel in 1943; also Smudger Smith and Bob Weston, boy seamen in Ajax. Contact Yorky at 36 Hollybank Rd, Great Horton, Bradford BD7 4QP.

**HMS Trump, 1944-6:** W. (Taffy) Lee would like to hear from Len Atkins, Frank Butcher or anyone else who knew him on the first commission. Contact him at PO Box 23, South Perth, Western Australia, 6951.

**HMS Glamorgan Falklands Association Reunion 2007:** Proposed venue is Warners Lakeside resort, Hayling Island. Association members should contact the committee for info and to confirm support. Contact John Barker on 01329 237290.

**Archangel 1942 - Diatalawa 1943:** Todger Frampton (SBA) wants to hear from anyone who remembers him. Contact him at 1 Grange Close, Lymington, Devon EX8 5LD, tel: 01395 276464.

**HMS Ursa 1944:** Four stokers from Ursa visited a cinema in Ivanhoe on their first shore leave in Melbourne. Eddie Wightman befriended them and subsequently joined the RAN. Two of the stokers were Ronnie Woodbridge (Bradford) and Peter Wilson (Ayrshire). If you are one of the stokers, or know their whereabouts, contact Eddie at 6 Hudson Avenue, Frankston, Victoria, 3199. Australia or email: [efw@iprimus.com.au](mailto:efw@iprimus.com.au)

**HMS Ganges 1951-3:** Seeking George Angel, last seen at HMS Fort 1953. Last known address Dorridge Road, Fulham, also in 1953. Contact Gerald Burrett, 10 Prospect Walk, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4RG, tel: 01752 846196, email: [BJRRETT@aol.com](mailto:BJRRETT@aol.com)

**HMS Ganges 1953:** John or Jack (Ging) Godley would like to hear from anyone who knew him at Ganges or HMS Sheffield 54-5 or Centaur 1960. Also seeking details and photos of those times. Contact his daughter Barbara Fletcher, 18 Cowley Lane, Chapelton, Sheffield S35 1SY or email: [barbara@fletcher757.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:barbara@fletcher757.freeserve.co.uk)

**811/813 Scares:** Kenneth Dooley seeks shipmates and anyone who knew him 1947-54. Contact him at 12 Norfolk Rd, Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent DE15 9JE, tel: 01283 512731, email: [kenneth@dooley59.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:kenneth@dooley59.fsnet.co.uk)

**MQC 128 1972-3:** Seeking Mick Cain, an ex-submarine, who was on MQC 128. Contact Roger (Desperate) Dann, 79 South St, Whitstable CT5 3EJ, tel: 01227 272669 or email: [rogerdann1948@aol.com](mailto:rogerdann1948@aol.com)

**HMS Ganges 1963:** Bob Lawrence is seeking classmates from 55 (January 7 1963) recruitment, Keppel 4 mess: Bob Limb, Jock Slater, Ginge Sikes or any others, contact Bob at 3 rue Marcel Pagnol, La Malhaute, 34490, Thezon les Beziers, France or email: [lawrence.r@wanadoo.fr](mailto:lawrence.r@wanadoo.fr)

**HMS Starling:** Raymond Tise is seeking shipmates who served in Starling between 1991-3, especially Sir Richard Smith and Cpl Hall RM. Contact Raymond at Rm D, 3/F, Block 10, Tai Hing Garden, Phase II, Ho Hing Circuit, Tuen Mun, N.T. Hong Kong or email: [hmsstarling@sinaman.com](mailto:hmsstarling@sinaman.com)

**HMS Diamond:** Calling all ex-Diamond ship's company, all commissions, especially ship's cooks George Burns and cook Anderson from final commission, Ray (Legs) Shipley runs the Diamond Association and will provide details of reunions etc. Contact Ray at 20 Winchester Way, Rainham, Gillingham ME8 8DD, tel: 01634 267084.

**HMS Chichester 1964-8 Commission:** All interested shipmates with the aim of forming an association or get-together. Contact Peter Rudwick, 3 Carberry Drive, Portchester, Hants PO16 9JB, or email: [g3rd@aol.com](mailto:g3rd@aol.com)

**HMS Ganges Association (West Wales Division)** is up and running, covering from Llanelli to Aberystwyth. A reunion is being organised for 2005 at Shotley. Contact the secretary, Dennis Morgan, 17 Uppercross Rd, Llanelli SA15 1NX, tel: 01554 771701, email: [dennis\\_k\\_morgan@hotmail.com](mailto:dennis_k_morgan@hotmail.com)

**Survey Ships Association:** Any past or present members of ship's companies of any RN survey ship are eligible to join as full members as well as Associate and Honorary membership. Details of reunion and membership from the secretary, SSA, 20 Chilgrove Rd, Drayton, Portsmouth PO6 2ER, tel: 023 9279 1258, email: [surshipass@aol.com](mailto:surshipass@aol.com)

**George Laverack** is seeking former shipmates from his time in submarines, including Ernie (Tojo) Jackson (George's best man 32 years ago), George Porter (George's son's godfather), Nobby Hall, Windy Breeze and Alex McBride. Contact George at 13 Livingstone Ave, Brakpan, Gauteng, 1541, South Africa or email: [proda@global.co.za](mailto:proda@global.co.za)

**HMS Fearless:** Seeking anyone who was on the CAAS 128 course at HMS Dryad in early 1991 or anyone from 2D1 Mess who served in HMS Fearless 1991-2. Contact Danny (Johnno) Johnson, 132 Overton Drive, Chadwell Heath, Essex RM6 4EE, tel: 07903 901545.

**Ex-PO Peter Burdett, officers' chef 1946-72** - do you remember him? He would like to hear from you. Contact him at 23000 Horizon Drive, West Linn, Oregon, 97068, USA or email: [MB6775@aatt.net](mailto:MB6775@aatt.net)

**HMS Falmouth 1982-5:** Seeking old gunners; Gary (Chopper) Dixon hopes to organise a reunion. Write to 49 William St, Ynysrhon, Rhonda CF39 0EY, tel: 01443

683308, email: [gaziel@ghdixon.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:gaziel@ghdixon.fsnet.co.uk)

**HMS Eagle 1953-4:** John Willoughby seeks anyone who served with him, especially bugler Chris Ely. Also seeking Surg Lt R. Radford, stationed at Heron in 1957 now believed to be in Canada, and Anthony Maslen, first met in 1951 while training at RNH Plymouth. If you know of these or know John contact him at 49 Rowse St, Sherwood Green, North Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand or email: [JohnWillow@xtra.co.nz](mailto:JohnWillow@xtra.co.nz)

**HMS Fort 1965-7:** Seeking ex-members of POMES' mess, Ted Hayman, Ted Brooks, Brian Chapman, Bagsy Baker, Alan Haggard, Brad Brooks and others. Have found Albert Ashby. Contact Ted Wyatt, 27 Malvern Rd, Gosport PO12 3LH, tel: 023 9235 8526, email: [edward.wyatt@ntlworld.com](mailto:edward.wyatt@ntlworld.com)

**HMS Dido 1967-9:** Seeking members of 3M messdeck, especially Chris Jones, George Tulloch and Bas Mundy. Contact Fred Abraham, 17 Station Rd, Pining, Bristol BS35 4JT, tel: 01454 633626 or email: [fredandies@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:fredandies@tiscali.co.uk)

Seeking three Phoebe Flt members (1977-9) for a reunion in Yeovil on May 3: CAEA(R) Dave Mortimer, POAEM(L) Roy Dixon and POAEM(M) Derek Tripp. Dave was last known to be living in Street, Somerset. Roy and Derek were last heard of at Culdrose. Contact PJ (Boss), Spike, 'Rag-arse', Paul, Prof, Bill and Ginge. If you know the whereabouts of the others contact Kevin Murkin on 01305 251734, email: [MERX-SOPHY@murkin.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:MERX-SOPHY@murkin.freeserve.co.uk)

**Cyril Langridge:** Seeking Cyril, who was with 800 RNAS Looismouth and on board HMS Ark Royal 1960-1. Contact Mike (Bomber) Brown, 7 Freshwood Drive, Yateley GU46 6DH, tel: 01252 878293 or email: [BrownMbrown1@aol.com](mailto:BrownMbrown1@aol.com)

**David Haggart** seeks old shipmates from his time in HMS Ariadne and HMS Battleaxe (1976-81). Contact him at 13 Craignag Place, Irvine, Ayrshire, mob: 07984 780677 or email: [DavidHaggart@aol.com](mailto:DavidHaggart@aol.com)

**Val Wood** seeks ex-Chief (EA) Alan Webb to re-establish contact with an old friend. Contact Val at 137 Main Rd, Glenalta, SA 5052, Australia, email: [wallywood6@hotmail.com](mailto:wallywood6@hotmail.com)

**HMS Kenya 1955-7:** Willie/William Adair served in this ship with Jock/Harvey Stirling. Would Willie or any of the other crew members contact Jock at 1112-500 Springbank Drive, London, Ontario, Canada N6J 4G6 or email: [vstirling@odyssey.on.ca](mailto:vstirling@odyssey.on.ca)

## Over to You

**HMS Achilles:** Seeking info on a silver-plated tankard with the inscription HMS Achilles, Spring Cruise 1934, T. Clutterbuck. Does anyone know who T. Clutterbuck is? Where did the Spring Cruise take place? The tankard was passed to Trevor McKie through his father from an Admiral Pate. Did Admiral Pate (rank may have been different then) serve in Achilles? Any info to Trevor McKie, British Consulate-General, Hong Kong, Security Section, 1 Supreme Court Rd, GPO Box No. 528, Hong Kong or email: [trevor@onetel.hk.net](mailto:trevor@onetel.hk.net)

**HMS Gordon:** The National Sea Training School Gravesend Association is up and running. The school was known as HMS Gordon during WWII. Former trainees are invited to join the Association. Contact J.D. Meadowcroft, NSTS Gravesend Association, c/o The MSWM Society, Sachel Court, Springbrook Estate, Alford, Surrey GU6 8EX, tel/fax: 01403 753525, email: [jmeado5813@aol.com](mailto:jmeado5813@aol.com)

**HMMS 170:** Seeking info on George Walker Noble, lost at sea in Oct 1944. His son George Walker wants to hear from you. Contact George at Vila Graha Hijau 1/C-10, Jalan Kampung Utan, Ciputat, Jakarta 15412, Indonesia, email: [gwnoble@link.net.id](mailto:gwnoble@link.net.id)

**HMS Lamerton, Destroyer Type 2, 1940-6:** Still seeking crew members who served with Fred Martin or anyone who served in other ships when they joined forces in northern waters or the Med area. Tony would also like to see photos. Contact Tony Martin, 41 Broomfield Rd, Henfield, West Sussex BN5 9UD, tel: 01273 493924.

**Funeral of Sir Winston Churchill:** Whilst on a course at HMS Excellent in 1965, Dave Bowman was asked to take part in the funeral. He has never seen a recording of the funeral and wants to find a copy to show his family. If anyone can help, contact Dave at 2 Heatherlands Rise, Parkstone BH12 2LN, tel: 01202 710308, mob: 07759 064176.

**HMS Cressy:** Seeking info on the loss of Cressy, Aboukir and Hogue on September 22 1914. Raymond Wright, on behalf of his father Thomas (who was only one at the time) would like to find out about John Wright, Raymond's grandfather, who died there. Are any services held to commemorate the loss? Raymond T. Wright, PO Box 130, Mandurah, Western Australia, 6210, email: [toonight@bigpond.com](mailto:toonight@bigpond.com)

**LST & Landing Craft Association, NW Region:** Seeking anyone who was a member of the crew or their family of LCT1005, who

can offer any info regarding the history of the vessel and her wartime occupations. Contact Peter Wilkie, 10 Belvedere Ave, Atherton, Manchester M46 9LQ, tel: 01942 871670 or email: [wilkped@aol.com](mailto:wilkped@aol.com)

**HMS Ledbury:** Henry (Harry) Dunlop Reed served 1938-48 in destroyers, mainly Ledbury (Capt Hill). He served in North Atlantic, Мурманск and Malta convoys (tanker Ohio etc.). His son has his photo album and would like to hear from anyone who remembers him or has any info which will enable him to place the pictures in chronological order. Contact H. Stewart D. Reed, 2320 South Shore Rd, Stella, Ontario, Canada K0H 2S0, email: [sasench50@yahoo.com](mailto:sasenach50@yahoo.com)

**Eric Toogood:** In November 2000, Eric, a WWII veteran of HMS Warspite, was a passenger in a taxi. The taxi driver and Eric discovered they were both Navy veterans. Dick Barner had been trying to trace Eric for 60 years and thanks to the taxi driver who reads Navy News, they were reunited. They would like the taxi driver to contact them, so they can thank him. Contact Dick Barner, 1075 Cove Place, West Linn, Oregon, 97068, USA or email: [hyacinth-bucket@aatt.net](mailto:hyacinth-bucket@aatt.net)

**HMS Suffolk:** Seeking anyone who knew Edward (Eddie) Ward, a gunner from Glasgow during WWII. His grandson would like to learn more about him and get pictures of that time. Contact John Ward, 7 Whitburn Rd, Newall Green, Wythenshawe M23 2ZR, tel: 0161 437 5750 or email: [umbro22@ntlworld.com](mailto:umbro22@ntlworld.com)

**Cap Tallies:** All at least 30 years old: Aisne, Alerit, Ausonia, Barcarole, Birmingham, Cochrane, Collingwood, Concor, Decoy, Dolphin, Excellent, Exmouth, Falmouth, Forth, Gabbard, Gambia, Gurkha, Jamaica, Loch Lomond, Mercury, Miner III, Obdurate, Ocean, Pembroke, Salisbury, Triumph, HM Minesweepers, HMS CinC. All available as one lot to whoever offers the best cash donation to George Jackson's Sea Cadet Unit. Contact George on 01454 884099, email: [jacksonfam@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jacksonfam@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Work Songs:** Barry Scott is compiling a book of Navy work songs and would appreciate help in compiling it. Evidence suggests that traditional shanties were rarely used in the Service, but that this was not so for other tasks such as hoisting, careening, paint ship etc. where the songs were often ruse. Memories are fading so get in touch soon to record your memories. Profits from any book will go to charity. Contact Barry E. Scott, 16 Scotland, Yeovil BA20 1TE, email: [B.E.Scott@tesco.com](mailto:B.E.Scott@tesco.com)

**HMS Golden Hind, Warwick Farm Racecourse, Sydney, NSW:** Seeking info on this establishment in Australia. A cousin of Mrs. I. Minnett was stationed there during 1945-6 and she wants to hear from anyone else who served there. Contact Mrs. I.E. Minnett, 303 Luxford Rd, Treagar, NSW, Australia, 2770.

**HMS Hesperus 1943-5:** Dave Richards would like to hear from Hesperus crew members who would like to contribute service photos and info of their time in Hesperus. Anything sent will be copied and returned as

soon as possible. Contact Dave Richards, 195 Alexandra Rd, Gorseinon, Swansea SA4 4PF, tel: 01792 528240 or email: [david.richards297@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.richards297@ntlworld.com)

**HMS Glowworm:** Seeking info about the actions of Glowworm on April 8, 1940, when she attacked the Hipper, for which the captain, Lt Cdr Roope, was awarded the VC. Would any survivor or relative contact D.J. Wormald, Flat 30, Brockhurst Gate, 141-147 De La Warr Rd, Bexhill on Sea TN40 2JJ, tel: 01424 734928.

**HMS Phoebe:** Does anyone know the whereabouts of the ship's bell? The son of A. Roberts was christened from it in 1977 and his granddaughter is being christened on Easter Sunday; He would like to use the bell for this occasion. Contact A. Roberts, 37 Maple Ave, Torpoint PL11 2NE, tel: 01752 812096, email: [jenna370@eurombell.co.uk](mailto:jenna370@eurombell.co.uk)

**HMS Exeter (D89):** Peter Coughlin seeks a photo of the crew around the time of the Falklands. Contact Peter at 93 Lynwood Ave, Darwen BB7 0HZ, tel: 01254 708658.

**HMS Revenge (battleship):** A copy of the Ship's Magazine (Vol 1, No.2) dated June 1942 and a photo of a painting by R. Eurich (Adm Artist) of the ship leaving Pompey Harbour after the air raids is offered to any ex-Revenge warrior of that time. Contact Derek R. Thorne on 01489 583425 or email: [thorne-derek@connectfree.co.uk](mailto:thorne-derek@connectfree.co.uk)

**Harry Mellor:** Does anyone remember Harry (Service number FX585520). His son David would be grateful for info with regard to ships or shore establishments he served in. Was he entitled to any medals? Harry died in 1994. Contact David Mellor, 20 Whitehead Rd, Clifton, Manchester M28 8RN.

**Hill-class AS/MS trawlers HMS Duncton, Birdlip, Yestor, Dunkery, Inkpen, Bredon, Portsdown and Butser:** with a particular interest in the involvement of the 2nd anti-submarine group, Freetown: If you served in any of these vessels, Nick Clark is

waiting to hear from you. He also has a collection of crew photos which may be of interest. Contact Nick at Flat 2, 5, Wordsworth Rd, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7AN, tel: 0115 981 6067, email: [n.clark7@ntlworld.com](mailto:n.clark7@ntlworld.com)

**HMS Taurus 1942-6:** Seeking info about Charles Thomas Lee (Tansy), a submariner who served in Taurus. He died last year, but his family would like to hear from former shipmates about his life in the service and some of the tales. Write to Mr H. Lee, 33 Chorley Old Road, Bolton, Greater Manchester.

**HMS Warspite:** Seeking ex-shipmates of AB Len Newcombe, who served in Warspite, killed in action off Crete in WWII. Contact his sister, Mrs Holding, Box 196, Big Cedar Estates, RR2 Hawkestone, Ontario, Canada, L0L 1T0, email: [holding@sympatico.ca](mailto:holding@sympatico.ca)

**HMS Cricket:** Launched in 1916, spending most of her active service on the Far East Station, before sailing to Port Said in 1941 where she was sold. Peter Danks is keen to find a photo of the ship and will refund postage costs. Contact Peter at 104 Kelsey Ave, Southbourne, Emsworth PO10 8NQ, tel: 01243 371947, email: [D133@drinks.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:D133@drinks.fsnet.co.uk)

**Cassandra Savage** is seeking anyone who knew her parents, dad was Mark Graham Hargreaves, usually known as Graham and mum was Diane (nee Wiggitt). They were living in Queens Parade, Gibraltar when Cassandra was born (December 30, 1977). Her sister Teresa is four years older and her parents lost a baby boy, Lee, at the beginning of 1977. If anyone knew the Hargreaves could they contact Cassandra at 342 Langsett Rd, Hillsborough, Sheffield S6 2UF, email: [yothshaggoth@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:yothshaggoth@blueyonder.co.uk)

**HMS Ausonia:** Seeking Douglas Frederick Sargent, CPO in Ausonia based in Malta in the early 1960s. He originally came from Gosport. Mr F. Palmer has news for you. Contact him at 98 North Rd, Portslade BN41 2HB, tel: 01273 276845 or email: [palmer@hotmail.com](mailto:palmer@hotmail.com)

## Navy News on tape

Navy News is available free of charge on tape from Portsmouth Area Talking News for those with difficulty reading normal type. For details, contact 023 9269 0851 and leave a message with a contact phone number. No special equipment is required to play the tapes, which are standard 90-minute cassettes.

## Reunions

### April

**HMS Protector Association** reunion at the County Hotel, Llandudno, April 11 to 14. Former crew members and their guests welcome. Contact Bill Bartlett on 01202 480767 or email: [bill@bartlett73.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:bill@bartlett73.freeserve.co.uk) or website: [www.hmsprotector.com](http://www.hmsprotector.com) for details.

**3rd Northern Area luncheon** reunion of the Figsard Association, in alliance with the Old Caledonia Artificer Apprentices Association, will be held at the Civil Service Club, Rosyth on Saturday April 12. Contact Des Goodwin at 36, Southbrook Rd, Langstone, Havant PO9 1RN, tel: 023 9247 2384.

**HMS Verulam:** A memorial tree and plaque will be dedicated at the National Arboretum, Alerwas, Staffs, on April 16 at 1200. Details from G.H. Wood on 01287 635864.

**HMS Euryalus Association** will again be attending the Gallipoli weekend celebrations at Bury on April 26-7 with the Fusiliers Association (Lancashire). Details from Eric Owen, 82 Heath Park Drive, Cardiff CF14 3QL, tel: 029 2075 0022.

**HMS Sheffield Association** parade and church service, April 27, Sheffield. Accommodation can be arranged at the Moat House Hotel. Details from Gordon Buttress at 64 Green Lane, Coleshill B46 3LU, tel: 01675 463614.

### May

**HMS Impregnable Association** reunion at Plymouth in May. If you were a boy seaman on Impregnable, contact Mary or Fred Haycock on 0121 532 6141 or email: [mhaycock@suspanet.com](mailto:mhaycock@suspanet.com)

**HMS Gambia Association** mini reunion at Clarence House Hotel, Tenby, May 2-5. All former crew welcome. Details from Les Newman, 3 Coppice Rd, Whitnash, Leamington Spa CV31 2JE, tel: 01926 831599.

**Repulse Polaris Submarine** reunion, 35th Commissioning anniversary at the Lidsone Hotel, Abbey Rd, Barrow, May 2-4. New members welcome. Contact Frank Scott on 01480 393228, email: [fescutt@yahoo.com](mailto:fescutt@yahoo.com) or Polly Pyrah on 01728 831802.

**Portsmouth Field Gunners Association** Army v RN (rugby): Contact Pete Ruddock, 148 Highland Rd, Southsea PO4 9NH, tel: 023 9261 4947, email: [peters.catering@virgin.net](mailto:peters.catering@virgin.net)

**Algerines Association 1942-62** reunion, Norbreck Hotel, Blackpool, May 8-11. Prospective members can get details from George Patience, 97 Balmacrae Rd, Drum-naochroich IV63 6UY, tel/fax: 01456 450659.

**HMS Royal Arthur** reunion at Skegness from May 8-11. Enquiries to G. Housden, 84 Wilton Ave, Chapel St Leonards, Skegness PE24 5YN, tel: 01754 873811 or email: [geoff.housden@btinternet.com](mailto:geoff.housden@btinternet.com)

**HMS Emerald Association** reunion at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London, from 1130 to 1600 on May 10. Details from Colin Houlday, Church House, West St, Flamborough YO15 1PH, tel: 01262 851279.

**Z-Class Destroyers Association:** Shipmates keen to join the Association and attend the 2003 reunion and dinner at the Home Club, Portsmouth, from May 12 to 15, send stamp to Steve Baker, 19 Quantock Way, Bridgwater TA6 7JZ, tel: 01278 451418 or email: [steveships@btopenworld.com](mailto:steveships@btopenworld.com) Web: [www.zclassdestroyers.org.uk](http://www.zclassdestroyers.org.uk)

**WOSA/Ex-WOSA FCPESA** annual reunion dinner, May 16, at WO & SR Mess, HMS Raleigh; details from WO Dave Paterkin, Ceres Squadron, HMS Raleigh, Torpoint PL11 2PD, tel: 01752 81512.

**HMS Hermione Association** reunion, King Charles Hotel, Chatham, May 16-18. Details: Steve Brotherton, 37 McCarthy Close, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6RS, tel: 01925 824504, website [www.hmshermione.co.uk](http://www.hmshermione.co.uk)

**HMS Revenge, 1939-42** reunion at Portsmouth on May 16. Contact Len Rose on 01903 767592.

**HMS Prince of Wales & HMS Repulse Survivors Assn** reunion, Scarborough, May 16-9. Contact Ken Byrne, 72 Climping Park, Bognor Rd, Climping, Littlehampton BN17 5DW, tel: 01903 723434.

**42 Commando RM MT Section (1959-62)** Association reunion, May 24, RAOB Club, Plymouth. Ex-members of this unit, contact R.A. Hunt, 26 Liddiards Way, Purbrook, Waterlooville PO7 5QW, tel: 023 9226 2427.

**HMS Alacrity/MV Atlantic Conveyor, Falklands 1982:** If you served on these ships as Merchant or RN crew, you are invited to a reunion in Plymouth on May 25. Contact Steve Parker (ex-Alacrity) on 01752 348385 or email: [sdparker@freemail.eurobell.co.uk](mailto:sdparker@freemail.eurobell.co.uk)

**HMS Royalist Association** reunion May 30 to June 1 at the Stretton Hotel, Blackpool, for members serving 1943-56. Details from George Craddock, 103 Broadmeadow Lane, Birmingham B30 3PB or tel: 0121 458 5621 or M Smithers 01202 293360.

**HMS Warrior R31, 1946 - 58** reunion, May 30 to June 1 at the Royal Fleet Club, Devonport. All ex-Warriors, wives/partners and dependants welcome. Contact John Carr, 91 Westley Rd, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7JW, tel: 0121 624 4964, email: [Jcarrwarrior57@aol.com](mailto:Jcarrwarrior57@aol.com) for details.

### June

**HMS Verulam** all commissions get-together at the Home Club, Portsmouth, in June. Details from Chris Williams on 01621 816207 after 6pm.

**HMS Eagle Communicators** reunion in Weymouth from June 6 to 8. Main event at the RNA Club, Weymouth on June 7. Contact Chris (The Rat) Howard on 01424 422045 or email: [Christopher.Howard@btinternet.com](mailto:Christopher.Howard@btinternet.com)

**Collingwood Memorial service** at the Memorial, a mile north of Pimperne, Dorset, on June 6 at 1500. Details from Roy Adam, Camvere House, Portman Rd, Pimperne, Blandford DT11 8UJ, tel: 01258 453797.

**Details from David Flander** on 01622 202995. **Submariners Association, South Kent Branch** dedicate their first standard at Lydd Church, Station Rd, Lydd on June 7, followed by buffet at Lydd Memorial Hall and social gathering. All Branch standards cordially invited. Details from Ken Budd on 01797 361779, email: [ken\\_budd@lineone.net](mailto:ken_budd@lineone.net)

**598 Squad RM - June 1952:** To commemorate the 51st year of comradeship a second reunion will be held in Eastbourne on June 7-8. Contact Tony Pitts on 01323 844122 or email: [mraeastbourne@msn.com](mailto:mraeastbourne@msn.com)

**Glorious, Ardent & Acasta:** Memorial service on June 8 at St Nicholas Church, HMS Drake, to commemorate anniversary of sinkings. Former crew, aircrew, survivors and relatives invited. Details: David F. Woodcock, 15 Green Lane, Dalton-in-Furness LA15 8LZ, tel: 01229 462414.

**888 (FR) Naval Air Squadron (East Indies Fleet 1941-46)** reunion at the Home Club, Portsmouth, June 9 to 11. Contact Norman Perriman on 01394 820553.

**Pembroke '84 Club** WO and SR Stewards' reunion (serving and ex-serving) in the WOs and SRs Mess, HMS Raleigh, June 13. Details and application forms from WO Lambert on 01752 811571.

**HMS Euryalus Association** reunion and AGM at Bridlington in conjunction with Combined Ex-Services Association reunion, June 13 to 15. Cruiser and frigate shipmates welcome. Details: Eric Owen, 82 Heath Park Drive, Cardiff CF14 3QL, tel: 029 2075 0022.

**Wrens (Radar)** reunion, WOs & SRs Mess, HMS Dryad, on June 14. Tickets £10, cheques payable to WOs



# Drafty

# Reservists to the fore

The War Drafting Control Office (WDCO), in the Naval Drafting Directorate, sited in Centurion Building, Gosport, has a number of functions and, although managing the Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) scheme for ratings tends to be the busiest one, there is, at the time of writing this article, a considerable amount of activity surrounding Crisis drafting and calling out RNR reserves for potential operations in the Gulf.

However, this Drafty's Corner intends to concentrate on the FTRS scheme.

## Frequently asked questions about FTRS for ratings

**Q. What is the FTRS Scheme?**

**A.** The FTRS scheme enables ratings/other ranks (and officers) of the RFR and the RNR or RMR to volunteer to fill gapped service billets.

It involves drawing up a legal commitment (contract) between the MOD and the reservist, to fill a specific gapped billet for an agreed period of time.

By mid-February 2003, the rating total on FTRS had grown to 750, over 55 per cent being Senior Rates and females making up about 15 per cent of the overall total. 73 per cent are ex-regular and 27 per cent RNR.

**Q. Do I have to be a reservist to do FTRS?**

**A.** Yes. However, if you are an ex-regular rating and were not enrolled into, or are no longer in, the reserve, you can sometimes be enrolled if a suitable billet is available.

That also includes ex-Wrens who were released with no reserve liability.

You can also apply in advance of reaching your Active Service TX date.

**Q. How can I find out about the scheme?**

**A.** If you're in the RNR, your Reserve Training Centre will have all the details, but if you're Active Service or an Ex-

Regular Reserve, a comprehensive Information/Application pack is available through:

- WDCO section (Ext 2252 or 2156)
- Establishment Release Offices
- Regional Drafting & Careers Adviser (RDCA) offices at Portsmouth, Devonport, Faslane, Yeovilton and Culdrose.

**Q. How do I apply?**

**A.** RNR ratings must apply through their Reserve Training Centre but, if an ex-Regular rating, you would normally apply on an RFR(NC) FTRS Employment Preference Form which is included in the FTRS Information pack mentioned above.

RMR ranks should apply for FTRS through their RTC and RM ex-regulars initially through WDCO section.

**Q. Is an FTRS commitment guaranteed?**

**A.** No, it will depend on whether a suitable gapped billet is available.

**Q. Is the scheme pensionable?**

**A.** Yes, as long as you complete two years FTRS, which can be aggregated if necessary.

**Q. What if I was medically downgraded at Release?**

**A.** Acceptance for FTRS in less than MEDCAT P2 can exceptionally be approved by Medical Director General (Navy).

**Q. Are there billets for Submariners?**

**A.** Yes, including some in both operational and refitting submarines.

**Q. What about Establishment or Base Security billets?**

**A.** Although many guarding duties are currently being filled by FTRS ratings, gradual transition of such billets to the Military Provost Guard Service continues and this is expected to be complete by early/mid 2004.

**Q. Can I apply for a shore job with the certainty that there is no chance of being augmented for operations or exercises?**

**A.** Yes, you could apply for other than a Full Commitment and, if accepted, there would be an attendant reduction in X-factor and certain entitlements. The Information pack provides all the details.

**Q. Might I have to accept a liability for being drafted elsewhere?**

**A.** Not normally but, in a small number of cases, to ensure that Minimum Time Ashore (MTA) of Active Service personnel in declared preference areas is protected, it may be necessary to include a liability clause, to be available to be drafted elsewhere if necessary.

In these circumstances, if a draft did subsequently have to be effected, five months' notice (sea) or three months' notice (shore) would be given.

**Q. Will I qualify for Specialist Pay whilst on FTRS?**

**A.** Yes, if your billet is denoted with the appropriate SP on the Scheme of Complement.

## THE TEAM

Phone: BT 02392-70 or Mil 93844 + Ext

WDCO and Registrar of Reserves  
Assistant WDCO / Office Manager  
WWtr Claire Wood

### Reserves Administration

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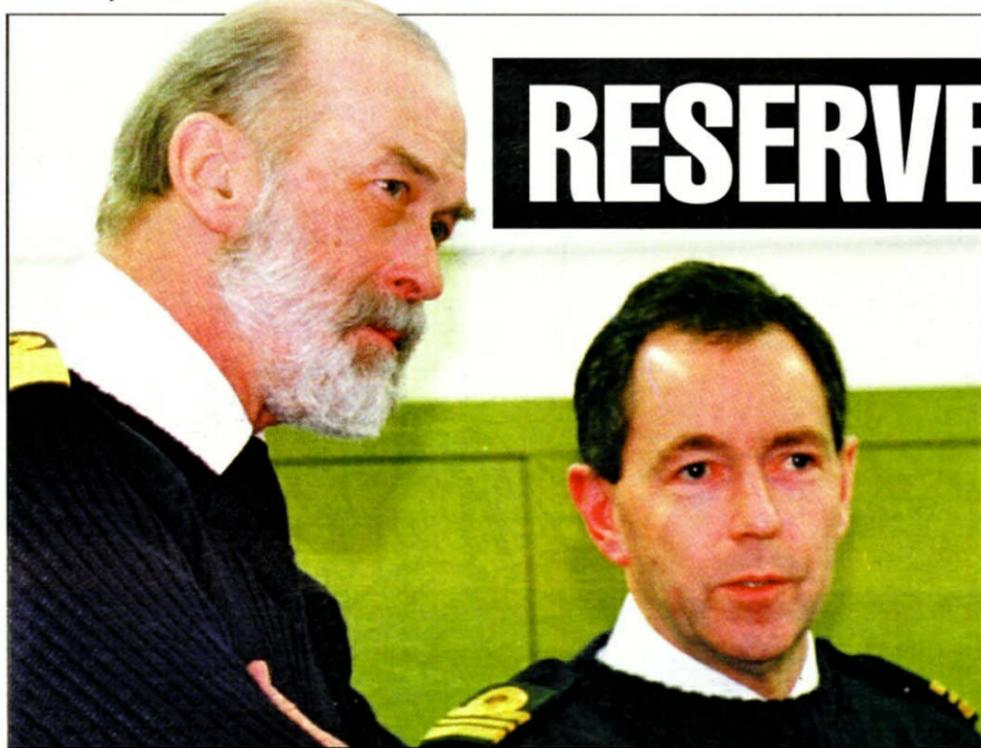
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● **TRAINED EYE:** In Scotland for a series of events to celebrate the centenary of the RNVR, Prince Michael of Kent visited the RNR Training Centre HMS Dalriada at Greenock to be briefed by Lt Cdr Graham Biggar



● **ROYAL SALUTE:** Led by the Band of HM Royal Marines Scotland (above) 250 RNR personnel march from Glasgow Cathedral (below) to George Square where Prince Michael takes the salute



● **SURGICAL PRECISION:** Guided by Leading Naval Nurse Frances Dewer, Prince Michael performs a dummy operation

# RESERVES ON THE MARCH

**G**LASGOW was the appropriate venue for the first of a series of celebrations to mark the centenary of the Royal Naval Reserve – currently being compulsorily mobilised for only the third time in its history.

For it was in Glasgow that in October 1903 the Duke of Montrose established Clyde Division, the very first unit of what was then the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve to be formed after the passing of the Reserve Forces Act.

London Division was not established until the following month.

In recognition of the Scottish link, the five northern RNR Units now located within Flag Officer Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland's land area came together for a day of celebrations in Glasgow on March 8.

Guest of honour was Prince Michael of Kent, Honorary Commodore RNR, who had earlier spent four days touring Scotland to meet as many Naval reservists as possible before the main event.

First he called at HMS Dalriada, the West Coast Reserve Training Centre at Greenock, where he was hosted by the CO, Cdr Alasdair Mac Taggart – a chartered surveyor in civvy street.

While visiting a class of Medical Support Assistants he was invited to undertake an intravenous infusion and performed the operation very successfully – the dummy lived to fight another day – under the guidance of Leading Naval Nurse Frances Dewer.

Next stop was the Maritime Operations Centre at HM Naval Base Clyde at Faslane where members of the Northwood-based Joint Maritime Operational Training Staff were running a Joint Maritime Course with invited allied and NATO navies and air forces.

Run three times a year, JMCs train personnel to operate in a multi-threat environment (air, surface and sub-surface) in the most arduous conditions.

Moving on to Rosyth Royal Dockyard, the Prince called at HMS Scotia, the East Coast RTC where he talked with a number of the Reservists' civilian employers invited there to meet him.

The next day's programme included a tour of the Clyde Naval Base and the RN Armaments Depot at Coulport followed by a Mess Dinner to mark the Reserves centenary, at which guests included First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Alan

## Prince Michael visits the RNR in Scotland

West, Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral James Burnell-Nugent and FOSNNI, Rear Admiral Derek Anthony.

Glasgow did the Navy proud on the big day, beginning with a Service of Commemoration in Glasgow Cathedral attended by 1,400 Reservists, veterans and serving RNR personnel.

The Service was followed by a parade through the city centre. Led by the Band of HM Royal Marines Scotland, 250 personnel from HMS Scotia, HMS Dalriada, HMS Eaglet in Liverpool, HMS Calliope in Newcastle and HMS Caroline in Belfast marched to George Square where Prince Michael took the salute.

Also there were the present Duke and Duchess of Montrose.

Glasgow City Council held a Civic Reception in the City Chambers at which Commodore RNR Cdre John Ellis presented the Deputy Lord Provost, Cllr Jean Macey, with a scale model of the minesweeper HMS Dovey, the

last ship tendered to HMS Graham, the Glasgow RNR Unit which closed in 1993, which is to go on display in Glasgow's Museum of Transport. In return, Cllr Macey gave him a trophy to be awarded as an annual achievement prize for the RNR. A special centenary cake was later presented to patients at Erskine Hospital.

Main centenary event will take place at Horse Guards Parade on May 17, when the RNR will be presented with the Sovereign's Colour of the RN in recognition of 100 years continuous contribution to the Royal Navy.

In World War II 800,000 men were mobilised. Today the strength of the RNR is around 3,500. Some 290 have been called up as part of contingency planning for possible operations in the Gulf.

Any past members of the RNVR/RNR wishing to attend the Parade on May 17 can obtain tickets by writing to their nearest Reserve Training Centre.

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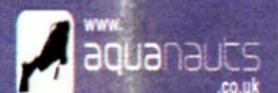


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“What did they think this was – ‘Robot Wars’?”

## NEWSVIEW

### Common sense of an old salt

King George V may have had his faults as a father, but he hardly deserves the bad press he has had lately, exemplified by the portrayal of him in Stephen Poliakoff's TV series *The Lost Prince* as a cold, narrow-minded martinet without much appreciation of matters outside his own milieu.

Among his several virtues was a solid grain of common sense and a scornful disdain of xenophobia – even as he faced the greatest trial of his reign. During World War I, when H. G. Wells spoke of his “alien and uninspiring court”, George famously retorted: “I may be uninspiring, but I’ll be damned if I’m an alien.”

He was mortified by the suggestion that he was less than 100 per cent supportive of the Allied cause – yet he abhorred the hysterical reaction against all things German, characterised by riots in which shops with German-sounding names were looted and by the hatred whipped up by the popular press, by Horatio Bottomley's *John Bull* and by the *Daily Mail*.

The ‘Sailor King’ was angered by the sinking of unarmed merchant vessels (“It is simply disgusting that Naval officers could do such things”) but he was strongly averse to repaying the enemy in kind.

As his secretary Stamfordham wrote at his behest to Prime Minister Asquith: “The King . . . deprecates the idea of reprisals and retaliation; he has always hoped that at the end of the war we shall as a Nation stand before the world as having conducted it as far as possible with humanity and like gentlemen.”

Already old-fashioned sentiments these may have been – but as Kenneth Rose observed in his highly acclaimed 1983 biography of George V, in 1915 they were courageously expressed.

They were privately expressed, but George's record of public support for his people was also exemplary. During the course of the war he visited his Fleet seven times as well as his troops in the field (he narrowly escaped death in France when his horse reared and fell on him) and personally conferred some 50,000 decorations.

And the gruff old King's old-world values and sense of decency touched a chord among the majority of his people, too, as was shown in the huge outpouring of affection for him (totally unexpected by its recipient) at the time of his Silver Jubilee 20 years later.

When he came to the throne in 1910, George V reigned over a society that was much less ‘multi-cultural’ than is ours today. But it had already lately received a sizeable influx of refugees from oppression, not least from the pogroms against the Jews in a Russia ruled as well as reigned over by his cousin Tsar Nicholas II.

Many of those who seek asylum on our shores today do so for the same reasons as those who did so a century ago.

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## HMS ALBION Challenge 2003

YOUNG ENGINEERS

# Geordie in command as Tyne comes home

THERE was a warm Geordie welcome for HMS Tyne when she paid her first visit to the North East – including one from the wife and daughter of her Geordie CO, waiting on the quayside at Newcastle.

Cdr Craig Gilmour said: “I’m very proud of this ship and delighted to be bringing her home. This is the start of a long association.”

The Navy's new £20 million fisheries protection vessel had been undertaking trials off the coasts of Scotland and was enjoying a welcome break on Tyneside before setting off on her first patrol in the North Sea.

She arrived on a bright morning with teachers from two local schools which have already formed close links with her – Hadrian School and St Catherine's School.

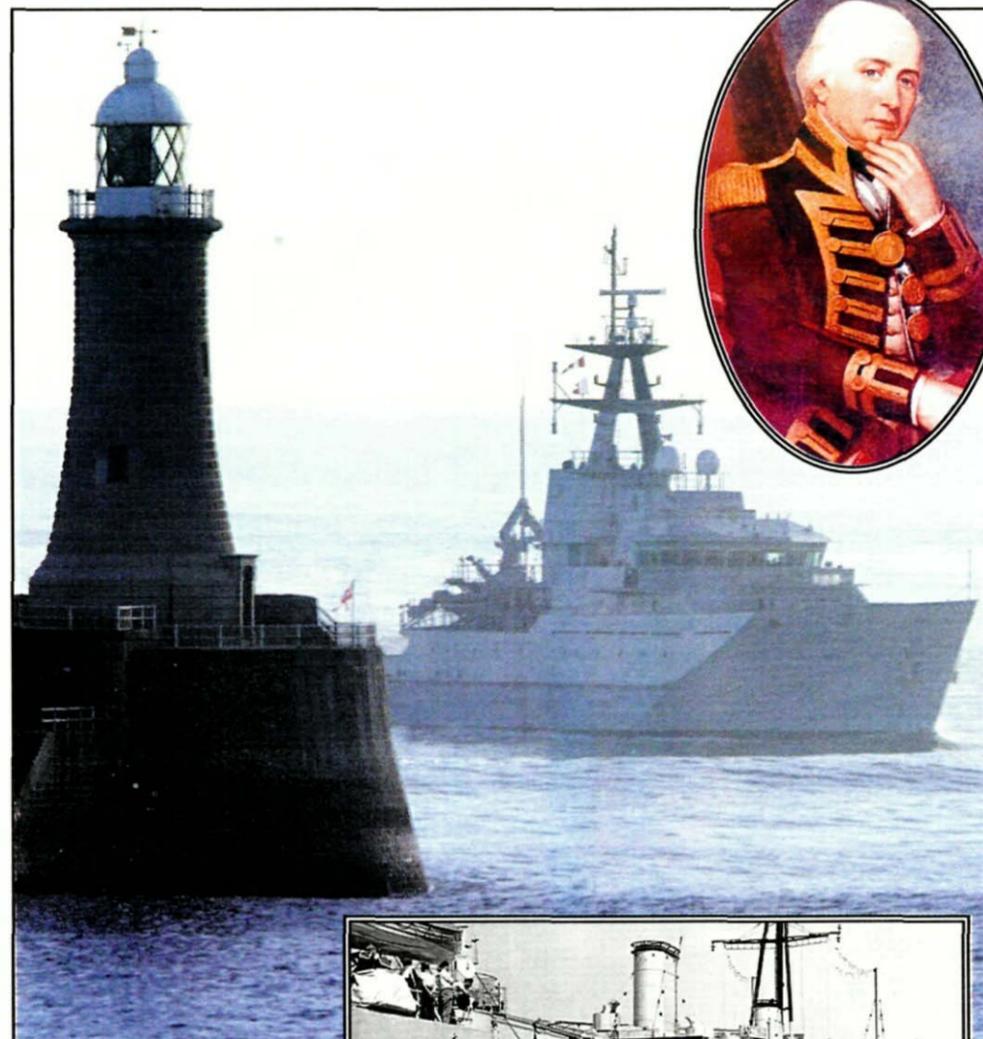
Chris Rawlings and Michael Ewing had enjoyed a memorable voyage through the Western Isles.

There were also fresh bonds to be made with the local Sea Cadet Corps unit TS Tyne.

For her ship's company there was the prospect of touring one of the UK's most vibrant cities – her distinguished heritage signposted by views of the Collingwood Monument to her most famous Naval son, Nelson's second-in-command at Trafalgar and his successor at the head of the Mediterranean Fleet for the next five years (all of which he spent afloat) until he died, still in harness, while on his way home in 1810.

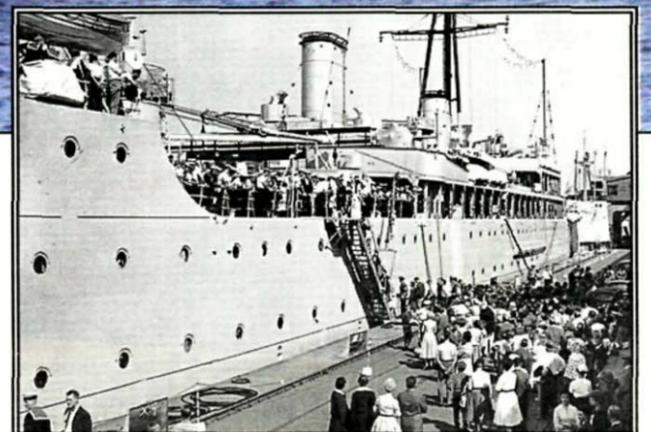
They enjoyed a visit to the Federation Brewery, a first class golf match at the Northumbria Course and a football match against Northumbria Police which resulted in a heroic defeat for the fledgling Tyne team.

The first of three River-class offshore patrol vessels, the 1,700 tonne HMS Tyne is the first ship built and funded by industry for charter by the Ministry of Defence. Designed primarily to protect the



nation's fish stocks, she is also capable of drugs interdiction and anti-terrorist duties. She will stay at sea for up to 320 days a year, thanks to a crew rotation system.

● HMS Tyne arrives on Tyneside. Right: her immediate predecessor, the destroyer depot ship HMS Tyne, open to visitors alongside in Stockholm in 1959. Top inset: Vice Admiral Cuthbert Colli-ngwood.



# Tough task set for youngsters by HMS Albion

OVER 140 young people from all across the country gathered at HMS Collingwood in March to take part in the HMS Albion challenge.

The Young Engineers organisation had challenged children aged from 9 to 18 to help the Royal Navy bring aid to the devastated fictional island of Capricious.

The task was to build a highly-maneuvrable amphibious vehicle that could negotiate the narrow sea passage from ship to shore past the volatile volcano and drop off medical supplies for the people of the island.

Dave Rowley, National Director of Young Engineers explained the benefits of the Navy's involvement: "We're all about promoting the excitement of engineering, but doing it through challenges. This is great, it's real and live."

He added: "It opens their eyes to what engineering is about, and what it means in the Royal Navy."

The materials to build the robot wonders tend to be metals and plastics, but the project is keen to promote recycling and is looking for innovation and creative thinking in designs.

The challenge is not just about building the most successful robotic vehicle, the teams have to show effective research and give a short presentation about their approach to the challenge.

Vaughan Clarke, head of St Swithuns School in Winchester, praised the project: "As a result of it, some of our people have decided to go into the Services. It's important to get the name of the Navy in front of them."

Sophie Barr, aged 14, from St Swithuns said: "It's not a faceless competition. It's made me more aware of what the Navy does."

"It's really fun, and I think that lots of people are encouraged by it."

St John's College in Portsmouth had a successful day, winning first



● Spectators look on as an amphibious vehicle tackles the tough assault course from HMS Albion to the island of Capricious

prize in Group 3 with their Albion Rover. Mohammed Rahman admitted that the team had a bad start, but quickly solved the problems to produce the fastest time in the group, aided by a winning presentation.

Mohammed said: "This year's is the trickiest challenge so far. We've done research into amphibious vehicles and World War II planes for our vehicle."

Together with team-mates Jubair Ahmed, Phoebe Hodgkins and Daniel Barnett, the group won £500 for their school and a trip on HMS Albion.

Flag Officer Training and Recruiting Admiral Peter Davies presented the winning teams from the three groups with their awards.

Capt Peter Hudson, the com-

manding officer of HMS Albion, described himself as astounded at the quality of the engineering.

He said, "Given the ages, it's extraordinary the ideas that they've come up with."

The amphibious course itself was designed by Weapon Engineering Artificers at HMS Collingwood as part of their course projects.

The Royal Navy has been closely linked with the Young Engineers organisation for the last four years setting challenges, and the event is proving increasingly popular with more entries coming in each year.

The next challenge will be launched in September, but for more information contact the Young Engineers on 01428 727265 or [www.youngeng.org](http://www.youngeng.org).

## Type 23 back to fitness

HMS KENT is readying herself with a period of operational sea training for deployment to the Indian Ocean and Northern Arabian Gulf.

Her first week back in action after her maintenance period saw her conduct a live missile firing of vertical launch Sea Wolf, host the future Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Michael Walker, and take part in a training 'Thursday War'.

Cdr Simon Hardern, commanding officer, said: "This period is an extremely important one for the ship."

"We have now had our first full week at sea since September last year following which nearly half the ship's company were deployed elsewhere as a consequence of firefighting commitments."

"We are now back together as a unit, and working hard to return the ship to her high standard of operational capability."

The recent period alongside also saw the junior rates messes restored to their customary aspect after the distinctly un-military innovations of the Changing Rooms designers.



● Inside the Scapa Flow Museum

Picture: [www.doughoughton.com](http://www.doughoughton.com)

## Orkney bids for Royal Oak boat

THE DISCOVERY of the last surviving boat from the World War II Royal Oak has sparked the interest of the Scapa Flow Museum in the Orkney Islands.

The museum already holds a number of artefacts from both wars and Steve Callaghan, Heritage Officer, said: "This one would slot in very nicely."

The museum at Lyness tells the story of Scapa Flow, and is housed in the old pump house that was

used to pump oil from huge storage tanks to the ships.

Inside the museum German High Seas Fleet relics knock shoulders with guns from light cruisers. A huge propeller and deck gun from HMS Hampshire can also be found at the site, and a display that shows what life was like in wartime Orkney.

For further information contact the museum on 01856 791300 or [www.orkney.gov.uk/heritage](http://www.orkney.gov.uk/heritage).



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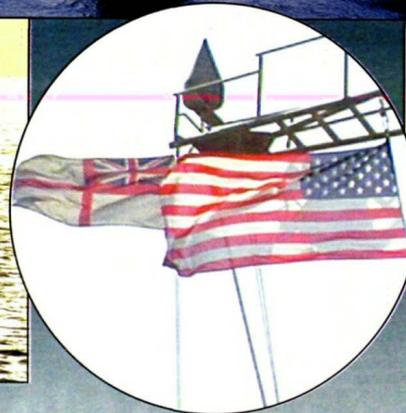
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# Calm before the storm



ALTHOUGH the United States dominates the military build-up in the Middle East through the sheer size of its forces at sea, ashore and in the air, the Royal Navy presence represents a considerable part of the Allied fleet.

The British ships bring a range of capabilities which make the RN contribution a significant one.

Three separate operations exist in the region - Armilla/Resinate, Oracle and Telic.

Armilla has been in place for more than 20 years, and covers the Royal Navy's exercises and official visits to Gulf states, often in support of UK industry or official VIP visits.

When not engaged in Armilla duties the RN ship assigned to the area forms part of a multinational coalition enforcing UN

## RN PRO LORRAINE COULTON, on the staff of the UK MCC Bahrain, reports on British forces in the Gulf

sanctions against illegally-smuggled Iraqi oil.

This aspect of the deployments - conducting surveillance and boarding suspected vessels in the Northern Arabian Gulf - is known as Operation Resinate, and has blocked the transport of thousands of tons of illegal oil which could have generated revenue for Saddam Hussein's regime.

Type 23 frigate HMS Richmond recently took over the Armilla/Resinate patrol from destroyer HMS Cardiff (see page 4).

More recently Allied forces responded to the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, by confronting Al Qaeda cells and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

The US dubbed its effort against global terrorism Operation Enduring Freedom, while the British participation was Operation Oracle.

The scale of this operation has fluctuated widely - on occasions there were well over

one hundred ships, including five carrier-led battle groups - but the RN has just one warship on Oracle at present, Type 22 frigate HMS Chatham.

The current Iraqi crisis prompted the Royal Navy to divert a pre-planned carrier-led deployment - Naval Task Group 2003 - which was augmented by a significant amphibious element.

The British contribution to the campaign against Iraq, Operation Telic, is the largest British armada since the Falklands fleet more than 20 years ago (see panel right).

One of the ships involved, HMS Roebuck, was due to have decommissioned this month, but has been given a reprieve until the autumn - and has repaid that gesture with some sterling work.

She has been undertaking crucial hydrographic surveys in the Northern Arabian Gulf, and her unique capability of being able to operate in very shallow waters means that she has

been busy verifying data on charts.

She has found that in some areas there is more depth of water than was first thought, providing strategic information for amphibious operations.

There is a considerable Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) presence in the region, and one of the unsung heroes is the forward repair ship RFA Diligence.

Using Bob the Builder's familiar motto - 'Can we fix it? Yes we can' - Naval party 1600 is embarked on board to lend essential support to the assembled fleet.

Diligence, which left the UK in August 2001 and has since steamed more than 58,000 miles - has a fully-equipped workshop, which means that most items needed for repairs can either be fixed or fabricated.

The RN Amphibious Task Group was essentially configured to launch an assault by Royal Marines commandos. Ark Royal and Ocean are both acting as helicopter platforms, with their air groups transporting troops to their assigned positions, supplying them, and moving them on when required.

The other ships of the group support this central role by

providing a defensive shield against mines, air and sea attack, or by providing supplies such as fuel, food and other stores.

The Royals have been preparing for operations at one of the massive military camps which sprang up in the desert in Kuwait in recent weeks.

Members of the public can send messages of support to forces in the Gulf via an electronic bulletin board operated by the British Forces Post Office - see website [www.bfpo.org.uk](http://www.bfpo.org.uk)

Families of men and women in the Naval Service who have a problem which needs solving, or who need more information, should contact the Naval Personal and Family Service (NPFs) or Sailors and Families Advice Bureau (SAFAB): Portsmouth NPFs 023 9277 2712, SAFAB 023 9272 4152; Plymouth and air stations: NPFs 01752 555041, SAFAB 01752 569696; Faslane: NPFs 01436 672798, SAFAB 01436 671674.

Royal Marines families should contact their nearest RM Welfare Office.

For regular updates on operations in the Middle East, see Navy News Online at [www.navynews.co.uk](http://www.navynews.co.uk)

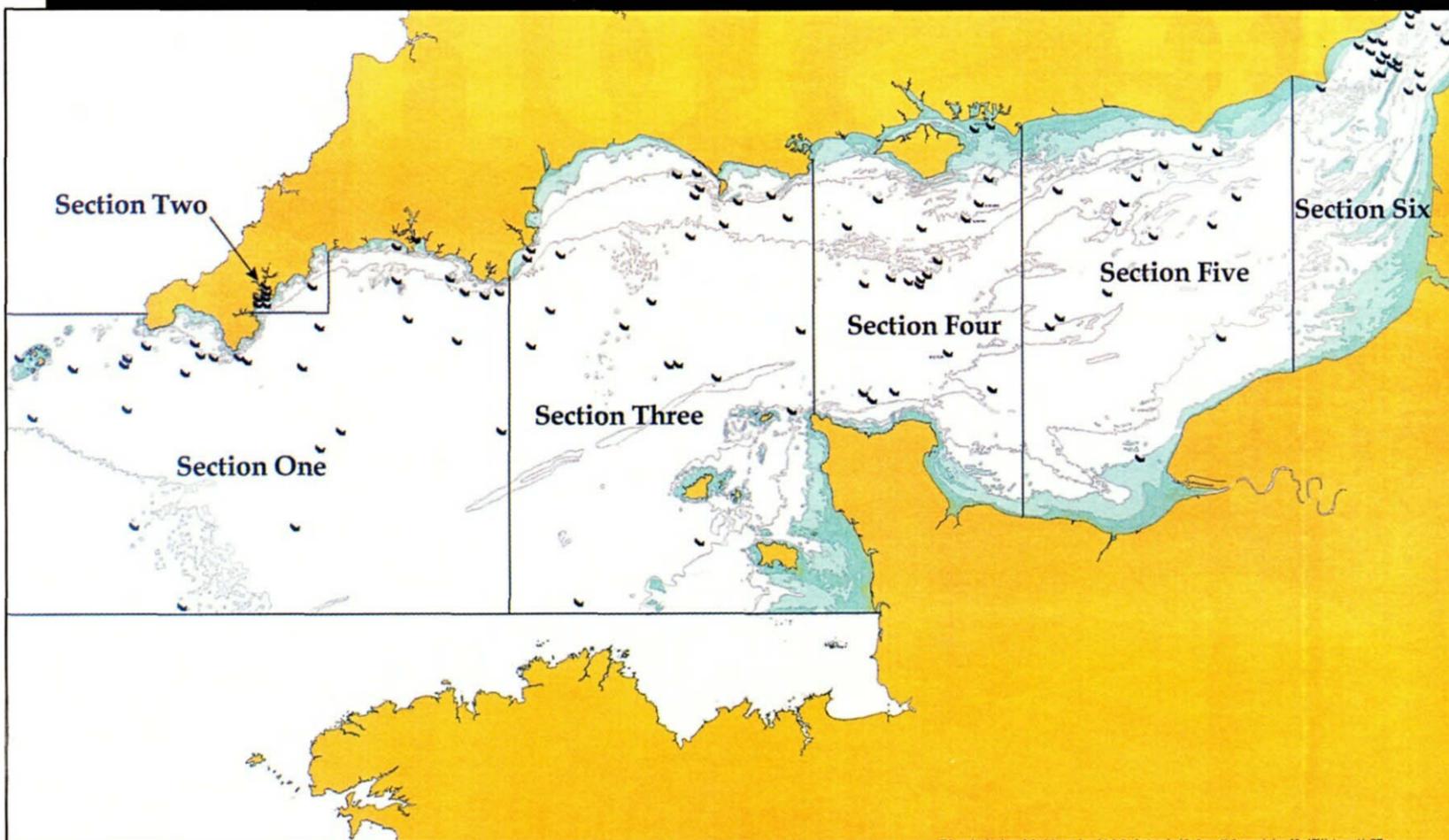
## Operation Telic

- Aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal
- Helicopter carrier HMS Ocean
- Type 42 destroyers HMS Liverpool, HMS Edinburgh, HMS York
- Type 23 frigates HMS Marlborough and HMS Richmond
- Type 22 frigate HMS Chatham
- Hunt-class MCMVs HMS Ledbury, HMS Brocklesby
- Sandown-class minehunters HMS Blyth, HMS Grimsby, HMS Sandown, HMS Bangor
- Coastal survey ship HMS Roebuck
- Aviation training ship RFA Argus
- Landing ships logistic RFA Sir Tristram, RFA Sir Galahad, RFA Sir Percivale
- Supply ships RFA Fort Victoria, RFA Fort Rosalie, RFA Fort Austin
- Forward repair ship RFA Diligence
- 2 nuclear-powered fleet submarines
- 5 Chinook helicopters
- 12 Sea King Mk IV helicopters
- 4 Sea King Mk VII Airborne Early Warning helicopters (operational debut)
- 4 Merlin helicopters (operational debut)
- Lynx and Gazelle helicopters to support Royal Marines forces
- Elements of HQ 3 Commando Brigade, 40 Cdo and 42 Cdo RM

● Clockwise from far left: The RN Amphibious Task Group pictured in the Arabian Gulf; HMS Grimsby and HMS Ledbury arrive in Bahrain last month; combat support boats from RFA Sir Bedivere train with HMS Sandown; destroyer HMS Edinburgh and helicopter carrier HMS Ocean replenish at sea from RFA Fort Victoria; Allied ensigns in the Gulf; HMS Ocean turns to starboard in company with destroyer HMS Edinburgh (part hidden) and RFA Argus in the northern Arabian Gulf; members of 40 Commando Royal Marines train on the 0.5in Browning heavy machine gun on the flight deck of HMS Ark Royal; forward repair ship RFA Diligence  
● Main picture: HMS Ark Royal under angry skies off Kuwait. Picture by Lt Cdr Simon Bedding, Weapon Engineer Officer of HMS Edinburgh



# At Your Leisure



## Lost and found

SUBMARINE wrecks in the English Channel are shown in this chart from *Lost Patrols* by Innes McCartney (Periscope Publishing Ltd £24.99).

There are no less than 121 of them (over 60 per cent U-Boats lost in action) and the author makes the point that nearly 80 per cent of them are war graves – and that all submarine wrecks, until identified, should be assumed to be war graves.

Few are RN, and of these all have been found, with the exception of D3, so far as is known.

D3 was a victim of friendly fire (a not uncommon fate with submarines), bombed by a French airship on March 12, 1918 some 12 miles north of Fecamp. All 29 of her crew were lost. It is likely the recognition symbol carried on her bow had been lost.

## A tomb like Napoleon's for John Paul Jones

THE LIFE of John Paul Jones, Father of the United States Navy, is presented in novel form by Wallace Bruce (Writers Club Press £15.99)

Jones died in France in 1792 at the height of the Revolution – but the authorities, recognising his stature as a naval hero, had his body pickled in alcohol in anticipation of the US Government one day requesting its return.

It wasn't until 1905, however, that President Theodore Roosevelt ordered him home, transported in the USS Brooklyn, to be entombed in a marble shrine modelled on that of Napoleon at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis.

Born in 1747, John Paul Jones became a captain at the age of 21 in the British merchant service.

Ending up in Philadelphia, he offered his services to the infant American Navy, becoming its ablest and most dashing commander.

He raised 'Old Glory' for the first time to the jackstaff of USS Alfred, attacking British ports in the War of Independence.

His chief hour of glory was in the USS Bonne Homme Richard when he engaged the Royal Navy off Flamborough Head.

When all the odds were against him, and the captain of HMS Serapis demanded his surrender, his immortal reply was: "I have not yet begun to fight!"

OVER 30 years spent building a collection of pictures of naval guns and models result in Hans Mehl's *Naval Guns* (Chatham £40), a history of ship and coastal artillery drawn from sources all around the world.

Many of these weapons are preserved at war memorials, at patriotic and heritage sites and in national and private collections in addition to special displays in museums and even a few dedicated museums, such as Explosion! at Gosport, Hants.

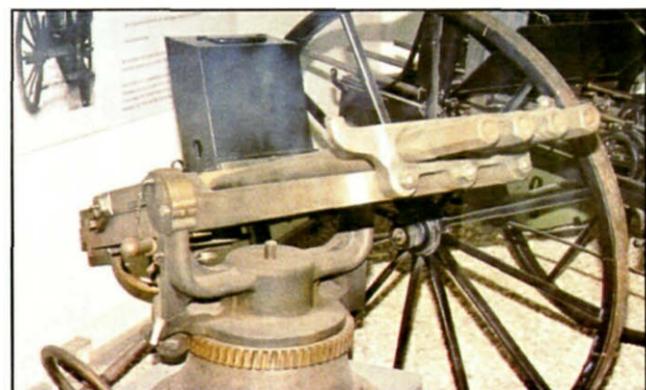
Very few early guns have survived complete with their mountings and those gun barrels that have (such as those from the Vasa) are of particular importance, even when the carriage is incomplete.

The development of modern guns, including automatic weapons, always went hand-in-hand with advances in other areas of science, most importantly metallurgy and material sciences, mechanical engineering and – not least – pyrotechnics.

The constant widening of knowledge concerning internal and external ballistics provided the basis for continual improvements in accuracy and range – but without doubt a genuine revolution in military thinking came about with the development of modern radar fire control systems, making it possible to fire the heaviest shells accurately at extreme range without the use of optical sights.

The same technology was subsequently applied to anti-aircraft artillery – and these innovations were followed by high-speed computer systems which have today completely automated such processes as target location and tracking.

## Tracking the history of naval guns



● British/Swedish 25mm Palmcrantz-Nordenfelt machine cannon, Wehrtechnisch Museum, Koblenz, Germany



● US 4in/50 Mk 9 deck gun, ANZAC Park, Darwin, Australia



● German Krupp 28cm M 1891 coastal gun at Oscarsborg fortress, Kaholmen, Norway

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## Wellington saw two sides to Nelson

**B**Y ONE of those curious accidents of history, Horatio Nelson and Arthur Wellesley, later Duke of Wellington, met only once.

The encounter happened on September 13, 1805, just six weeks before Nelson's death at Trafalgar, in the waiting room at Carlton House where he had gone to pay his respects to the Prince of Wales and Castlereagh, the new Secretary for War, on the eve of his final departure.

Wellesley, at that time a 35-year-old colonial major general, was not, at first, impressed. Years later, he recalled: "He could not know who I was, but he entered at once into a conversation with me, if I can call it conversation, for it was almost all on his side and all about himself, and in, really, a style so vain and silly as to surprise and almost disgust me."

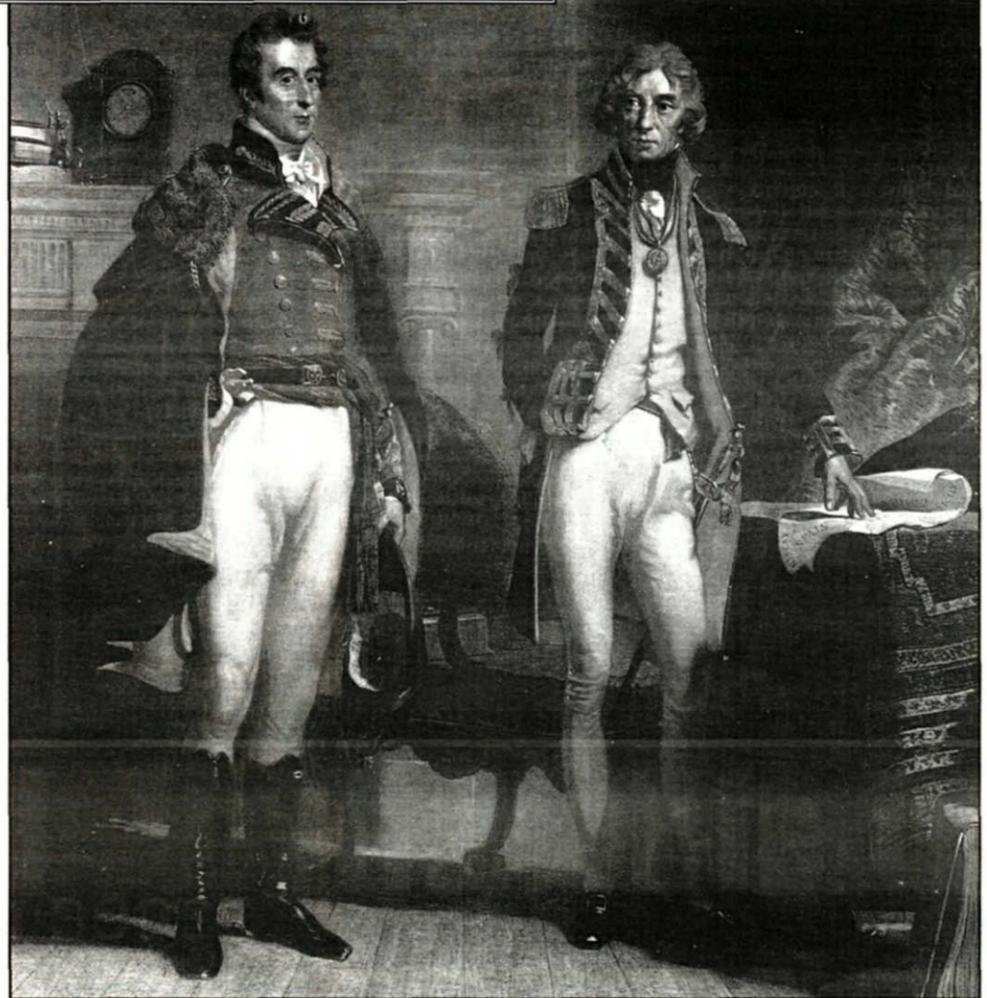
"I suppose something that I happened to say may have made him guess that I was somebody, and he went out of the room for a moment, I have no doubt to ask the office keeper who I was, for when he came back he

was altogether a different man, both in manner and matter. All that I had thought a charlatan style had vanished, and he talked . . . like an officer and a statesman.

"The Secretary of State kept us long waiting, and certainly, for the last half or three-quarters of an hour, I don't know that I ever had a conversation which interested me more.

"Now, if the Secretary of State had been punctual, and admitted Lord Nelson in the first quarter of an hour, I should have had the same impression of a light and trivial character that other people have had; but luckily I saw enough to be satisfied that he was really a very superior man; but certainly a more sudden and complete metamorphosis I never saw."

● *The stylised print representing the meeting between Britain's two most famous military leaders, entitled 'The Army and Navy', was supplied by Warwick Leadley Gallery for The Age of Sail - The International Annual of the Historic Sailing Ship Vol 1 2002-2003, edited by Nicholas Tracy (Conway Maritime Press £30)*



## Bismarck sunk by fatal flaws

**B**ISMARCK among the world's worst warships? Surely not, when it took practically the whole might of the Royal Navy to sink her, with claims that she was scuttled by her own people?

In the light of what no less an authority than Anthony Preston describes as the "extraordinary admiration" for Bismarck and her sister Tirpitz, such a claim might seem downright perverse.

"The real facts, however, point in the opposite direction," he says. In his latest book *The World's Worst Warships* (Conway Maritime Press £19.99) he shows that Bismarck suffered from inherent design flaws which made her loss inevitable.

After she had been sunk, rescuers found a set of flip-cards in the overall pocket of a petty officer. From this the Director of Naval Construction's staff reconstructed the internal layout of the ship.

This resolved another question of fundamental importance - why did she stop firing after only 20 minutes?

It seems the Bismarck class, like the Scharnhorst and Admiral Hipper class heavy cruisers, suffered from a weak stern structure.

In the case of the Bismarck, remotely operated cameras examining her wreck on the seabed show that her stern was actually separated from the hull.

So it is clear that the aerial torpedo hit from a Swordfish launched from HMS Ark Royal did not merely wreck the rudder.

"The June 1941 reconstruction of her internal layout astonished the DNC and his staff when they saw that the armoured deck was

low down in the ship, as might be expected in a First World War design.

"In comparison, contemporary Royal Navy and US Navy battleships had their armour decks considerably higher to increase the volume of the protected citadel."

Another feature of the design was the provision of a tertiary battery of 10.5cm anti-aircraft guns in addition to a heavy secondary armament of 15cm low-elevating guns in twin turrets. This three-layer armament, particularly the 15cm turrets, imposed a severe weight penalty.

In the RN and USN the decision had been made earlier to provide dual purpose guns, a considerable saving in topweight and deck space.

German technical historians have recently discovered that Bismarck's 10.5cm guns were controlled by two different fire control systems, one forward and one aft. To make matters worse, gun crews were not familiar with either system.

The failure to destroy the Albacore and Swordfish attacks is often attributed to the aircraft speed being too slow for the fire control predictor's lower setting; the new evidence suggests that the fire control was simply not good enough.

As to the scuttling rumours, the evidence rests on very dubious reports in the German media by people claiming to have been on



● *Although slow and obsolescent, the Fairey Swordfish torpedo bomber achieved some remarkable results in World War II, not least the heavy damage it inflicted on the Italian Fleet at Taranto in 1940 - and the decisive, disabling blow against the Bismarck - from The Bismarck by Robert Jackson (Spellmount £14.99)*

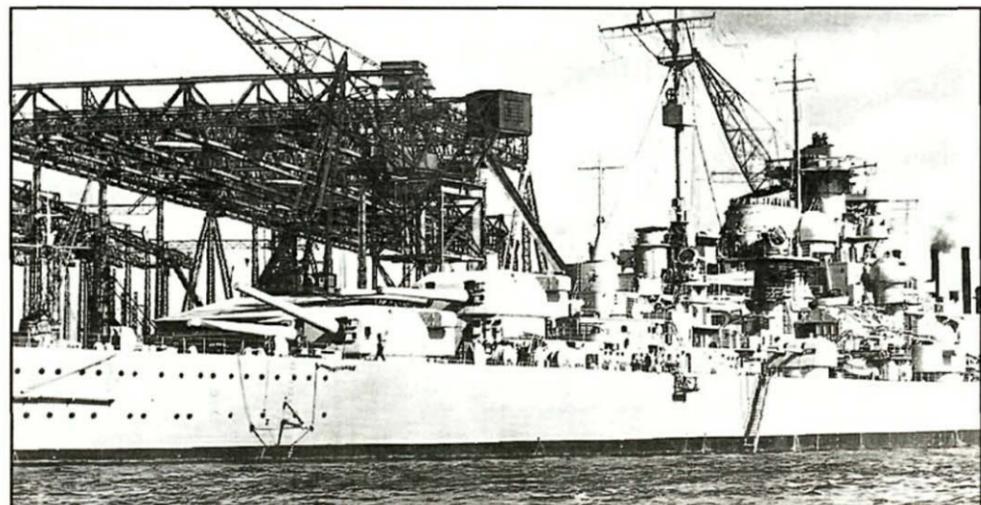
board to the effect that the engine-rooms were 'ready for the Admiral's inspection' and an order to fire the scuttling charges followed shortly afterwards.

These claims ignore testimony of survivors that the ship was an inferno between decks and nobody from below was sighted after the action began.

All the communications, electrical power, telemotor leads and boiler uptakes were above that low-armoured deck, and enemy gunfire had shredded everything except the main machinery.

That would explain why no guns were firing after 20 minutes.

● **FATALLY FLAWED: Bismarck at Hamburg on the day of her completion, August 24, 1940**



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# NoticeBoard

## THE TIME OF YOUR LIVES

NAVY NEWS looks back through its pages to recall some of the April headlines of past decades...



● Look closely at the smiling chap somewhat smartly dressed for a tug-of-war competition, and you'll recognise Prince Charles, who could not resist helping out his HMS Minerva shipmates in 1973

### 40 years ago

**ONE** Rating from HMS Loch Fada survived 12 hours in shark-infested waters when his boat capsized on the way back from Brunei.

His three crewmates were quickly found by boats and Gannet aircraft from HMS Hermes, but OS Elkington had been swept away from shore.

Whirlwind helicopters of 846 NAS eventually found him in his yellow life-jacket, live and well, and lucky to have escaped the attention of sharks and sea snakes.

### 30 years ago

**SPORTS** day at Bermuda saw HMS Minerva take on HMS Sirius in a tug-of-war.

When it looked as if the Minerva team needed a hand, Sub Lt the Prince of Wales stepped forward to add his pulling power to the team effort.

Sadly even regal strength was not enough to tip the balance, and the Minervans had to accept defeat.

### 20 years ago

**A NUMBER** of Royal Navy ships took part in a mini-war off the Bahamas - but all part of an exercise with the US Navy.

The Task Group then split up, with one section going on for jungle-training exercises in Belize and the others (possibly preferable) a series of visits and runs ashore in the West Indies.

## Appointments

Rear Admiral J.M. Burnell-Nugent to become Second Sea Lord/Commander in Chief Naval Home Command in Jan 03 and to be Flag Aide-de-Camp to the Queen from 28 Jan 03.

Rear Admiral T.P. McClement to be Chief of Staff (Warfare) and Rear Admiral Surface Ships (as Head of Fighting Arm) on 17 Jun 03.

Capt A.J. Johns to be promoted Rear Admiral and to be Assistant Chief of Naval Staff on 27 May 03.

Lt Col T.P.W. Middleton to 539 Assault Squadron Royal Marines (RMB Stonehouse) as CO on 16 May 03.

Lt Cdr M.K. Utley to HMS Leeds Castle as CO on 27 Feb 03.

Col I.P. Huntley to Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines as CO on 15 Jul 03.

Capt D.W. Pond to be promoted Cdre and to HMS Raleigh as Cdre on 8 Jul 03.

Lt Cdr R.J.L. Bryan to HMS Mersey as CO on 15 Jul 03.

Lt Cdr M.R. Honnoraty to HMS Shoreham as CO on 4 Mar 03.

Lt S.M. Armstrong to HMS Archer as CO on 11 Mar 03.

Lt Col G. Matthews to RMR Tyne as CO on 4 Jul 03.

Cdr M.B.W. McCartain to HMS

Westminster as CO on 27 May 03.

Capt C.H.T. Clayton to HMS Ocean as CO on 29 Apr 03.

Cdr D.C.K. Barker to HMS Somerset as CO on 3 Mar 03.

Lt Col M.P. Ellis to Commando Helicopter Force HQ as CO on 1 Apr 03 and granted higher rank of Acting Colonel.

Cdr M. Knibbs to HMS St Albans as CO on 28 Feb 03.

Lt Cdr J.K. Garratt to HMS Dumbarton Castle as CO on 18 Jun 03.

Lt Cdr D.J. Lambourne to 849 Squadron A Flight as CO on 25 Apr 03.

## Deaths

Vice Admiral Sir Hector MacLean, Navigator of HMS Cossack in 1940 when she captured a German supply ship carrying almost 300 British prisoners for which he was mentioned in dispatches. Other ships included Sepoy, Comet, Bryony, Dryad, Afridi, Anson, Indefatigable, Sheffield, President, Saintes, Phoenix, Eagle, Maidstone, Tyne, NATO, notably Durham in Pacific, Delhi (British Mediterranean Fleet), and navigator of Ark Royal when attacked and eventually lost to German torpedo in November 1941, for which he received the DSC. Next ship was battleship Anson; then at Admiralty; Master of the British Pacific Fleet; CO of Eagle; Flag Officer Aircraft Carrier Squadron; Chief of Staff at Headquarters Allied Forces Mediterranean. Appointed CB in 1960, KBE in 1962. Chair of Royal Naval Benevolent Society and vice president of Association of Retired Naval Officers. Aged 94, February 19.

Lt Cdr Tony Dixon, Swordfish pilot who carried out attack on Bismarck in 1941 as part of 818 Sqn flying from HMS Ark Royal. Served 1938-45. Aged 85, January 22.

Robert Varvill DSC, MTB commander in World War II, first in Channel and North Sea, then Mediterranean and awarded DSC for leading raids on enemy shipping in Ligurian Sea. Aged 82, February 22.

Right Rev Edward Knapp-Fisher, Priest and bishop, RNVR Chaplain in WWII, serving mainly in the Far East. Left service 1946 to return to religious career. Aged 88, February 7.

POMA Victor C. Fay, Served 1952-74. Ships and establishments include Bighi Hospital in Malta, HMS Terror in Singapore, Scott, Rothesay, Nelson and Royal Naval Hospital Haslar. Aged 69, February 16.

John F. Cooke DSM, HMS Orion Association, served on board 1937-40 as Leading Seaman, later to become Lt Cdr.

Ken Read, HMS Orion Association, served on board 1944-47 as Royal Marine. December 17.

Walter Ainsworth, HMS Orion Association, associate member and former Lord Mayor of Plymouth. January 3.

Malcolm Arthur Randall, MEM1, joined RN in 1968. Ships included Ark Royal and Whitley. Aged 51.

Samuel Wilson, LSA, HMS Belfast Association, served in ship 1939. February 11.

R. Les Paine, Algerines Association, Ships included Laertes, Rifleman. December 14.

George R. Tibbott, Algerines Association, Ships included Pickle. December 20.

Edward Phillips, Algerines Association, Ships included Jaseur. December 12.

Gerald Le Bary, Algerines Association, Ships included Niger. January 6.

Bill Nobbs, Petty Officer Stoker, Served 1939-48. Ships included Shropshire and Leamington. Aged 84, November 15.

Alfred Percival James Stebbing, CPO Aircraft Artificer, Served in RN 1942-68 as aircraft artificer, ended career as CPO Careers Adviser in London. Received BEM in 1961 for training duties with NATO in Germany with Sea Hawk Squadron. November 24.

Gerry 'Fitz' Fitzgerald, Captain Walker's Old Boys Association, Ships include Starling. January 7.

John Somerville, Stoker, HMS Cheviot Association, on ship 1947-49. February 3.

Derek Cooley, CPO (EL/A), Served 1949-86. Aged 70, November 19.

Robert Kay, RNPSA Bolton branch, founder member and secretary. Served in escort vessels and minesweepers in World War II. Aged 78.

Con O'Leary, AB, Ships included Foylebank (survivor), Hawkins (East Indies Fleet) and D-Day veteran. HMS Foylebank Association, February 9.

Lt A. Chittil, PTO, Member of the Nore Command RNPTIs Association. Aged 81.

Lt Cdr Colin Edward Fraser Sharp, Served in Woolton, Intrepid, York and other postings included New Zealand, Dartmouth

Naval College and Barbados. Invalided out while at Abbeywood, November 30.

Harold Gale, LCK, Served 1947-54. Ships included Ganges, Gabbard, Glory (Korea), Theseus, Eagle, 14th CAG. Aged 74, February 26.

T. 'Trevor' Binding, PO TASI, Submariners Association, Welsh branch. WWII submariner, served in Sirdar, Trepasser, Tudor. Aged 82.

C.F.C. 'Cyril' Brooking, AB, Submariners Association, Plymouth branch. Served 1942-45 in Untiring, Aged 79.

S. 'Syd' Cutforth, Tel. Submariners Association, Hull branch, WWII submariner, served in Trusty, Tapir, Truant, Unbroken. Aged 82.

R. 'Bob' Descormes, PO Elec. Submariners Association, Scotland NE branch, WWII submariner, served in Rubis (Free French). Aged 81.

N. 'Norman' Ellmore, LSea, Submariners Association, Blackpool branch. Served in Amphion, Tudor. Aged 74.

Rev Sub Lt J.D.O. Hinton, Submariners Association, Bristol branch, WWII submariner, served in Upholder, Unbeaten, P34. Aged 82.

H.H. 'Harry' Isted, Stoker 1, Submariners Association, London branch. WWII submariner, served P511, Stygian, Truclent. Aged 82.

J. 'Jock' Lamb, LSea, Submariners Association, Scottish branch, WWII submariner, served in: H32, H50, P222, Viking, Sturdy. Aged 82.

A. Albert Megson, LSto, Submariners Association, Blackpool branch, WWII submariner, served in: Unruffled, Scythian, Acheron, Totem, Turpin. Aged 80.

E.D. Merchant-Locke, AB, Submariners Association, Bristol branch, WWII submariner, served in: Voracious, Sybil, Trident. Aged 77.

C.J.V. 'Carl' Orpen, CPO REL, Submariners Association, Bristol branch. Submariners served in: Osiris, Aeneas, Alliance, Andrew. Aged 67.

H. 'Harry' Page, AB TAS, Submariners Association, North East branch, World War II submariner, served in: Tudor, Trump, Tabard, Alcide, Anchorite, Teredo. Aged 79.

B. 'Brian' Smith, AB, Submariners Association, Blackpool branch, Submariners served in: Sceptre. Aged 74.

K. 'Keith' Stockdale, LSM, Submariners Association, Hull and West Riding branches. Submariner service 1948-54, served in: Tradewind, Anchorite. Aged 74.

Eric Ripley, CPO CK, Served 1950-74, last ship HMS Antrim. Aged 71, January 18.

Lewis Hill, EMI, Ships include: Rampura, Montclare, Newcastle (cruiser), HMS Newcastle Association. Aged 72, February 18.

George Hedgecock, Electrical Artificer, HMS Belfast Association, served in ship 1939. February 25.

Rhoda 'Chiz' Chisholm, Long-serving Wren 1941-78. Welfare, HMS Dauntless, Malta, Singapore, D of K Barracks, Fastlane among others. February.

Arnold Wadcock, CERA, Survivor of the sinking of HMS Abdiel. Fast Minelayers Association. Aged 82.

Albert Edward Robinson, Royal Naval Patrol Service, HMS Europa, Hazlemere. Aged 87, February 22.

### ASSOCIATION OF RN OFFICERS

Cdr F.W. Ashmore, Served Siskin, Figgard, Ariel, Centaur, Galatea, Saker, Fife, Seahawk, Daedalus, Warrior and RNAY Belfast.

Lt C.M. Chivers RNVR, Served Gosling.

Lt Cdr R.J. Dodwell, Served St Vincent, Falcon, Ark Royal and Osprey.

Surg Capt L.H. Duthie, Served Glasgow, President, Ganges, Neptune, Naval Hospitals Trinco, Haslar, Malta and HM Naval Bases Singapore and Portsmouth.

Lt Cdr R.H. Edmonds, Served: Albion, Blake, Ariadne, Neptune, Victory, Excellent, Collingwood and Warrior.

Lt Cdr D.C. Firth, Served: Malcolm, Neptune, Rame Head, Mull of Kintyre,

### Swap drafts

MEM1 Elliott, Contact: HMS Glasgow, 07884 258 186. Draft: HMS Excellent Main Gate, 24 Mar 03. Will swap for: SFM or consider other Portsmouth shorebase. HMS Excellent Main Gate is two weeks on, two weeks off. Full MEMOC and passed for LMEMOC.

LWWTR H. Dimond, Contact: 93875 4116. Draft: LWTR billet in CTCRM. Will swap for: any shore draft in the Portsmouth area.

LCH Todd, Contact: RNAS Culdrose 93781 2170. Draft: HMS York on 19 May 03. Will swap for: any Plymouth-based ship deploying or not.

LOM(EW) Wilkes, Contact and draft: HMS Glasgow, BFPO 287. Will swap for: any Plymouth ship considered.

### Sports lottery

1 Feb 03: £5,000 - OM(TSM) P. Glass, HMS Trenchant; £1,500 - CPOMEA P. Grayell, HMS Sultan; £500 - OM(UW) M. Harvey, HMS Richmond.

8 Feb 03: £5,000 - POCY G. Doughty, HMS Manchester; £1,500 - WSA N. Davison, HMS Ark Royal; £500 - Mne M. Fletcher, FPGRM.

15 Feb 03: £5,000 - Capt A. Tate, Foxhill; £1,500 - Cpl S. Bull, Cdo Log Reg; £500 - LReg S. Kerrison, HMS Cambeltown.

22 Feb 03: £5,000 - OM(W) S. Hopton, HMS Richmond; £1,500 - LCH R. Miles, HMS Cattistock; £500 - Cdr D. Vanderpump, MOD Ensligh.

Submissions for the next edition of Navy News must be received before: April 10

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# IN BRIEF

LAUNCHED on the Royal Navy website is Commando Adventure, a game to test decision-making, speed and accuracy following an amphibious task group to three fictitious conflict zones. Find it at [www.royal-navy.mod.uk](http://www.royal-navy.mod.uk)

A SPECIAL exhibition celebrating the centenary of the Royal Naval College at Osborne House, Isle of Wight will be held there from April 3 - October 31.

AN ORAL hearing for a Judicial Review Application regarding non payment by the MOD of Pro-rata Pensions to ex-members of the Armed Forces serving before 1975 was listed to be heard in the Royal Courts of Justice on March 28.

DEVONPORT Submarine Manoeuvring Room Automated Trainer, which simulates the Manoeuvring Room in a nuclear submarine, has celebrated 20 years in service, during which time it has trained over 8,000 Marine Engineers and clocked up 30,000 running hours.

TO MARK the centenary of the RNVR and RNR in Sussex a Service of Commemoration will be held in Lancing College Chapel on October 12 at 3p.m.. Tel 01273 555564 for details.

TACKLING the assault course and visits to RN ships were among activities enjoyed by 90 youngsters from the Combined Cadet Forces of schools around the country invited to spend a weekend at HMS Raleigh.

A FREE exhibition on the Battle of the Atlantic will be held at Bootle Town Hall from April 30 - May 5. Saturday, May 3 sees a service at Bootle War Memorial for veterans of Capt Johnny Walker's Old Boys. Walker returned to Bootle docks in 1944 having sunk a record six German U-Boats.

## Pedestal picture

MALTESE artist Edwin Galea presents the Duke of Edinburgh with a copy of his print commemorating the 60th anniversary of Operation Pedestal, the vital convoy to relieve the besieged George Cross island in 1942. The Duke was serving in the Mediterranean at the time.



# ECHO GETS OFF TO A SOUND START



THE ROYAL Navy's newest survey ship HMS Echo has been commissioned into the Fleet at a ceremony in Devonport.

C-in-C Fleet Admiral Sir Jonathon Band and Lady Haddacks, the ship's sponsor, were guests of honour.

And the ship's affiliated town of Taunton - home of the Hydrographic Office - was represented by the Mayor, Cllr Adrian Prior-Sankey and the CO of Taunton Sea Cadets.

A renewed friendship has also been forged with the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors, formerly affiliated to survey ship HMS Herald.

Echo will be available for tasking for more than 334 days each year - a 50 per cent improvement on the ships she is replacing - and while the older vessels can only carry out survey work in the rough waters of the Western Approaches for 13 per cent of the year, Echo and her

sister Enterprise will be able to work for 90 per cent.

She carries a ship's company of 72 who operate a crew rotation system, so that there will be 49 members on board at any one time while the remainder take leave or undergo training.

Echo will continue her programme of trials and training in preparation for her first operational deployment later this year.

The next Chief of the Defence Staff General Sir Michael Walker called on HMS Echo as part of his initial programme of visits to defence establishments.

General Walker made a two-day visit to Devonport Naval Base, also visiting the submarine HMS Torbay and experiencing sea training at first hand in the Type 23 frigate HMS Kent. He succeeds Admiral Sir Michael Boyce this month.

# 'One-shot' mine system set to speed disposal

A NEW mine disposal system is to be introduced to keep the RN's ships at the forefront of mine warfare - a field in which they are recognised as world leaders.

The new 'One-Shot' system will be installed in both the Hunt and Sandown-class mine countermeasures vessels (MCMVs) from 2006.

These are currently equipped with the Remote Control Mine Disposal System (RCMDS) introduced over 20 years ago and still highly effective.

But the new system will be faster to deploy, more accurate and less expensive to support.

Ted Morrison, Head of Section at the Defence Logistics Organisation's Underwater Warfare Systems Integrated Project Team, said: "RCMDS has served us excellently and we will continue to use the system as the new technology is phased in."

"Introducing 'One-Shot', however, will enable us to make savings in systems support and manpower."

One-Shot, like RCMDS, uses an underwater vehicle to locate and destroy mines. It is light enough to be easily portable and can be put into operation using fewer people.

The remote-controlled vehicle is designed to be expendable, carries its own warhead, and uses cheaper components.

The DLO will be aiming to buy a military "off the shelf" system, saving money and time in terms of initiating, designing and developing the equipment.

Trials will be carried out before the final selection is made and a package, including through-life support, will also be negotiated with the successful contractor.

An invitation to tender is expected to be issued in August.

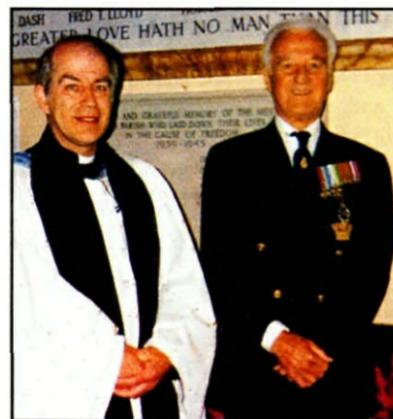
Meanwhile, one of the Navy's Hunt-class MCMVs has rejoined the Fleet at Faslane after undergoing a £2.5 million maintenance package.

HMS Brecon has been in the hands of BSSL at Rosyth Royal Dockyard, where more than 20 additions and alterations were made - including fitting of a funnel firefighting system and an upgraded refrigeration plant.

Commanding Officer Lt Paul Stroude said: "We are delighted that HMS Brecon is fit to rejoin the Fleet and look forward to returning to our duties once the final preparations are complete."

HMS Brecon is one of three Hunt-class MCMVs currently converted for patrol duties with the Northern Ireland Squadron, based at Faslane on the Clyde.

# Dukes meet up at Malvern



NEW Entries of the 1940s met again in Christ Church, Malvern, for the dedication of the crest of HMS Duke, the former Part I Disciplinary Training establishment in the parish where thousands got their first taste of Naval life in 1941-46.

Pictured with the Vicar, the Rev Peter Furber, is Maurice Tither, who was a Divisional Officer in HMS Duke.

## BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC 60th Anniversary - Commemorative Souvenirs

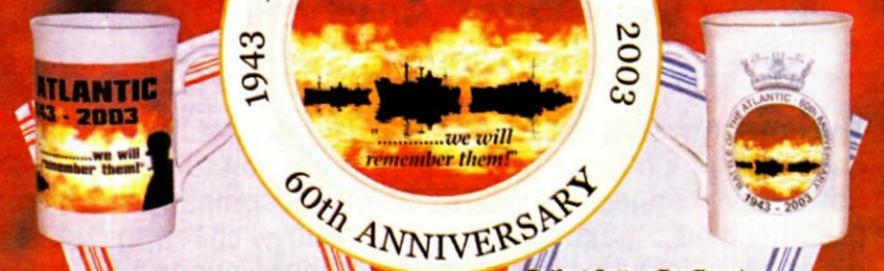
On this 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic, King George's Fund for Sailors, the benefiting charity, is offering a selection of commemorative merchandise that has been designed exclusively for this occasion. All profits from the sale of these items will go directly to KGFS - The Seafarer's Charity.

ORDER ONLINE FROM: [www.kgfs.org.uk](http://www.kgfs.org.uk)

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Battle of the Atlantic lapel pin (actual size)  
code BA/PIN.....£1.00

"...we will remember them!"



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# Royal Naval Association

## Raising money and having fun

MESS deck suppers, organised by the Cheshunt branch, proved an enjoyable way of raising funds to provide vital equipment for the local Cheshunt Community Hospital.

While members did not 'sing for their supper' they raised £1,000 towards the cost of an adjustable couch for the hospital's operating theatre and a biopsy instrument.

At a cheque presentation ceremony, president S/M Harold Chalkley presented the money raised to representatives of the hospital.

# Choir is in fine voice

THE ASSOCIATION'S Male Voice Choir performed in its 'home port' of Leamington Spa to raise funds for St Peter the Apostle Church.

Bob Brook said that the choir "delivered a beautiful, moving and widely-varied repertoire of music."

"They that go down to the sea in ships certainly can sing! As good as any of the great Welsh choirs, their

pieces ranged from traditional hymns and spirituals through Bizet, Verdi and a Maori love song, to the theme song from the film *Titanic*.

"They were most ably accompanied by Sheila Schön-Kirby, whose lovely melodic lines interweaved through the choral mix; and directed with fire and confidence by Russell McKie - this was truly a night to remember."

The choir is based at the Leamington Spa branch, and was founded in 1972.

It has grown over the years, and is currently about 35 strong, including some 'civilians'.

The extensive repertoire is mostly sung from memory, and each year the choir raises considerable sums for charity by staging a dozen or so concerts in halls and churches in a 30-mile radius of its home town.

It also participates in larger events, such as the VE Weekend celebrations in Hyde Park in 1995, and is due to take part in a major choral event in the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, in July, where up to 10,000 voices from 200 choirs around the world will be accompanied by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

● **The RNA Male Voice Choir at St Peter's Church, Leamington Spa**  
Picture: Bob Brook



## Geoffrey receives Freedom of City of London

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Lt Cdr Geoffrey Lancashire RN (rtd), a member of South Harrow branch for 25 years, on receiving the Freedom of the City of London.

A Life Member of the Royal British Legion and the RNLI, on leaving the Navy Geoffrey served in command of the Harrow Sea Cadet Unit for ten years.

Since his retirement, Geoff maintained his links with the Service through membership of the following associations: HMS Collingwood, Coastal Forces Veterans, HMS Vernon (Roedean) Old Boys, Royal Naval Patrol Service, 8th Destroyer Squadron, Aircraft Handlers, and the HMS Pearl Crew Association, for which he has been serving as Honorary Secretary and newsletter editor for the past 14 years.

To receive the Freedom of the City of London, S/M Geoff attended a ceremony at the Guildhall, conducted by Caroline Arnold, Clerk of the Court of Common Council, assisted by the Beadle, Graham Painter - himself a former member of the Royal Navy.

## Bob's a winner in Clacton raffle

THE former General Secretary, Capt Bob McQueen, and his wife Nadia were guests at the Clacton branch dinner dance, enjoyed by 73 members and guests, including shipmates from Frinton and Walton.

The first raffle prize, a very large basket of goodies, was won by Capt Bob, who could hardly carry it away.



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## Remembrance book dedicated

MEMBERS turned out in strength for the dedication of the Redruth and Camborne branch Book of Remembrance at a service in St

Andrew's Church, Redruth, conducted by the branch chaplain, Canon Roger Bush.

After the Book of Remembrance was presented to the chaplain by S/M Ron Harwood, whose calligraphy enhances it, the names of all shipmates who have 'crossed the bar' since the branch was formed, were read aloud.

The branch standard was carried by S/M Bob Saxby, which he laid up at the altar.

During the service, the

Exhortation was read by chairman S/M John Bennetts and S/M Ron Williams read the Lesson.

The service ended with the Act of Remembrance, and a silence was observed, followed by a prayer for absent friends.

During the final hymn, Eternal Father Strong to Save, the standard was returned, the Naval Prayer was said and the National Anthem played.

The branch thanked Canon Bush for arranging such an impressive dedication ceremony.

## Scottish celebration in Sussex

ANYONE who has attended a Burns Night supper will confirm there is nothing half-hearted about this annual celebration of Scotland's famous bard.

The Burgess Hill celebration was no exception.

In keeping with tradition, homage was paid to the haggis which was paraded in great style and duly devoured with tatties and neeps, washed down with Scotch whiskey.

After supper, the decks were cleared and even those who did not know the difference between a jig and a hornpipe took to the floor and danced the night away.

Music was provided by a young lady piper.

The occasion, voted a huge success, will be repeated next year.

## Ruth is voted top Shipmate

AT A very lively annual general meeting, attended by 47 members, S/M Ruth Clarke, the minutes secretary, was voted Shipmate of the Year by the Cardiff branch.

Ruth has also started providing a buffet at the branch monthly meetings which seems to be keeping members at meetings a little longer to reminisce.

The branch annual social, held at the Rumney Conservative Club, was a great success.

## £50 PRIZE PUZZLE



The mystery ship in our February edition was HMS Euryalus.

The winner of the £50 prize for identifying her was Mr P. Berthier, of Gosport.

This month's warship was ordered as a frigate, completed as a depot ship and later converted back to a frigate.

Can you supply ALL THREE of her names? We have removed her pennant number from the picture - that would be

too easy!  
The correct answer wins another £50.

Complete the coupon and send it to Mystery Picture, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH. Coupons giving correct answers will go into a prize draw to establish a winner.

Closing date for entries is May 9, 2003. More than one entry can be submitted, but photocopies cannot be accepted. Do not include anything else in your envelope: no correspondence can be entered into and no entry returned.

The winner will be announced in our June edition. The competition is not open to Navy News employees or their families.

MYSTERY PICTURE 98

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My answer 1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

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## Frigate replica is on loan

MEMBERS of Coventry branch were pleased to be invited to the unveiling of a replica of the Type 22 frigate HMS Coventry, which has been presented to the city of Coventry by the Royal Navy on permanent loan.

The ceremony was performed by the Lord Mayor, Cllr Ken Taylor, and Commodore Robin Johns, the Naval Regional Officer, with a Guard of Honour provided by Coventry Sea Cadets, with whom the branch has close ties.

Following the ceremony and 'Up Spirits', members had the opportunity to ask Cdre Johns and the Lord Mayor if there will be a seventh HMS Coventry.

Though hope was not entirely extinguished, their replies were non-committal.

# Names will not fade from view

THE FORGOTTEN sailors of HMS Barfleure, who lost their lives during the Boxer Rebellion in China in 1900, will have their names re-inscribed on the memorial in their honour in Chatham, when restoration work by Medway Council is complete.

The memorial, sited at the junction of Gibraltar Hill and New Road, was unveiled in 1903.

Restoration work in the region of £3,000 will make good a century of weathering and the names of the 21 sailors of the Barfleure, now

almost erased, will be legible again.

In the era of gunboat diplomacy, the 10,000-ton battleship HMS Barfleure was despatched to China to support the Royal Navy presence there and help crush an uprising by a group of anti-foreigners called the Righteous Harmony Fists - better known as the Boxers.

**Records reveal that ten of the ship's company died in the action.**

Of the remaining 11 lost, one was drowned, one fell from a loft, one was stabbed by a French soldier, one suffered a fractured skull on going ashore and seven died

from disease.

While it is unlikely that any of their near relatives are still alive, Stuart Hubert of Medway Council (telephone 01634 332168) would like to trace any of their next of kin.

The 21 Medway sailors who died while serving in Barfleure were: T. McCarthy, J. Nicholas, J. O'Brien, C. Rodwell, J. Spencer, H. Snall, W.C. Vidler, F. Wallace, W. Bath, W. Bing, T. Brown, I. Brooks, J.H. Connolly, J.J. Fleetwood, E.V. Grover, F.A. Greaves, W.J. Horne, W. Horning, J. King, A.P. Fonaldson and F.S. Esdaile.

## Branches draw closer

AS No 11 Area chairman and chairman of Wetherby branch, S/M John Utley had a happy experience when he attended a social hosted by Thorner and Scarcroft branch of the Royal British Legion.

He watched the host branch play a return darts and dominoes match against the Wetherby branch, the latter winning both competitions by one game.

Later he had the pleasure of receiving two pencil drawings of Naval warships by RBL member Bernard Collier (83).

The drawings of HMS Hood

and a pre-war destroyer were part of a portfolio drawn by Bernard in 1937 and presented to the Royal Drawing Society, which won him an Honours Diploma award.

Expressing his thanks, S/M Utley assured the artist that the drawings would be mounted and displayed in the RNA Messdeck.

He also expressed thanks for the hospitality and friendship extended by the host branch.

Members of the RNA meet on the second Thursday of the month at 8pm in the Messdeck, Prison Officers' Club, HM Prison Wealstun, Thorpe Arch.

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## Naval Quirks

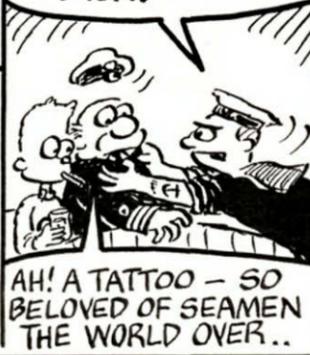
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..CAPTAIN COOK WAS THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE THE WEST TO TATTOOS WHEN HE RECORDED THE PRACTICE AMONG THE NATIVES OF TAHITI IN THE 1760s..



## Albert dies aged 102

JUTLAND veteran S/M Albert Flint has died in Australia at the age of 102.

Albert (pictured above), a member of the New South Wales branch, was at Jutland on board the battlecruiser HMS Indomitable, having started his Naval career in 1913 on the training ship Arethusa and at HMS Ganges.

He saw the German Fleet surrender at Scapa Flow, and went on loan to the Royal Australian Navy from 1925-31, settling in Sydney in 1930.

Albert died in Sydney on February 28.



● S/M G. Huff and two shipmates lay the last wreaths at the RN Brigade memorial at Greenwich before it is returned to central London. The wreaths are on behalf of Greenwich branch and Trafalgar Quarters, and for S/M Huff's father's regiment, the Royal Fusiliers, who fought with the RN Division at Ypres and Gallipoli. S/M Huff asks: with the removal of so much Naval history from the site, will the Great Hall be converted into a disco in due course?

## Cash supports cadet at sea

THE close relationship between Camberley branch and the local Sea Cadet Unit was affirmed at the branch annual general meeting when a £300 cheque was presented to support the Cadet of the Year on a trip in TS Royalist.

Chairman S/M Geoff Cook was re-elected - his 15th year in office. Geoff, an accomplished artist,

whose paintings of HM ships are much in demand, joined the branch in 1985, and was made a Life Member in 2001.

A Valentine's Day 'do' was enjoyed by 45 members and guests, as was the sumptuous meal, prepared by S/M Betty Turner, ably assisted by husband David, the branch treasurer.



● The seventh annual golf tournament organised by Rayleigh branch takes place on May 7 in aid of SSAFA Forces Help. For his work in organising the popular open day event and for fund-raising, S/M Alan Booth, branch secretary, was awarded the John Newson trophy by the new No 5 Area President, S/M Geoff Mills. Geoff is pictured being appointed president alongside area chairman Jan King (right)

## Fond farewell

BEFORE returning to Washington for his next posting, PO First Class Dave Berry (USN) attended a party in his honour given by Uxbridge branch.

The party, attended by his wife and daughter, was a thank you as much as a farewell for his support for the branch since his arrival in the UK and for the good relations he fostered between US personnel and civilians. Before leaving he was presented with a certificate of appreciation and fitting mementoes.

# THE 3 BEARS

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● A commander, seven captains and a commodore line up for their fitness test at HMS Temeraire

# 'Old and bold' lead by example

A GROUP of senior officers – the youngest in the mid-40s, the oldest over 50 – are leading by example when it comes to the new Royal Navy Fitness Test (RNFT) regime.

As reported in the March edition, the RNFT is now embracing the over-40s, but there are other modifications to the system which administrators hope will lead to a more effective approach by the Navy.

The test, introduced in April 1999, ensures all RN personnel are fit for service, with those failing the test undergoing a carefully-devised remedial programme.

And Lt Andy Tutching, the RNFT Officer, is proud that the Senior Service is right at the leading edge of the campaign to promote good health and fitness.

"These nine senior officers all ran

times at least 15 seconds better than the under-25 standard," said Lt Tutching.

"If they can do it at their age, the under-25s should have no difficulties."

"We wanted to incentivise the fitness test, and build more flexibility into the testing bracket."

"The testing window has been changed; it is now no longer dictated by a birthday."

"Every rank and rate will get an annual fitness test date based on reporting dates, and people within that rank or rate can take the test any time they like in the year preceding that date."

This gives people leaving for deployment more options over taking the test – and hopefully means fewer people having to undertake them in difficult circumstances, such as a jetty

in the Middle East in high summer. The test will also be graded – pass, good pass, very good and excellent – to give people a target.

Those who must undertake remedial work have the benefit of hi-tech kit as used by the England football squad at the last World Cup.

Precise fitness programmes are related to age, and individuals work-out using a Polar watch which doubles as a heart-rate monitor.

Heart-rates – expressed as a percentage of the maximum – dictate the pace of the work-out, and the results are downloaded into a programme (issued to all PTIs) which displays a graph of how the session went.

As the candidate improves, more strenuous packages are introduced, bringing them carefully up to the level required to pass the fitness test.



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THE 2003 Forces' Discount Brochure is now available, setting out the special deals on offer to Servicemen and women – many of them are also open to MOD civil servants and some to retired Forces personnel.

Information contained in the brochure can also be accessed via the Ministry of Defence intranet and most HIVES.

Among the items listed in the guide are travel (ferry, rail,

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The latter category covers areas such as financial, solicitors and legal, property, tax matters, storage, insurance and medical.

The list of participants varies widely, from major airlines such as Air Canada, Delta Air Lines and Air New Zealand and ferry lines including P&O, DFDS Seaways, Irish Ferries and Stena Line, to a course in the "ancient Arabic art of sugaring" or tanning sessions.

Copies of the brochure can be ordered by sending a completed MOD Form 999 to DSDC(L)3a quoting the unit UIN.

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## 2SL's Sikh Sunday Service

**HIS HAIR** covered by a specially commissioned RN bandana, Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral James Burnell-Nugent visited Leicester's Sikh temple, Guru Nanak Gurdwara, as part of the Outreach programme.

He arrived with members of the RN Presentation Team – who all likewise wore bandanas and removed their shoes as a mark of respect to their hosts. Cdr Brian Warren and Lt

Karen Jacques made their pitch before over 200 people from the Sikh community, impressing the elders with their fast-moving show.

Many cultural issues were addressed during an extended question and answer session and the RN bandanas were afterwards highly sought after as 'gizzits' by the Sikh children.

After a tour of the Sikh Heritage Museum (above) Admiral Burnell-Nugent attended Sunday Service in the Prayer Hall, where he spoke of equal opportunities in the Royal Navy.

**N**AVY and ex-Navy people are being encouraged to invite friends and families along to watch the Royal Navy Presentation Team in action.

It is hoped this will help them understand more clearly about the part played by the RN in defending the UK's interests worldwide.

Team leader Cdr Brian Warren told *Navy News*: "This is definitely not a recruiting nor a careers-driven exercise, but aims to increase awareness and promote an understanding of how the Royal Navy operates, describing its role, its people, equipment and future.

"As well as being informative, the occasion is designed to be entertaining and thought provoking.

"Lively debate is encouraged on the Royal Navy's business, during the question and answer period after the presentation.

"There is also ample opportunity for guests to talk informally to members of the Team and other guests, both during the opening reception and again at the end of the evening."

The RNPT had already covered a large part of the country during its current season and had talked to over 7,000 members of the public. Feedback had been "very encouraging".

Venues over the next couple of months are:

Basildon (Apr 1), Ramsgate (Apr 3), Llandudno (Apr 29), Liverpool (Apr 30), St Albans (May 6), Newbury (May 7),

Richmond (May 8), St Ives (May 13), Helston (May 14), St Austell at the Eden Project (May 15), Leith at the International Festival of the Sea (May 22), Haverford West (May 27), Montgomery (May 28), Stranraer (Jun 5), Portree (Jun 7), Aberdeen (Jun 10), Forfar (Jun 11), St Andrews (Jun 12) and Lewis (Jun 16).

These events are subject to change – check the RN Website [www.royalnavy-mod.uk](http://www.royalnavy-mod.uk) under the 'News & Events' tab.

Simply email ([rnpt@gtnet.gov.uk](mailto:rnpt@gtnet.gov.uk)) or Fax (0208 841 7880

the RNPT with the names and addresses of your potential invitees and the Team will forward a VIP invitation pack directly to them roughly 3-4 weeks before the event.

The RNPT may also be able to come to you. Ideally suited to clubs, organisations, businesses or similar groups with audiences over 70 people, the RNPT can provide a presentation at NO COST.

More details and an easy-to-complete event request form are also available on the RN Website.

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# 'Dangerous work' in the Caribbean drugs bottleneck

Rear Admiral Richard Kelshall is used to breaking records. Not only is he the first Admiral in the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, but he is also the first Trinidadian to become a senior officer after starting off as a sea cadet.

He began his career at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, in 1963 – for 40 years, since the formation of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, all cadets have been sent here to be trained and commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants, midshipmen and sub lieutenants.

Working his way through the ranks, he eventually became a Naval Attaché in London and a Special Advisor to the National Security Council Office of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

Although now supposed to be retired, he is still chairman of Caribbean Marine and Defence, and makes regular trips to the UK. His most recent visit was to deliver a speech for Intersec, a conference promoting security and anti-terrorism, and to take part in talks with FSL in Portsmouth.

Admiral Kelshall said that the links between the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard and the Royal Navy are as strong as ever.

**Richard Kelshall, the first Rear Admiral of the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, explains to Laura Sharman why their Royal Navy links remain strong.**

By working in London and training in the UK, he established contacts with Britain that still exist today – one of his fellow student at Dartmouth was former First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Nigel Essenhigh.

Admiral Kelshall is the first to admit he has had an unusually diverse career, and has dealt with everything from sea duty to putting down revolutions.

Under his command, the unit was given a national award – another first in the country's history.

Said Admiral Kelshall: "You name it, and I've been through it."

"Becoming the country's first admiral was a great achievement. It's a major step to have happened for a small navy, as well as being the first cadet to go all the way through."

The original role of the Trinidad

and Tobago Coast Guard was to enable the country to establish its own defence unit, and therefore maintain its own protection. It is based upon the same ranks, traditions and principles as the Royal Navy.

Admiral Kelshall said: "We only call it a Coast Guard because of its size. We didn't want to seem ostentatious and call it a navy, because we only started off with launches. It is a microcosm of the Royal Navy."

"The requirement by the Foreign Office was to be able to maintain our own defence and protection, and that is why we started

with a regiment and marine section."

"Over the years it has grown out of its ceremonial function and into a very important and very dangerous operational unit, especially with drug smuggling."

The fleet has grown considerably over the years and is now a significant outfit, including two Swedish patrol boats and four coastal patrol crafts. The country also bought HMS Orkney, now TTS Nelson, from the Royal Navy in December 2000.

Besides the defence role the Coast Guard has a humanitarian function, protecting marine installations and combating the problem of drug smuggling.

Although the role of providing support following a natural disaster has not been regularly tested - Trinidad has not been hit by a hurricane in the last 40 years - many of the smaller Caribbean islands are affected by storm damage, and the Coast Guard can play a valuable role in providing emergency relief for these islands.

One of the most important functions that the Coast Guard now has is combating the shipment of illegal drugs.

Admiral Kelshall said: "The constant danger now, which is a great change from when I joined, is the sector of drug smuggling and all that goes with it, like violence."

"It's a major job for the Coast Guard to stop this, and a big part of my tour of command became dealing with it. It changed the whole aspect of the Coast Guard."

Trinidad itself does not have a major drugs problem, but its waters serve as a transshipment point for the drugs coming in from countries in Central Africa. Much is transported out to Europe and the USA, so Trinidad is a bottleneck for the problem, with an estimated hundreds of tonnes of drugs



● Rear Admiral Richard Kelshall with his son Jason while Jason was training at Dartmouth. Richard and Jason were the first father and son in the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force to both graduate from Dartmouth

being carried through the area.

The Coast Guard work closely with the Royal Navy to stem this flow, and the work carried out by ships such as Type 23 frigate HMS Grafton indicates that by dealing with the problem at the point of shipment the amount of drugs leaving the area can be significantly reduced.

HMS Grafton, which returned to Portsmouth late last year, spent more than four months patrolling the central and eastern Caribbean as part of the international war against drugs. During this time she prevented hundreds of millions of dollars worth of drugs from reaching their intended destination.

She even managed to seize £100m worth of cocaine and over £11m worth of cannabis in one drug bust.

Admiral Kelshall would like to see the Royal Navy presence in the Caribbean strengthened as a way of deterring drug smugglers and countering the problem.

He said: "When you're out there in the Caribbean and you see a Royal Navy ship, it really boosts your confidence. Big Brother is a round, keeping a watchful eye – that's the way we've

always seen it." The West Indies Squadron maintenance base used to play an essential part in nurturing contact between the countries, because any Royal Navy ship needing repairs or upkeep would dock there. This meant that the crew would be ashore for anything up to two months at a time.

Although this constant contact has now gone, the links between the nations remain strong.

Trinidad and Tobago continues

to send all cadets to Dartmouth – four cadets are there at the moment – so they all start off with a Royal Navy background, ensuring the links between the two forces will not be forgotten.

High achievement is not confined to the Admiral in the Kelshall family.

Eldest daughter Candyce is Commercial Attaché at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London, and is a published military historian and poet who is currently reading for her Doctorate.

Second daughter Tricia is a successful professional singer with a UK number one dance hit to her name with Way Out West, and she starred in the film *Flight of the Ibis*.

Meanwhile, Admiral Kelshall's son, Jason Kelshall, also graduated from Dartmouth, setting another new record in the process – they were the first father and son from Trinidad and Tobago to both graduate from the college.

Jason is currently a lieutenant in the Coast Guard, and most recently commanded a naval special operations unit.



● Admiral Kelshall as an officer cadet at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth

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# ...EDUCATION FOR THE NEW CENTURY



## Kelly College is proud of Naval ethos

THE ORIGINAL foundation of Kelly College was "for the sons of Naval officers and other gentlemen", but as Kelly celebrates its 125th anniversary, girls of Naval families have been enjoying what was originally restricted to their sons.

So is Admiral Kelly turning in his grave? Probably not, when one considers what these Naval girls are achieving and contributing to the college.

Each year Kelly welcomes a new set of recruits drawn from Naval families, usually as boarders to join the Senior Girls houses, Marwood and Newton, with some 50 girls each.

Jo, Louise, and Hannah are three perfect examples, who as part of the Marwood fifth form, are currently studying hard for their GCSEs. However, in spite of the national obsession with league tables, they managed to balance their studies with numerous extra-curricular activities.

With close links among parents, pupils and staff, our girls have been able to follow and develop their passions. Jo, a good all-round sports-woman, but very keen netball player, has recently been selected to attend the athlete development programme of the All England Netball Association. This is the start of a 2-4 year process with the prize being a possible place in the England squad.

As well as being a talented swimmer, Louise, under the tutelage of the director of swimming Robin Brew has moved into triathlon and is now ranked fifth in the country in her age group.

In addition to being on the British cycling squad's 'talent team', Louise is hoping to consolidate a place on the 'world class start potential' programme.

Hannah has a gruelling fencing schedule which has seen her travel all over the world - in fact she has probably covered more miles than Admiral Kelly!

Indeed she recently returned from the Commonwealth Games held in Australia, having been part of the Scotland Fencing Squad that narrowly missed out on a team bronze.

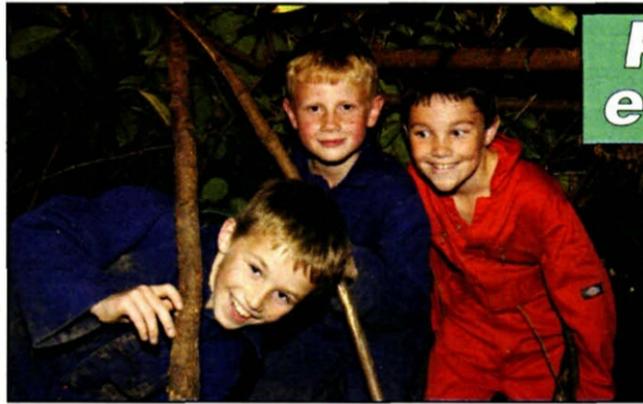
Hannah also captained the under 16 and under 18 teams to recent victory in a home international against England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

All three have proven that you can juggle your studies with extra-curricular activities to develop some real breadth. Other options for

development include debating, the theatre or the ranks of the CCF.

Kelly is proud of its Naval heritage and if he were alive today, the school is convinced that Admiral Kelly would be delighted to see the daughters of Naval families leading the way and flourishing as they are.

It would be no exaggeration to say that they are full of dynamism and embrace what the college has to offer and are wholehearted contributors to a school that aims to provide a genuine 'preparation for life'.



## Perrott Hill School enjoys country idyll

PERROTT Hill School, near Crewkerne, is a co-educational day and boarding school with a long tradition in educating children of Service families. Set in 25 acres of beautiful grounds in the heart of the countryside on the Somerset-Dorset border, it is serviced by excellent road and rail networks.

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# Education

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## Maths stars at West Hill Park

YEAR 6 children from West Hill Park School in Titchfield travelled to Bryanston School in Dorset for the annual 'Year 6 Maths Challenge' on Tuesday, March 4.

With 46 teams taking part, representing 23 schools, the West Hill Park children took first place in one group and second place in the other. As a result of these excellent performances, West Hill Park won the event overall.

The team of mathematicians including Paul Broadway, Isobel Stone, Ivan van Beek and Ross Freeguard took home prizes including calculators, certificates and free annual subscriptions to a children's maths magazine.

The new head of maths, Julie Wood, has an irrepressible and highly contagious enthusiasm for the subject, and has further enhanced the department by the introduction of an interactive whiteboard this term.



● West Hill Park School's Maths Challenge winners

West Hill Park Preparatory School in Titchfield begins the summer term with a warm welcome to families to come and visit during the open morning on Saturday, May 17 from 10:00am to 12:30pm.

The school, consisting of an idyllic self-contained nursery, magnificent Pre-Prep and outstanding Prep School offers children an excellent all-round education. With committed teachers, unrivalled facilities and a very happy, settled atmosphere children thrive and grow in confidence.

In each year group there are two classes containing an average of 16 children, allowing parents to rest assured that their child will receive the very best attention in the classroom.

French, maths and geography teaching have recently been enhanced with the introduction of interactive whiteboards and there are also firm plans this summer to refurbish the two science laboratories.

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# Education



## Dad drops in to Portsmouth High

GRACE and Isobel Gladston received a massive surprise when all the children at Portsmouth High Junior School were gathered together in the school playground to see a helicopter landing on the tennis courts.

The girls' faces were a picture as they realised that dad, Steve Gladston, was the pilot.

Lt Steve Gladstone of the Royal Navy, a flying instructor for the Defence Helicopter Flying School at RAF Shawbury, was in Portsmouth and asked the head of the Junior School, Allison Howarth, if he could surprise all the girls at the school

by landing the Squirrel helicopter on one of the tennis courts.

Once the helicopter had landed safely and was switched off, all the girls were allowed to have a look inside and walk around the outside.

Grace said: "I was really excited at seeing the helicopter and then very surprised and happy when I realised that it was my dad."

Allison Howarth, head of the Junior School, said: "I was really happy to allow Steve to land the helicopter."

She added: "It's a lot of fun for all the girls to be able to see a helicopter so close up and to see the landing and take-off."

● Lt Steve Gladstone landed his Squirrel helicopter on the playground of Portsmouth High Junior School much to the surprise of his two daughters Grace and Isobel, pupils at the school

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# Education

## Oxbridge success at Newlands

THE INEXORABLE rise in academic standards achieved at Newlands School in Seaford were clearly underlined by a much-coveted Oxbridge success.

Richard Bridgman, the current head boy, has won a place at St John's College, Oxford, to read modern languages. Richard, who has been at the school throughout his educational career, is also a highly-gifted singer and is being considered for a choral scholarship.

Headmaster Oliver Price said: "Richard is a fine young man, and he fully merits a place at the famous university."

"He is typical of the pupils who come out of Newlands, and indicates the huge strides the school has made over the past few years."

The school has an ever-improving reputation both locally and nationally, and the range of facilities available to the pupils is constantly improving.

A newly-refurbished performance studio has been opened this term enabling various kinds of ensemble work to take place. This will enhance the theatre arts department which is attracting pupils from all over the country to the school.

Sport is also advancing rapidly with a range of international and county sports coaches on the staff ensuring the very highest quality of coaching in a range of activities.

Pupils represent the county in a number of sports, and the opportunities are huge.

The Under-13 Girls hockey team has recently won the county title.

With a superbly-appointed sports hall, a heated indoor swimming-pool and 21 acres of land to provide outdoor sport of all description, the sporting pupils are fully catered for.

Newlands is thought to be one of the most rapidly developing schools in the south of England, and fees for Service families are closely aligned to BSA.

## Shebbear shines up its facilities

IN THE LAST three years there have been significant improvements and additions to the facilities at Shebbear College in Devon. A dedicated Sixth Form centre and food technology classroom has been built, the art department and library have been completely refurbished, including a new pottery facility and a fully-equipped fabric and fashion classroom.

## Son of the Navy at the head of Lomond

ANGUS Macdonald the headmaster of Lomond School, situated in the leafy suburbs of Helensburgh, is the son of a Naval officer. He understands the continuity issues and needs of serving personnel and particularly values the strong links with the Senior Service.

As headmaster he aims to ensure that all the pupils in the school achieve their potential, not only academically, but also as human beings, and has in place detailed monitoring procedures to ensure that these

objectives are met. He is looking to produce busy, happy, well-adjusted youngsters with positive outlooks and with 95 per cent of leavers going to university, there is a good deal of evidence to suggest that the objectives are being met.

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# Internet site scores in recruiting

SEA Cadets are beating that legendary Navy recruiter Andrew Miller at his own game – with a cyberspace press gang.

For instead of the cosh and the Queen's shilling, the Corps has scored its own stunning success in the recruiting stakes over the Internet.

Latest figures show that since the Sea Cadet website was launched two years ago, 2,000 budding young sailors have responded to the fast-track feedback on the site to join their local units.

And in an independent survey conducted by the University of Hertfordshire, 39 per cent of cadets canvassed nationwide said their adult ambition was to join the Navy.

The spectacular success of web-based recruiting has fuelled a new campaign to generate even more interest in a Naval career. This month Sea Cadet units are being issued with a hi-tech toolkit to make PowerPoint presentations on Corps values in schools and colleges to augment the word on the Web.

And the Corps has forged a partnership with the Directorate of Naval Recruiting to include Sea Cadet leaflets in their careers packs. Results of the recently completed survey, in which over 1,000 questionnaires were distributed to

units throughout the UK, are now being computer analysed by social science researcher Dr Barbara Scott at Hertfordshire University. Already revealed is the fact that 83 per cent believe Sea Cadet training will enhance their career prospects – and 70 per cent tell their friends they are Cadets.

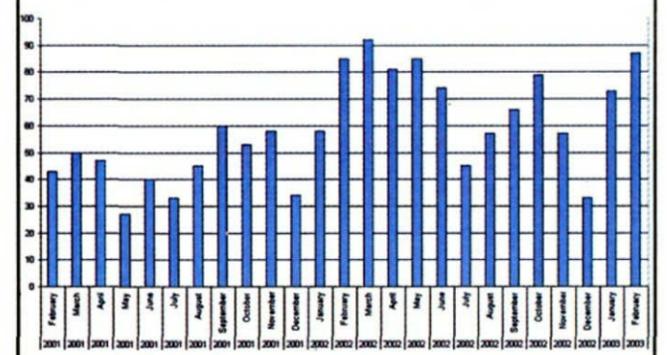
Said Dr Scott: "The feedback

from the website is spectacular and just goes to show how young people receive their information these days.

"Schools, libraries and Internet cafes are web-enabled and, as the figures prove, effective use of a website can deliver the goods."

Check [www.sea-cadets.org](http://www.sea-cadets.org) for more details.

### Sea Cadet Online recruiting Feb 01 – Feb 03





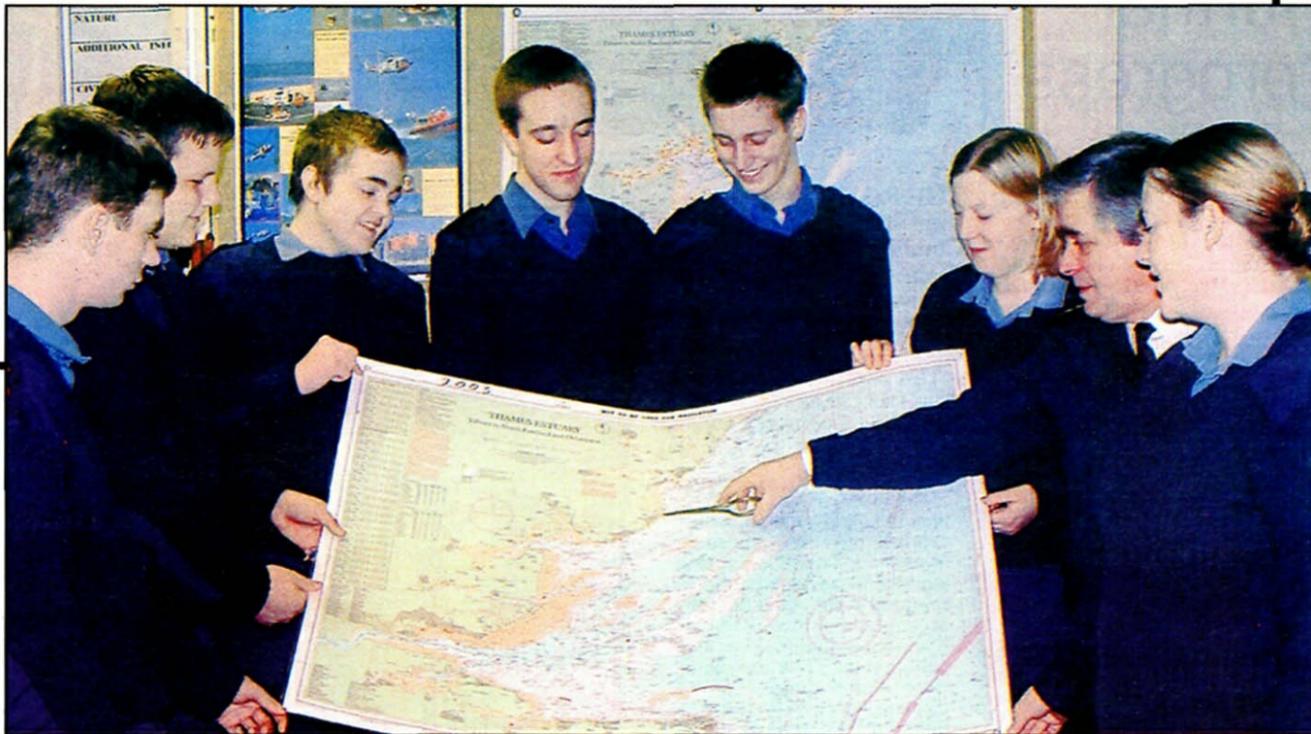
# Watch out for those sandbanks!

LONDON Area Sea Cadets from TS *Illustrious* have been studying for their first qualification to enable them to take command of a small vessel.

The 18-week RYA Day Skipper Course is run at the Marine Coastguard Agency building at Walton on the Naze by volunteer staff from the offshore training school TS *Rebel*.

Here local volunteer instructor PO(SCC) David Kidney points out the area of sandbanks in the Thames Estuary to a group of Walton Cadets.

With him (left to right) are L/C Euan Wilkinson, A/C Daniel Cowler, A/C James Holby, PO Cadet James Monk, PO Cadet Ian Offord, O/C Lily Lawes and PO Cadet Laura Holby.



## LEEDS SENDS A LEAFY TRIBUTE

LEEDS Unit with their Lord Mayor Cllr Bryan North and his wife Celine display the wreath the city sent to HMS *Ark Royal*, its affiliated ship. It was cast over the wreck of the World War II carrier *Ark Royal*, sunk off the coast of Spain on November 14, 1941, as her successor steamed to the Middle East (see March edition).



## Smiles for a 'first' Down South

THE SMILES say it all - Cadets of TS *Endurance*, the Falkland Islands Unit, are seen having just received the news that they have been awarded their first efficiency pennant.

With them is Lt Cdr Ian Burdeyron-Dyster from the Sea Cadets Training Centre at HMS *Excellent*, visiting the world's most remote unit to conduct a Sea Cadet Instructors Qualifying Course.

## Gordon shows more merit

ADDED to Lt Cdr Gordon Swan's 1994 Commendation for Meritorious Service to the Royal Naval Auxiliary Service comes another for his work with the Sea Cadet Corps.

It was presented to the District Officer for Teeside in the Northern Area by the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, Lord Crathorne.





## Boxing trio make further progress

THE NAVY'S three Inter-Services champions moved a step closer to this year's National ABA championships by reaching the All-England semi-finals.

The first of the Navy's Three Musketeers into the ring was OM Shaun 'Mac Attack' Macdonald, who used all his speed and punching power to stop the Eastern/Home Counties champion.

Heavyweight Mne Mick 'The Irish Hammer' O'Connell put in a captain's performance by out-pointing his opponent with fast, accurate jabs and deft rear hands.

The last member of the trio into the limelight was OM Neil 'Bazooka' Suka, who fired off blistering combinations to the body and head of his opponent.

A vicious left hook to the jaw in the second round saw the Eastern/Home Counties champion fall heavily, and Neil went on to take a points decision.

Scottish internationals Mne Jim 'The Thin Destroyer' Cusick and Mne Kev 'The Baby-Faced Assassin' Green are ready for their assault on the Scottish title.

Both boxers have been training hard and are confident of clinching national titles.

Navy boxing coach POPT Q Shillingford said: "The Royal Navy boxing team fly the flag for Navy sport at a national level all over Great Britain.

"I have had national coaches of England, Scotland and now Wales contacting me with reference to the boxers on the Navy team.

"As their coach, I am very proud of their achievements. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all ships and units for their continuing support of Navy boxing in releasing the fighters so that sport in the Navy can reach national and international levels."

In three years Q has built a team from basics to national standard, and now the squad is benefiting from a completely refurbished gym at HMS Nelson in Portsmouth - sponsorship from Maximuscle has provided £4,000 of new kit, equipment and team strips, while Versacimber UK supplied the squad with new track-suits.

Q said: "It is important that a team looks the part and feels the part to achieve the results."

## Scottish fighters take prizes

SIX RN and RM boxers from HMS Naval Base Clyde have returned to Scotland after a very successful foray south for the Navy Cup boxing championships.

Under trainer POPT Steve Losh, the squad came away from HMS Collingwood with a clutch of trophies and the runners-up title.

Royal Marines Chris Forster, Stuart Giles, Gareth Goddard and Lee Haggerty, plus MEM Nick Keay and OM Trig Yeardeley, made up the first full-strength Scottish boxing squad for some years, as Faslane has usually been forced to chop and change because of operational commitments.

Steve Losh was assisted by civilian coach Barry Winters, and the squad was formed in October 2002 to allow plenty of preparation.

As well as taking a creditable second place overall out of ten teams, three of the Clyde squad - who all work for the Fleet Protection Group RM - collected individual trophies.

Novices middleweight Mne Stuart Giles was runner-up; intermediate middleweight Mne Gareth Goddard won, and in a special novice middleweights contest, Mne Chris Forster also won.

# Marathon team win top Service award

THE ROYAL Navy marathon team has won the Combined Services Sports Team of the Year title, and received their award from the Princess Royal at a ceremony in London.

This award recognises the team's very successful results at the highest level over a number of years both in the UK and abroad.

However, the highlight was the 2002 season, which started in the London Marathon, where outstanding individual performances resulted in the team not only scooping the Inter-Services title once again, but also securing a silver medal in the National Marathon Team Championship, beating a host of top civilian clubs from across the UK.

The RN ladies' team then went on to win the team event in the Plymouth Half Marathon, while the men took gold in the Bristol Half Marathon.

The climax to the season came in the Washington DC Marathon,



Members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines marathon team chat to the Princess Royal after receiving the Combined Services Sports Team of the Year award

the fourth largest in the United States which attracts around 20,000 athletes from more than 30 countries.

With all three Royal Navy scoring runners in the first 22 runners home, the team came second,

showing their outstanding strength at the highest level of international competition.

Incorporated in the Washington race is the annual competition which the RN has against the US Marine Corps - and needless to

say, the Navy continued their unbeaten run of victories which started in 1998.

If you would like to get involved in a winning team, contact Lt Cdr Ginge Gough in HMS Temeraire on 9380 23959.

## Grand finale for ski party in Les Arcs

HEALTHY snowfalls before and during the 2003 Royal Navy Ski and Snowboarding Championships at Les Arcs in the French Alps ensured the best conditions for many years.

This was the final year in the resort - next year the show moves along the road to Les Menuires.

Despite the prevailing operational situation, about 400 serving personnel made the trip, and family and dependents raised the overall total to around the 650 mark.

With ample snow and well-groomed pistes, the first week was devoted to training at all levels.

Almost unbroken blue skies meant perfect conditions, especially for the beginners, whose total numbers over the fortnight swelled to 100 skiers and 80 boarders, with more than 100 taking part in the popular floodlit beginners' races.

The beginners bursary scheme

operated through DNPTS again proved popular, with up to 60 personnel taking advantage.

The only drawback was that training beyond the beginner level suffered slightly - options are being looked into for next year.

Conditions were again good for race week, although some heavy midweek snow did make some of the racing a little more interesting.

The Super G speed race was cancelled in the interests of safety, but organisers ran a combined command/individual race later.

The RNWSA were once again well-supported by the local Club de Sport in course-setting, gate-keeping and other key activities.

Race week involves skiing and snowboarding coupled with a Telemark event and beginners races.

Key winners in ski events were HMS Seahawk, HMS Collingwood and HMS Neptune in the major units and RMR London and RMR



The successful trio from HMS Wildfire, the Reserve Training Centre at Northwood. From left: Cas Teye-Otum (winner, ladies' basic giant slalom), Gill Niblock (winner, ladies' intermediate giant slalom) and Carol Hawes (runner-up, ladies' intermediate combined giant slalom/slalom).

Bristol in the minor section.

Entries from ships were understandably low, but teams from HMS Vengeance and Spartan/Sceptre performed well.

Top snowboarders included Simon Kirkham, Callum Docherty, Kathy Hodges and Melissa Watkin.

Individual honours in the skiing were led by Ross Barbour, returning from injury, and Carol Strong.

There were encouraging performances from Jamie Mitchell and Rachel Savage, while special mention must be made of John 'Bionic Man' Toon, Super Veteran winner.

The Telemark event was contest-

ed exclusively by Royals, with four sharing the spoils.

After the RN Championships and a further week of training, severely-depleted teams went on to Hintertglen in Austria for the Inter-Service Championships.

The men's team added three skiers to gain experience at this level, but a duty call and an injury further hampered the team, which subsequently ended a distant third.

Individually, Ross Barbour skied well in the downhill, finishing second, but an injury on the second slalom run ended his chances. He recovered well however to finish third in the Super G.

The remains of the men's team skied well, with Jamie Mitchell showing improvement.

The inexperienced RN ladies team suffered even more than the men with only four skiers available. Although event rules were adjusted to accommodate them, it was still a tall order and they finished third.

Thoughts now turn towards 2004. Information will be released in due course through DCI, signal and other means, and a Navy News article is planned to ensure as wide a catchment as possible.

## Kelly leads the way in debut race

AN outstanding half marathon debut by WSTD Kelly Wharton saw her comfortably win the Inter-Services title in the Fleet event in North Hampshire, writes Lt Cdr Ginge Gough.

In ideal conditions, and on a new, fast and relatively flat course, Kelly also led her team-mates to an emphatic win, beating off the challenge of a strong Army squad with some style.

In her first serious attempt at this distance, Kelly set off strongly in a field of more than 2,000 athletes and, maintaining a cracking pace throughout, was soon at the front of the field.

Beating several experienced and talented senior civilian athletes, Kelly finished third overall in 1h 24m, confirming her talent at distance running and natural ability and fitness, which were unaffected by her time at sea.

She has only just moved up to senior level, having recently celebrated her 20th birthday, and left the junior ranks with a creditable 24th place in the national junior cross-country championships.

Backing Kelly was a resurgent PO Lindsey Gannon, who took bronze with an impressive time of 1h 26m after a long lay-off through surgery on a serious knee injury.

In the men's race, Mne Wayne Dasher came 5th overall in 1h 11m - and took a silver in the Inter-Services race, good preparation for his debut in the Flora London Marathon, which is also hosting the Inter-Services event.

## Tough going for weakened running teams

THE Navy cross-country team was not just up against the elements and a tough, twisting course in the Inter-Services championships.

Operational commitments, injury and flu cut a swathe through the teams, with five of the top senior male runners lost as well as almost half the veterans team.

But Maj John Rye typified the gritty attitude of the Navy, making a mockery of his pre-race form to storm round rainswept Tweseldown racecourse and take his third title in his ninth year as a veteran.

He and two Navy colleagues, Lt Cdr Dai Roberts and Lt Graeme Riley contested the first lap with a trio of RAF runners, but it was left to Rye to reel in the RAF runner after a mid-race break for glory, and go on to gold, Riley and Roberts picked up fifth and six places respectively.

The Army ladies took all six top places, but Lt Cdr Wendy Scott ran a strong race to lead the Navy team into second place - WSTD Kelly Wharton managed ninth, POWTR Vicki Norton tenth and POPT Belinda Fear 11th.

The Army also dominated the junior men's race, but once again the Navy ran as a group to take second. Mne Downing was first Navy runner home in fourth place, with MID Jonathan Wright a surprise contender in eighth - he had been nominated running reserve.

Mne Wayne Dasher led the men's senior team effort, finishing sixth, while POPT Sean Childs managed 14th, while less than 20 seconds separated Sean and sixth runner home PO Pete Waumsley in 20th. In between were Cpl Pete Belcher (16th), POPT Mick Breed (17th) and Cpl Brian Stokes (19th).

The loss of key runners consigned the Navy men to third spot. B/Cpl Tim Watson comfortably beat fellow Royal Wayne Dasher to the RN title at HMS Raleigh, with Lt Cdr Wendy Scott running a fine tactical race to beat POPT Belinda Fear in the women's race.

The Royal Marines took the men's team title, with Plymouth Command the top women's team.

For a full report, see Navy News Online at [www.navynews.co.uk](http://www.navynews.co.uk)

## Pompey go gold at Dartmouth



Action from the Holt Cup at Dartmouth

FICKLE winds, fierce tides and a crowded course provided an interesting challenge for competitors in the Inter-Command two-boat team dinghy racing championship.

A total of 15 teams gathered at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, to test their skills in a flotilla of college RS 200s and Bosuns, with college River Staff and Young Officers providing vital support.

A two-league system of 48 races on the first day provided six-strong Gold and Silver Fleets - the three top teams in each league went gold, with the next three silver. Naval Air Command A, BRNC B and Plymouth went out of the Holt Cup competition at this stage.

Among the 30 races on the second day was a Gold Fleet title-decider between Fleet and Portsmouth A, both previously unbeaten - a tactical battle which went the way of Portsmouth, and with it the title.

In the Silver Fleet Scotland A, BRNC and the Royal Marines all beat the other three teams but lost once to each other, resulting in a three-way tie.

For full details, see Navy News Online at [www.navynews.co.uk](http://www.navynews.co.uk)



## Yachting berths up for grabs

A NUMBER of sail training exercises in the coming weeks offer the opportunity for Naval personnel to get a taste for yachting, both coastal and offshore.

Exercise Scotwest 2003 takes place from June to September, consisting of 15 legs, each of seven days duration.

Contessa 38 yacht HMSTC Gawaine will be used on trips between Ardfern and the Kyles of Lochalsh in the Western Isles, among the finest yachting areas in Europe.

The exercise is aimed at those who wish to get in some training, to build up experience, or for those who simply enjoy sailing in the area.

For more details, see DCI JS 27/03.

A more challenging trip is provided by Exercise Atlantic Challenge 2003, a transatlantic sailing expedition which leaves Gosport early this month and arrives in Boston in May, with the return leg reaching the UK by the end of next month.

This trip is not open to complete beginners or those with very limited experience.

Further details are in DCI JS 29/03.

Exercise Iberian Watch 2003-4 will be mainly based in Barcelona with trips of up to two weeks in duration.

Delivery legs run from early May to early July, and after the Barcelona-based expeditions the return voyage runs from early September next year, getting back to the UK in October. Details are available in DCI JS 30/03.

Exercise St Petersburg 300 sees a yacht sail to the Baltic to join the anniversary celebrations for the Russian city.

The exercise starts at the end of this month and returns to the UK in July, taking in four legs. See DCI JS 31/03.

Finally, Exercise Spotted Dog 2003 caters for members of the Armed Forces in the former Yugoslavia, using Brac as a base. See DCI JS 32/03 for further details.

## Whites time for cricketers

WITH the sun creeping out and the evenings getting longer, the smell of cut grass heralds another new cricket season.

It might be a touch early for actually being outside, but the Royal Navy squad has already started pre-season training at the Somerset Cricket School of Excellence at the County Ground in Taunton.

There are two sides this year – the full representative side, captained by Lt Justin Matthews (HMS Dryad) and the Under 25s, managed by Rev John Morris (Flag Officer Sea Training).

Both have full fixture lists; the Under 25s starting with trials on May 29 with a further nine matches, and the Rep side starting on May 11 with a further 14 matches.

With current operational events being as interesting as they are, there are many opportunities for new and unseen players to show their worth and potentially become regular squad members and represent their Service.

Anyone interested in playing should contact their PT staff or Lt Cdr David Cooke RN (Secretary RNCC) on 9380 23741 – this is your chance to get noticed and, who knows, be on the next overseas tour playing cricket.



● OM Lyndsey Thorburn (right) competes in her first championships within weeks of taking up judo

## Top man trains RN judo team

MEMBERS of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Judo Association recently attended an intensive three days training session with former World and European champion Neil Adams.

The RNJA were hosted by Long Eaton Judo Club, which not only provided the facilities but also training partners to add to the variety of opposition.

Most notable improvement was made by OM Lyndsey Thorburn, of HMS Collingwood, who only started judo three weeks before the training weekend.

The following weekend saw Lyndsey enter her first championships.

Anyone interested in Navy judo should contact CPO John Thacker on 01743 361214.

## Army get real scare at rackets contest

NAVY players came close to breaking the Army's usual dominance of the three-day Combined Services Tennis and Rackets competition at Queen's Club, London.

Real tennis is the original version of lawn tennis, as played by Tudor royalty, and there are few courts in the world – 26 in the UK, three in France, ten in the USA and six in Australia.

Rackets is similar to squash but played on a much larger court with a ball that resembles a solid table-tennis ball. It is considered the fastest racket-and-ball game in the world.

In the rackets semi-final, S/Lt Oliver Craven, an Anthropology student at University College, London, defeated the Combined Services champion, Capt Paul Tennant (Army Air Corps) 15-10, 15-13, 12-15, 15-10.

An hour later, in the final he lost an epic five-game marathon to Lt Christian Barker (Royal Signals) 15-6, 15-2, 10-15, 11-15, 12-15.

In the Real Tennis singles which, like the Rackets singles, is only open to serving members of the Armed Forces, Oliver made smooth progress to the semi-finals before losing 8-3 to the 2001 champion Maj Andrew James (Grenadier Guards).

Oliver then teamed up with Cdr (rtd) Simon de Halpert for the tennis doubles, the main event of the championships, and defeated the former champions in the quarter-finals by 16-8 before being edged out 10-8 in the semis.

Prizes were presented by Prince Edward, an enthusiastic Real Tennis player and occasional competitor in the Combined Services Real Tennis doubles.

## As you were

TEAMS from HM ships Drake, Neptune, Excellent and CTCRM were the semi-final survivors of the 11 teams which entered the Navy Cup squash competition.

Neptune easily beat Excellent 5-0 in the first of the final stages, hosted by HMS Temeraire, while CTCRM whitewashed a Drake side which could only muster three players on the day.

Excellent won the third place play off 3-1, with both sides fielding reduced teams, while the final was a re-run of last year.

The Royals got off to a good start when Maj Stuart James beat POPT Jason Wallace, but they then lost their way and Neptune retained the John Jaques trophy 4-1.

# Rugby Lions tamed as crucial fixture looms

A VICTORY at National First Division side Rugby Lions is a measure of the standard that RN rugby has reached at this stage of the season.

Although the Lions are at the foot of the table, it was just the fillip the Senior Service needed as the climax to the season draws near.

Prior to the Lions fixture the Navy had taken a mauling from Cambridge University at Burnaby Road, the visitors winning 54-3, although there were good points to the performance of the young home team, again badly affected by cover for striking firemen and deployments to the Middle East.

Of particular note was the amount of cohesion in a much-changed side, and the enthusiasm of several Academy players who were looking to make a mark before the Twickenham fixture against the Army on May 3.

But the game at Rugby was an entirely different affair.

The lessons of two heavy defeats by Oxford and Cambridge Universities prompted the Navy to play quality rugby, and it was the defence that shone in the early stages as the first quarter brought no score, despite Lions pressure.

The first try of the match came

when a Navy scrum was used to launch a fluent attack by centre Dave Jones and winger James Hearsey, while second-row Glen Cavanagh took the big hits before spreading the ball to Jones and winger Chas Channing, who stormed over in the corner for an unconverted try.

With Jon Over notching a penalty just before the break, the Navy led 8-3 at half-time. The second half was dominated by the Dark Blues, who spent much of the time camped in the home team's half of the pitch.

With the forwards working hard, particularly flankers Jerrold and Marc Salama, and second row powerhouse Cavanagh, hooker Logie Baird scored on 48 minutes, converted by Over, and on 75 minutes full back Lee Colgate took a high ball and ran out of defence before feeding replacement winger Richard Neve.



● Eyes on the prize – Army captain Cpl Mal Roberts (RTC) and his Navy counterpart, PO Nick Bartlett (HMS Flying Fox), with the trophy which is up for grabs. For tickets to the Army v Navy game on May 3, call 0870 444 6633

He ran 30 yards at speed through heavy traffic to set up a ruck which rumbled on a further ten yards to win a penalty as Lions hands went in.

Replacement No 8 Dan Parkes took it quickly to drive over for another converted try, giving the Navy a 22-10 victory.

■ The RN squad will be continuing a precedent set last year with a game against the Irish Defence

Forces over the weekend of March 29-30.

Last year saw the Irish beat the Navy by one point during the weekend that England played Ireland at Twickenham; now the Irish have invited the Navy to Dublin to play on March 29 – and provided the touring party with tickets for what is being billed as the Six Nations Grand Slam decider.

# Schools respond to Navy man's initiative

AN IDEA by a Navy man to boost attendance at the Army vs Navy match at Twickenham has grown into a nationwide competition which brings rugby to schools with no tradition in the game.

The National Emerging Schools Festival has its roots in an idea by Commodore Jeff Blackett.

It originated more than six years ago, and started as a Southern Region festival of rugby for emerging state schools, before rapidly expanding into a national project and grass roots rugby initiative involving Under 12 and Under 13 boys and girls.

Sponsored by the Daily Telegraph and organised by a combination of the Army and RN Rugby Unions and the RFU, the event has gained a reputation for being well organised and popular.

The Army or Navy provide the chairmanship of the organising committee on a two-year rotational basis, with Cdr Andy Basson, currently at HMS Sultan, having the lead for the Navy.

A number of regional development officers (RDOs) from the RFU contribute to the festival, including CPOPTI Mal Chumbley.

The festivals have now seen more than 2,000 schools introduced to rugby, and last season more than 20,000 children participated in regional festivals, with 96 teams converging on Staines and Richmond for the final stages.

One team from London played in plimsolls and a less-than-pristine kit, and lost their first four games without scoring, but when they registered a try in their final game it was as if they had won the World

Cup; high fives and hugs all round. Conversely, a school from the wealthy suburbs in Kent were in new strips with players name printed on the backs.

The contrasts were evident at a distance, but all were playing the same game against each other in the true spirit of sportsmanship.

The main focus of the event is to enhance understanding of the game, and to develop attitudes to fair play; Fair Play trophies are awarded, which are seen as just as important as winning games.

The campaign started in November with some 60 feeder competitions featuring 28,000 pupils from schools that do not play rugby regularly, or have never played rugby.

The 12 regional festivals took place last month, with winners booking places for the finals.

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# WAR ON SADDAM

● From page one

Marines were reported to have died when an American helicopter crashed in northern Kuwait. They were the first British casualties of the war.

The veteran CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter, used by the US Marine Corps, was said to have been undertaking a routine transfer of British personnel when it came down not far from the Iraqi border. Iraqi claims that they had shot down the aircraft were denied by Allied sources.

Early on, troops from 40 Cdo RM were involved in an amphibious assault on the Al-Faw peninsula – the narrow strip of coastline which gives Iraqi access to the Gulf.

The area is of prime strategic importance to post-war plans, as oil produced in the region is piped to the peninsula through manifolds which feed offshore installations, providing a vital source of revenue for the country.

This revenue forms a key plank in the rebuilding strategy after the military phase of the campaign to remove Saddam Hussein.

In the last Gulf War in the early 1990s, oil wells in the area were set alight and the manifolds sabotaged, pouring crude oil into the Gulf and causing massive pollution in the region.

An early objective of the assault on the peninsula was to prevent similar damage. This was accomplished with no British casualties and little environmental damage.

## The Commanding Officer

of 40 Cdo, Lt Col Gordon Messenger, also said that upward of 60 prisoners of war were taken as his men faced light resistance.

The first main land assault, backed by missiles and artillery, began with British submarine-launched Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAMs) fired at Iraqi targets.

Ships of the Royal Navy's Amphibious Task Group in the Northern Arabian Gulf were used as one of the platforms for the air and sea assault on the Al-Faw peninsula – other elements of 40 Cdo were flown in by helicopter from Kuwait – and the MOD also confirmed that the assault was backed by naval gunfire support from RN ships.

□ The Queen sent a message of support to her Armed Forces and civilian personnel in the Gulf, expressing her pride in them and her confidence in their professionalism and commitment.

# Cornwall heads up alliance force

**HMS CORNWALL has sailed for a six-month deployment as the flagship of a NATO Task Force operating in the war on terror in the Mediterranean.**

The Type 22 frigate will work alongside navies of Denmark, Germany, Portugal, Spain and the USA as part of the Naval Task Group Standing Naval Force Atlantic (STANAVFORLANT).

Her ship's company recently completed operational sea training as part of routine work following a maintenance period in Devonport.

In February she sailed briefly as an escort for the Naval Task

Group heading for the Gulf. Her maintenance programme included an upgrade of her communications capability.

Commanding Officer of HMS Cornwall Capt Simon Charlier said: "I am delighted to be working with our NATO partners and honoured that Cornwall is flagship of the group unit under the command of Cdre Richard Ibbotson.

"The ship's company have had a very busy time preparing for this deployment. I know they will rise to whatever challenges lie ahead."

**STANAVFORLANT was formed in Portland in 1968 as the world's first permanent international force in peacetime.**

Its ships are contributed by any of the member nations of NATO to patrol the 12 million square miles of the North Atlantic shipping lanes, demonstrating in tangible form the unity and common purpose of the NATO alliance.

Overall command of the force

is exercised by the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic at Norfolk, Virginia.

The task of the force has been likened to that of a policeman on the beat: he harms no one but is a deterrent to wrongdoers.

## Delicate touch

**A SEA KING of 846 Sqn touches her back wheel down during mountain flying in the Cairngorms while detached to RM Condor.**



## Neptune and Old Nick . . .

**DEVILISH LCHEF Brian Mathieson borrowed a trident from HMS Neptune to persuade fellow cook LCHEF Steve Cadwell of HMS Brecon to part with his cash for Red Nose Day.**

The other gentle persuaders in the picture at HM Naval Base Clyde are Andrew Ferguson (left) and Pamela Torrens.

## Centenary Band show opens

**TO MARK** the 100th anniversary of the Royal Marines Band Service, a special exhibition opens at the RM Museum, Portsmouth on April 15.

On show will be uniforms, instruments and equipment usually hidden away in the Museum's stores.

Also on display will be the Silver Memorial Drums and Fanfare Trumpets, the official Band Service memorials for the world wars.

They will be joined, for the first time in almost 40 years, by the 32 Silver Bugles that are the World War I memorial to officers of the Corps.

These were only ever played by Royal Marine Buglers.

Photographs and pictures will be supplemented by the work of

artists and extra associated events.

## End of era as Triumph fires final Tigerfish

**HMS TRIUMPH** has conducted the final Mk24 Tigerfish firing on the British Underwater Test and Evaluation Centre (BUTEC) range in Scotland.

The heavyweight wire-guided weapon, which has been the Submarine Service's primary torpedo for nearly 25 years, is in process of being superseded by Spearfish.

Triumph also discharged five exercise RN Sub Harpoon missiles as part of her work-up package.

Building on a base of safety training, the boat has honed her inshore navigation and intelligence gathering skills along with developing her Tomahawk Land Attack Missile expertise.

# TWILIGHT OF THE SCHARNHORSTS

**MEMBERS** of the Scharnhorst Association will hold their final reunion at Wilhelmshaven on October 9-12, marking the 60th anniversary of her destruction at the Battle of North Cape on Boxing Day, 1943.

And the Bordkameradschaft Scharnhorst is pleased to invite all British veterans of the battle to attend. Contact John Wass on 0115 9663314 for details.

Britain's last battleship action was to a large degree one of the first of the electronic era, radar playing a vital role in locating the enemy in Arctic darkness and winter weather.

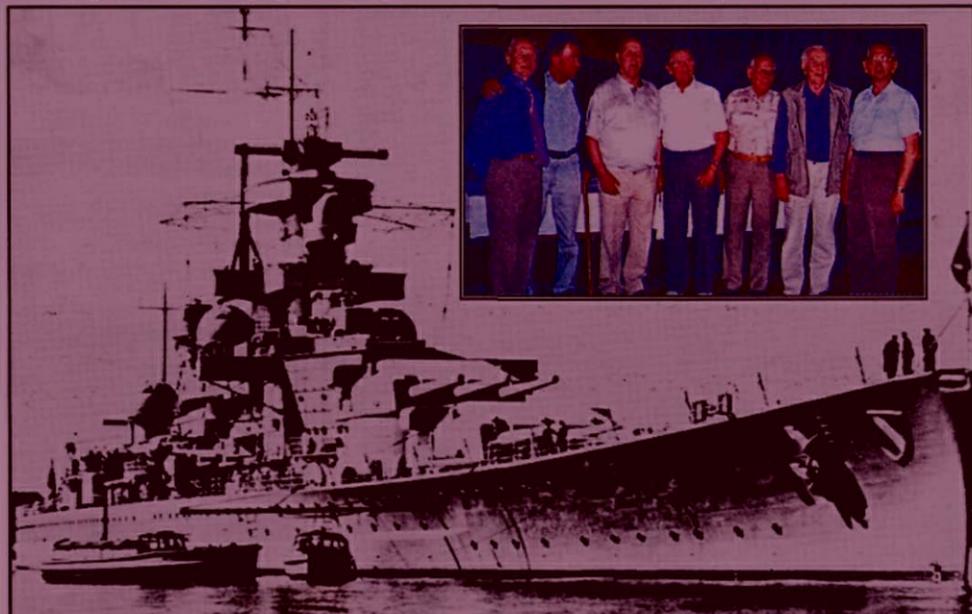
There were only 36 survivors out of Scharnhorst's complement of nearly 2,000, of which 12 are believed still alive. She

was regarded as the German Navy's happiest and most effective surface warship and was a significant threat to the Allies' link with Russia.

Among the ships ranged

against her in her final fight – in which only six British seamen were killed – was the cruiser HMS Belfast, now preserved in London by Tower Bridge.

● Scharnhorst at her moorings at Kiel with (inset) some of the last survivors pictured in 2002 with one of their rescuers, John Wass (left), ex-HMS Scorpion



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ARMY v NAVY  
TWICKENHAM**

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**ORDERS RECEIVED BEFORE 11 APRIL WILL BE READY FOR TWICKENHAM**



# YOUNG READERS CLUB

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH  
www.navynews.co.uk/youngreaders youngreaders@navynews.co.uk

## Here comes the Navy of the future...

You may not realise it but right now is a hugely exciting time for the Navy because we've got loads of new ships and aircraft being built and designed.

Some of them are just coming into service with the Navy, but others we won't see for another ten years.

If you want to find out what's coming up, read on...

## Facts and figures

The Navy's new aircraft carriers will be 290 metres in length. That's the same distance as 12 tennis courts laid end to end!

Their displacement - that's the amount of water that gets pushed out the way when the ship is floating - will be 60,000 tonnes. That's a whole lot of water.

What that means is they'll be three times as big as our current aircraft carriers HMS Ark Royal, Invincible and Illustrious.

These massive carriers will be the home for up to 48 aircraft, and these could be aeroplanes or helicopters.

The Merlin helicopter that is already in service with the Royal Navy will be flying from these next-generation ships.

The other aircraft that hasn't even been built yet is the Joint Combat Aircraft, also called the F35.

These stealthy little aircraft will have a wingspan that stretches to almost 11 metres and will be over 15 metres long.

That's just a bit shorter than the length of the lane when you go ten-pin bowling.



## Supersonic jets will take your breath away

This is a picture of a prototype for a new aircraft that will join the Navy in 2012.

This aeroplane will fly from the Royal Navy's future carriers and is known by two names, the Joint Combat Aircraft (JCA) or the F35.

They are different to the Sea Harriers that we fly right now because they have supersonic speed and can be stealthy, to avoid

detection by enemies.

This is a STOVL aircraft - do you know what that stands for? Short Take Off and Vertical Landing.

OK, so what does that mean? Take a look at the picture of the future carrier on the top left of the page.

You can see the deck is painted with a short runway that leads to a little slope - that's called a 'ski jump' in the Navy. So that's the take-off.

And to land, just like the Sea Harriers, the JCA will be able to hover alongside the carrier, then slowly drop itself down on to the deck.

The helicopter in this picture is a Merlin. They have just entered service with the Navy, and will be flying for many years to come.

# Bigger and better than any before

The new aircraft carriers that are being designed will be the biggest warships ever built in the UK.

They are in the process of being designed right now, and the Ministry of Defence is working in alliance with BAE Systems and Thales to produce the best carrier we can get.

There will be two carriers, but the new ships won't join the Navy for some time to come.

The first one is expected to arrive in 2012, and the second one three years later.

We don't even know their names yet, but it is exciting to guess. Traditional carrier names include HMS Eagle - but no one knows!

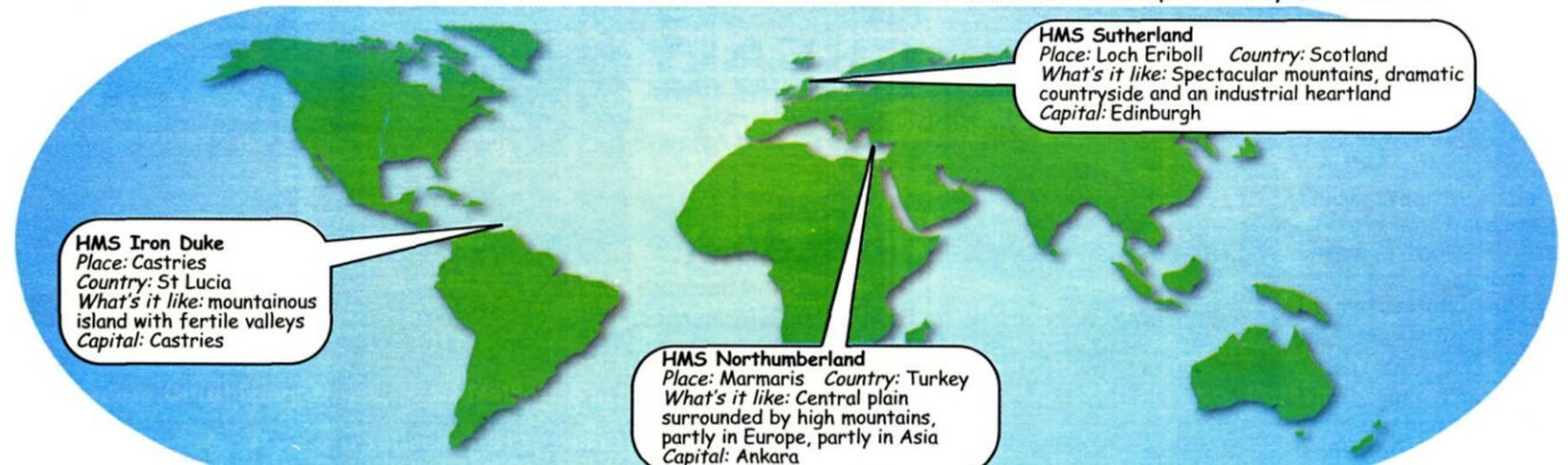


## why

is the Navy sometimes called 'The Andrew'? Because there was a very keen Press Gang officer called Andrew Miller who 'recruited' by force so many men into the Navy that people said it was practically his own Service.

## Where in the world...?

Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships have been travelling all around the world for the past few months. Here are a few of the places they have visited...



**HMS Sutherland**  
Place: Loch Eriboll Country: Scotland  
What's it like: Spectacular mountains, dramatic countryside and an industrial heartland  
Capital: Edinburgh

**HMS Iron Duke**  
Place: Castries  
Country: St Lucia  
What's it like: mountainous island with fertile valleys  
Capital: Castries

**HMS Northumberland**  
Place: Marmaris Country: Turkey  
What's it like: Central plain surrounded by high mountains, partly in Europe, partly in Asia  
Capital: Ankara

Sorry for any confusion last month, folks, Cape Town really is the capital of South Africa, but so are Pretoria and Bloemfontein - it's just one of them is legislative, one is administrative and the last one is judicial. Three capitals is just a little bit complicated...

# club zone

We've had loads of letters from our members, telling us about the great stuff they've been up to. But we're greedy here at Young Readers, and we want more! So write in to us, ask questions, send us your drawings. Don't forget, this is your club.

Dear Young Readers Club

Thank you for the family ticket to see Cinderella at the Mayflower theatre. It was the first time that I had been to see a pantomime and I enjoyed it very much. I took my big sister and my mummy and daddy.

I liked Cinderella and Buttons best and shouting for Willy to wake up. I was amazed to see the Fairy Godmother flying through the air. I also liked the animals in the forest.

I liked it so much, that I have asked mummy and daddy to take me to the theatre again to see a pantomime another time.

Yours truly,  
Kerenza Pegg, Age 4, Mem No: 2924

Dear Young Readers Club

I went to Navy Days with my nanny, my papa and my cousin Luke. I went on three Navy ships and had candy floss, a toy submarine and a pasty. We saw the tattoo, the police men with the police dogs and lots of Air shows. We saw men jumping out of a helicopter and all the men didn't land on the cross and one of the men went straight into the fence.

I entered two competitions and won one. I won tickets to Crealy Adventure Park in Devon. My dad, mum and sister took me there and we had a good time. I have sent you some photos.

Thank you Navy News  
From Kieran Townsend, Age 7, Mem No: 2894

We also got letters from Tom France and David Callaby thanking us for the tickets we sent them for Butlins in Bognor Regis. Glad to hear you both had such lovely days.

Charlotte Mason wrote in to tell us what a fantastic day she had at Drayton Manor and the exciting ride she and her sister Laura had on the Stormforce 10 ride.

Hello to Megan Cox whose mum wrote to us on her behalf to thank us for the Noddy video she won.

Thanks to Karyn and Gavin MacKenzie for the photos they sent us, we like finding out what you all look like. Well done to Karyn for winning our Kingfisher books competition.



Chloe Martin wrote to us to tell us about her new pet rabbits. Her letter is one we have featured on our new look website.

Alastair Warner sent us this brilliant photo of the Royal Navy Rescue helicopter that landed in his back garden. He even went up in it with the local Sea Cadets. Alastair is the one with the hat on!

We have also got an email from Lee Jowle one of the winners of our Mountain Board competition in December's issue. Hope you are being careful Lee!



# Right here, right now

HMS Albion, the new amphibious assault ship, will arrive at Plymouth Naval Base soon.

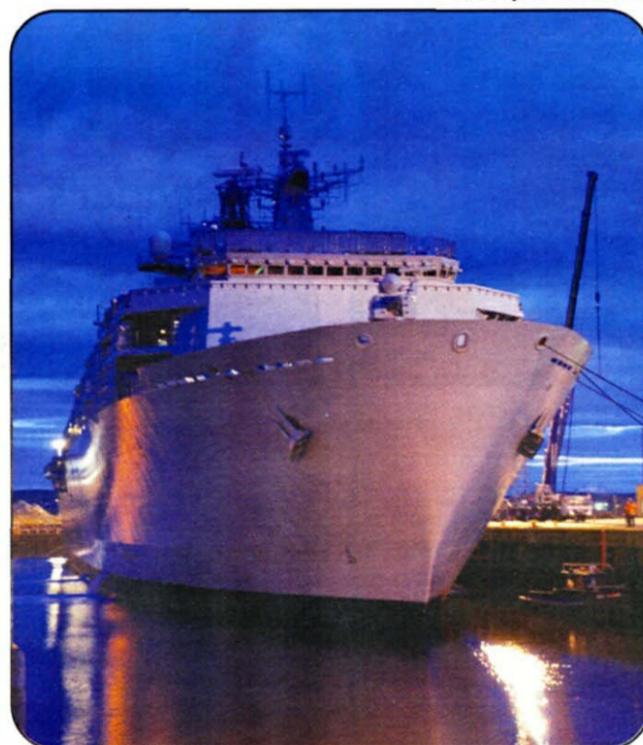
Assault ships are designed to help fight battles near the shore-lines of enemy countries. Assault ships like Albion have two main roles. Helicopters can take off and land on the two landing spots on her flight deck.

And in the belly of the ship is a dock. The ship

can let down its stern gate to become a floating harbour, and Royal Marines climb into their landing craft and rush to the shore.

Albion's sister ship HMS Bulwark is still being built and will join Albion when she is ready.

Albion will also be able to work as a command and control ship, so Naval officers can keep a close eye on a battle.



# 2003 members discounts

We at the Young Readers Club know you love going on days out - so we have arranged for some fantastic discounts for you. Just cut out the voucher and take it to the attraction along with your membership card. If you do not want to cut up your precious copy of Navy News, visit our website on the Internet at [www.navynews.co.uk/youngreaders](http://www.navynews.co.uk/youngreaders) and you will be able to print out the vouchers.

**THE BOAT MUSEUM**  
The Waterways Trust  
The Boat Museum

**DISCOUNT:**  
20% off admission with membership card

South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 4FW  
Tel: 0151 355 5071  
[www.boatmuseum.org](http://www.boatmuseum.org)

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

**BRITAIN AT WAR EXPERIENCE**  
Winston Churchill's  
BRITAIN AT WAR EXPERIENCE

**DISCOUNT:**  
One FREE child admission when accompanied by a full paying adult or concession

Voucher does not apply when group rates are in force. A child is aged between 5-15 years.

64-66 Tooley Street, London Bridge, London  
Tel: 020 7403 3171  
[www.britainatwar.co.uk](http://www.britainatwar.co.uk)

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

**CUTTY SARK**

THE WORLD'S ONLY SURVIVING TEA CLIPPER

**DISCOUNT:**  
20% discount off the standard entry price to Clipper ship Cutty Sark on production of this voucher

King William Walk, Greenwich SE10 9BG  
Tel: 020 8858 3445  
[www.cuttysark.org.uk](http://www.cuttysark.org.uk)

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

COMBE MARTIN  
**WILDLIFE AND DINOSAUR PARK**

**DISCOUNT:**  
One FREE child with 2 full paying adults

Combe Martin, North Devon EX34 0NG  
Tel: 01271 882486  
[www.dinosaur-uk.com](http://www.dinosaur-uk.com)

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

**BROOKLANDS MUSEUM**  
THE Spirit of BROOKLANDS

**DISCOUNT:**  
£1 discount per person

Brooklands Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0QD  
Tel: 01932 857381  
[www.brooklandsmuseum.com](http://www.brooklandsmuseum.com)

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

**CAPTAIN COOK BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM**

**DISCOUNT:**  
FREE child admission

Stewart Park, Marton, Middlesbrough TS7 6AS  
Tel: 01642 311211  
[www.middlesbrough.gov.uk](http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk)

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

**FIREPOWER**  
THE ROYAL ARTILLERY MUSEUM

**DISCOUNT:**  
£2.00 per child accompanied by each full paying adult

VOUCHER EXPIRES 30/08/2003

The Royal Artillery Museum, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, London SE18 6ST  
Tel: 020 8855 7755  
[www.firepower.org.uk](http://www.firepower.org.uk)

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

**THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD CHATHAM**  
The Historic Dockyard CHATHAM

where legends were created

**DISCOUNT:**  
Half price admission when accompanied by an adult, on production of voucher, valid until 28/09/2003

Chatham, Kent ME4 4TZ  
Tel: 01634 823800  
[www.chdt.org.uk](http://www.chdt.org.uk)

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

**CREALY ADVENTURE PARK**  
THE ORIGINAL Crealy ADVENTURE PARK - DEVON

**DISCOUNT:**  
FREE Superkart Race or Panning for Gold voucher (valid any morning before 12 noon during weekends or school holidays)

Sidmouth Road, Clyst St. Mary, Exeter, Devon EX5 1DR  
Tel: 01395 233200  
[www.crealy.co.uk](http://www.crealy.co.uk)

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

**DINOSAUR ISLE**  
DISCOVER, EXPERIENCE & ENCOUNTER!

**DISCOUNT:**  
One child FREE when accompanied by paying adult

Culver Parade, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 8QA  
[www.dinosaur-isle.uk.com](http://www.dinosaur-isle.uk.com)

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

**HARTLEPOOL HISTORIC QUAY**

**DISCOUNT:**  
Buy a child's ticket and get one adult admitted FREE

Jackson Dock, Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool TS24 0XZ  
Tel: 01429 860006  
[www.destinationhartlepool](http://www.destinationhartlepool)

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

**EDINBURGH ZOO**

**DISCOUNT:**  
10% off entrance fee

Edinburgh Zoo, Edinburgh EH12 6TS  
Tel: 0131 334 9171  
[www.edinburghzoo.org.uk](http://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk)

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

# Super secret, dark and deadly

This illustration, that appeared as a big poster in Navy News in November 2001, gives you a chance to look inside a submarine that is still being built.

This submarine is bigger, tougher and quieter than the current Trafalgar-class submarines.

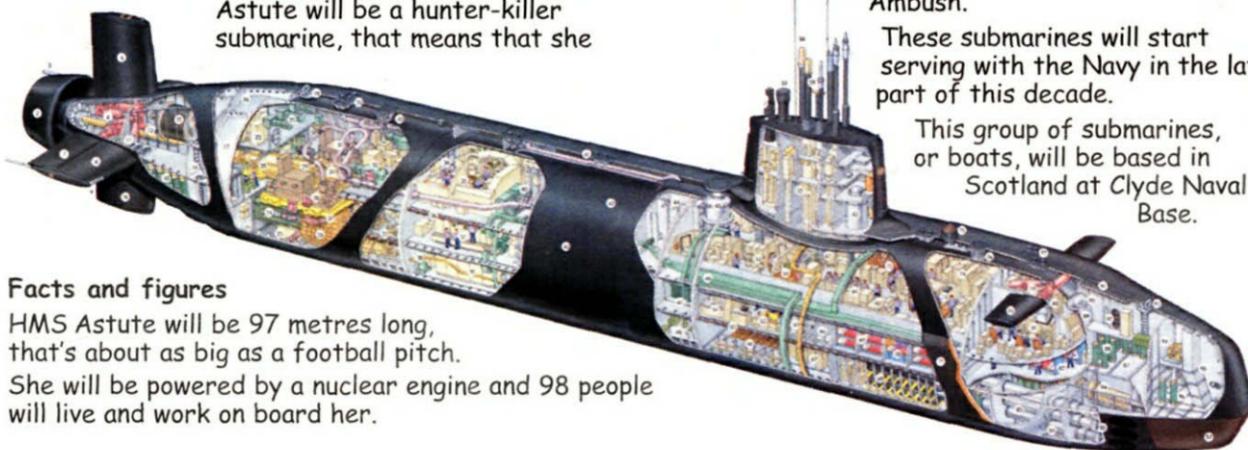
Astute will be a hunter-killer submarine, that means that she

will quietly patrol the waters around the world but is ready to leap to Britain's defence if needed.

The first of these submarines to arrive will be called HMS Astute - which is why they are the Astute-class - and the next two will be Artful and Ambush.

These submarines will start serving with the Navy in the latter part of this decade.

This group of submarines, or boats, will be based in Scotland at Clyde Naval Base.



## Facts and figures

HMS Astute will be 97 metres long, that's about as big as a football pitch.

She will be powered by a nuclear engine and 98 people will live and work on board her.

## THE FRIGATE UNICORN

The Oldest British-built Ship Afloat



### DISCOUNT:

One FREE child admission when accompanied by each full paying adult on production of this voucher or Young Readers Club Membership Card

Victoria Dock, Dundee DD1 3JA  
Tel: 01382 200900

www.frigateunicorn.org

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## HISTORIC WARSHIPS AT BIRKENHEAD

### DISCOUNT:

One FREE child with each full paying adult

West Float, Dock Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside L41 1DJ  
Tel: 0151 650 1573

www.warships.freeserve.com

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## PLEASURELAND

### DISCOUNT:

3 all day wristbands for the price of 2 (Not valid bank holiday weekends)

Pleasureland Amusement Park, Marine Drive, Southport PR8 1RX  
Tel: 08702 200204

www.pleasureland.uk.com

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## QUAYWEST

THE ENGLISH RIVIERA'S ONLY OUTDOOR WATER PARK

### DISCOUNT:

£1.00 off a day ticket

Goodrington Sands, Paignton, Devon TQ4 6LN  
Tel: 01803 550034

www.quaywest.co.uk

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

## NEWARK AIR MUSEUM



### DISCOUNT:

50p off normal admission rate to museum

The Airfield, Winthorpe Showground, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 2NY  
Tel: 01636 707170

www.newarkairmuseum.co.uk

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

## SKEGNESS NATURELAND Seal Sanctuary



### DISCOUNT:

ONE CHILD FREE when accompanied by a full paying adult

North Parade, Skegness, Lincolnshire, England PE25 1DB  
Tel/Fax: 01754 764345

www.skegnessnatureland.co.uk

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## YORKSHIRE AIR MUSEUM



### DISCOUNT:

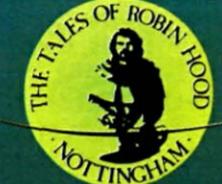
£1.50 entry into museum on production of membership card

Yorkshire Air Museum, Halifax Way, Elvington, York YO41 4AU  
Tel: 01904 608595

www.yorkshireairmuseum.co.uk

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## THE TALES OF ROBIN HOOD



### DISCOUNT:

One child FREE when accompanied by a full paying adult

30-38 Maid Marion Way, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire NG1 6GF  
Tel: 0115 9483 284

www.robinhood.uk.com

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## OCEANARIUM BOURNEMOUTH

### DISCOUNT:

£1.00 off full admission price of up to 6 adults or children on production of membership card

Pier Approach, West Beach, Bournemouth, Dorset BH2 5AA  
Tel: 01202 311993

www.oceanarium.co.uk

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

## ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINE MUSEUM

### DISCOUNT:

FREE entry on production of membership card

THE ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINE MUSEUM, Haslar Jetty Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 2AS  
Tel: 023 9251 0354

www.rnsubmus.co.uk

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

## SCOTTISH MARITIME MUSEUM



### DISCOUNT:

50% discount on a family ticket. NB: Children under 16 must be accompanied

Scottish Maritime Museum, Laird Forge, Gottries Road, Irvine, Ayrshire KA12 8QE  
Tel: 01294 278283

www.scottishmaritimemuseum.co.uk

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

## Twycross Zoo

### DISCOUNT:

1 child FREE per car on production of membership card

Twycross Zoo, Burton Road (A444), Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 3PX  
Tel: 01827 880250/880440

www.twycrosszoo.com

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street Portsmouth PO1 3HH

# club zone



## Welcome to Sea Cadets

Welcome to Chester-le-Streets Junior Sea Cadets Corps who have joined us as members of the Young Readers Club.

The unit was formed in 1943 and is celebrating its 60th birthday this year! They have been very busy lately. You can see them here making puppets they prepared for a show for their annual inspection in March.

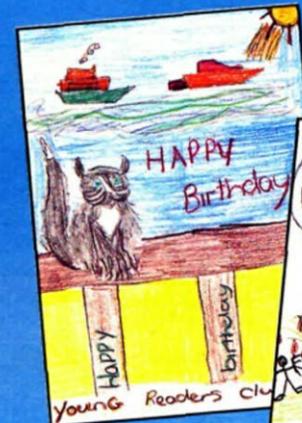
They meet every Tuesday and Wednesday evening at the unit HQ in Chester-le-Street. You might be interested in getting involved in your area. You can ring up the Sea Cadets HQ to find your local unit: 0207 928 8978.

If you are in the Sea Cadets or any other group and are interested in joining the Young Readers Club all together please contact us on 023 9273 3558 or at the usual address.

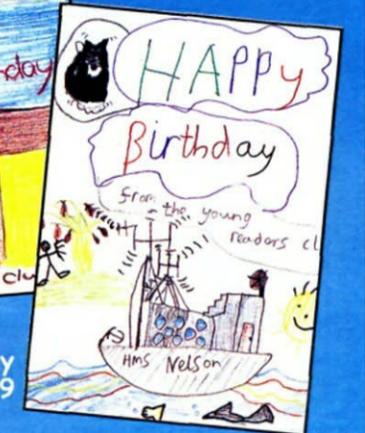
## Check out the art talent

We always knew you were a talented bunch. Just take a look at these fantastic birthday card designs that you sent in for our competition - and these are just the runners up!

The winning design will appear in next month's Navy News - and if anyone doesn't see it, well, it will be on our website in May and of course if you're in our club, you'll see it on your birthday when you get your own personal birthday card from us.



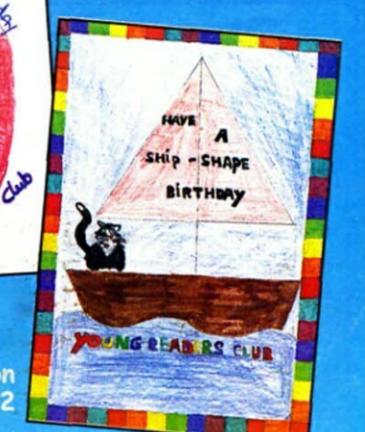
Adam Thrower Mem no. 2685



Phillip Murphy Mem no. 1209



Chloe Martin Mem no. 334



Grace Anderson Mem no. 2702

Please contact attraction before visiting. Vouchers must be presented with a valid Young Readers Club membership card. Vouchers cannot be used in conjunction with any other voucher, promotion or special offer. Vouchers cannot be exchanged for cash. The voucher must be used at time of purchase. Vouchers are valid until 31/12/2003 unless otherwise stated.  
NB: Every effort has been made to ensure the information detailed is as accurate possible prior to publication. However Navy News cannot be held responsible for errors and omissions or changes that may have occurred since publication.

## Members birthdays

Wow! What a lot of birthdays in April. We hope you all have a fantastic day:

Sabriella Boswell  
Ellen Braide  
William Child  
Ewan Christie  
Victoria Claydon  
Thomas Cooper  
Jessica Cowley  
Oliver Cox  
Reece Daffin  
Katie Davies-Gregory  
Andrew Evans  
Harrison Fay  
Jack Francis  
David Fry  
Michael Hadley  
Peter Hall  
Elisha Hayes  
Thomas Hayter  
Tahira Higma  
Robert Hockaday  
Mark Holmes  
Lauren Howell  
Sean Knox  
Alexander Laws  
Sarah Lockie  
Chloe Martin  
Kevin Moore  
Daniel Morton  
Kayleigh Phipps  
Benjamin Pitt  
Ben Pullen  
Christopher Rands  
Emma Roberts  
Kieran Robinson  
Christopher Robson  
Jack Rolinson  
Callum Rowe  
Samuel Ryan-Fecitt  
Michael Sharkey  
Danny Siggers  
Blair Smith  
Jade Stevenson  
Amiee Tait  
Alexander Trevett  
Alice Vanns  
Madelaine Watson  
Chelsea Weeks  
Samuel Whiteley  
Lewis Whitmill  
James Wilesmith  
Amy Wilkes  
Remie Woodburne

## All-new destroyer for 21st century

HMS Daring, the first of the new Type 45 destroyers being built for the Royal Navy, will be the first all-electric frontline warship in the world.

So far, six of these ultra-modern warships have been ordered for the Royal Navy. These are: Daring, Dauntless, Diamond, Dragon, Defender and Duncan.

Type 45s have got fantastic technology on board like one of the best radar in the world.

They will be able to defend groups of ships or aircraft carriers against lots of different enemy attacks.

They will also be much more comfortable to live in than the Royal Navy's current Type 42 destroyers.

HMS Daring should be finished in 2007 and the Type 45s are due to stay in service until 2040.



**what** were Nelson's last words? The popular story is that they were 'Kiss me Hardy' but in fact they weren't! He either said 'God and my country' or 'Thank God I have done my duty' but the noise of battle above was so loud, no-one could be sure. And as for 'Kiss me Hardy' some people think he said 'Kismet, Hardy' because Kismet is another word for fate or destiny.

# Spacemen land in Portsmouth!

Well, space men and women, and they're not from Mars, they're from NASA!

These are the truly brave astronauts from space mission STS-112 who flew up to the International Space Station last year.

They came to Portsmouth to visit Action Stations, the high-technology attraction at Portsmouth Naval Base that tells you all about the Royal Navy.

These astronauts flew into space in the space shuttle Atlantis, a few months before the terrible accident that saw the explosion of Columbia and the death of seven astronauts.

Five of the astronauts from STS-112 are American, one is British-born, and one is Russian.

The mission commander is Jeff Ashby and he



was a pilot in the US Navy. You never know, in time someone from the British Navy might be flying into space.

Jeff said: "Space is like an ocean, and the International Space Station is like a ship."

You can see the Space Station on their badge, and we at Young Readers were lucky enough to be given a genuine badge by Jeff Ashby as a prize.

If you want to win it, write in to the usual address and tell us why you'd like to go into space.



Pictures courtesy of NASA

## WIN AN EXTREME ENDEAVOURS PRESENTATION PACK

The heroes who climbed Mount Everest in 1953 will be celebrated on a Royal Mail First Class stamp issued on 29 April to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the conquest of the peak.

For your chance to win, send us a postcard or email with your name, address, age and membership number to the usual address



For more information on stamps, presentation packs, First Day Covers and postcards visit [www.royalmail.com](http://www.royalmail.com)

## SCREAM MACHINE!

The Outdoor Toy to have this Summer. Half BMX, half chariot trike that blends Harley Davidson styling with the speed and technology to pull awesome 360 degree spin outs.



[www.recreationplc.com](http://www.recreationplc.com)

WE HAVE ONE OF THESE FABULOUS SCREAM MACHINE WORTH £79.99 TO GIVE AWAY.

Just send a postcard send a postcard or email to us with your name, address, age and membership number to the usual address.

Normal competition rules apply.

## YOUNG READERS CLUB

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Send your completed form to the address below with a cheque or postal order for the correct amount, made payable to NAVY NEWS:

'Young Readers Club' Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH

Or for further information contact us on 023 9273 3558 or by email: [youngreaders@navynews.co.uk](mailto:youngreaders@navynews.co.uk)

You can also enrol online at [www.navynews.co.uk/youngreaders](http://www.navynews.co.uk/youngreaders) or over the phone by credit or debit cards (we accept payment by: Visa, Mastercard, Delta or Switch)

## This month

1 April 1918: The Royal Naval Air Service joined with the Army's Royal Flying Corps - and the Royal Air Force (RAF) was born

2 April 1801: Vice Admiral Lord Nelson led the attack in the First Battle of Copenhagen

2 April 1982: The Argentinians invaded the Falkland Islands

4 April 1581: Francis Drake was knighted on board his ship the Golden Hind by Queen Elizabeth I

10 April 1940: A Blackburn Skua sank the German warship Königsberg - the first ship to be sunk in action by dive bombing

12 April 1939: The WRNS or Women's Royal Naval Service formed up again to help the war effort in World War II

16 April 1953: Start to build HMY Britannia

18 April 1888: HMS Sandown, the first of the Sandown class of mine countermeasures ships was launched

24 April 1991: Royal Marines and nurses from QARNNS deployed to Turkey and then Iraq to help Kurdish refugees

25 April 1915: Troops from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed at Gallipoli; now called ANZAC Day and when the dead of both World Wars are remembered

27 April 1937: National Maritime Museum at Greenwich opened by King George VI

28 April 1789: Mutiny in HMS Bounty; Captain Bligh is set adrift with 19 men in 23-foot boat

29 April 1802: Marines first titled 'Royal Marines' by George III

## NEXT MONTH

We'll be telling you all about weather and the Royal Navy. Did you know the Navy teaches its people how to study the weather? The subject is called meteorology. And of course the Navy sails and flies through all sorts of wild weather to all sorts of places, some hot, some cold, so the weather is very very important to all our sailors.

### Competition rules:

All Young Readers Club competitions are open to readers aged 16 or under, except employees of Navy News and their families or any company associated with the competition. One entry per person. The decision of the judge is final. Full competition rules are available by contacting us at the usual address.