

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2005

SUMMER

ISSUE 9

Editor: Peter Newton, 147 Meadow Road, Worthing, West Sussex. BN11 2SA email: fawnewton@aol.com

EDITORIAL

Summer already! Well I for one, am looking forward to it, especially the warm sunny days. Alas, we all have our dreams, while I am writing this editorial, the thunder storm over Worthing is well under way among the dark and menacing clouds.

Unfortunately, not all news is good news, this month our newsletter has a few items of sad news which you will read in the obituary section. I sincerely hope this will be the last news of this kind for the rest of this year and hopefully for a few more years to come.

Our serving members have responded to our pleas of participating in the RNPA by letting us know what they are up to in the RN these days. Our thanks go to P.O. Flo Ford the Serving Members Representative for his activity in this area.

There are quite a few of you, who, like myself, are looking forward to the Malta Reunion and it seems that there will be quite a contingent of RNPA members including serving members boarding the flight to Malta in November.

I am a bit short of volunteers to provide me with a profile of their service and post service careers with relevant photographs, which will be returned promptly after scanning. So far these profiles have afforded members some interesting reading and nostalgic photographs, so come on guys and gals, start remembering and writing and dig out some of those old pix. Finally, I have included the Treasurer's address in the list of committee members on this page at the request of members who may wish to contact him from time to time.

Editor

Pete Newton

RNPA COMMITTEE

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Since handing the Malta arrangements over to the Social Secretary, who has done a good job and most of the work, I keep in touch with Stuart and the latest news is that we have another six who have booked, taking the number going to over 50. I am also in constant touch with the committee and when required, some of the members. Sadly, we have lost three members recently, Arthur Hall, Pete Batten and Stan Hough who are mentioned in the Obituary columns.

We had a good committee meeting in May and sorted out many of the items discussed, such as distribution lists, membership status, social events and of course the Reunion/AGM in Malta.

John Cunningham

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The committee met on 10th May and it was agreed to distribute the Newsletter to all on the mailing list one last time, before the new database of paid up members is to be used.

For those who are not yet up to date with their subs, you will receive a letter from the Treasurer, advising you of the amount to be paid in order to bring your subscription up to date.

Printing paper, inkjet inks, envelopes, stamps etc. all cost money, and it is not fair that the paid up members should subsidise those who are not paying their subs. I know that in a lot of cases senior moments are the cause of non-payment, this is why we recommend that payment should be made by standing order, details of which are stated in the Treasurers report.

LIBERATION OF JERSEY (Gold Beach) celebrations, are to be held in 2006 and our Historian Jan Larcombe has been asked for information on a Photographic Officer's Uniform of the period, which he has kindly provided. However, Jan would like to know if any of our members were involved in the liberation, or, were in the area at the time. If you were, please either, email Jan, or, let me

know and I will pass your details on to him, so that he may get in touch with you.

The RNPA gets a few enquiries from time to time and so far we have been able to provide the answers, thanks to Jan's expertise.

Pete Newton

REPORT FROM THE SOCIAL SECRETARY

Malta 2005

On Tuesday 10th May the deposit for the Malta 2005 RNPA 'Mediterranean Holiday' was paid. 22 x couples and 2 x singles confirmed their bookings which makes a total party booking of 46 at £222 per person.

For those members hoping to join the party now or at a later date, please be aware that the price has risen from £222 to £242 per person based on 2 people sharing and flying from Gatwick. The single supplement is working out at about £40 to £50 on top of the advertised price. All the above prices are likely to rise as the weeks go by



Hotel Qawra Palace
Qawra, (Malta), Malta & Gozo

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Details of the holiday will be sent out separately once I have received them from the travel company but for those who might find it useful the flight times are as follows:

10 November depart Gatwick 2100 arrive Malta 0100

17 November depart Malta 1800 arrive Gatwick 2000

Social Events

As there were only a couple of members interested in visiting HMS Drake in Plymouth the event was put on hold until another time. It didn't help that the General Election was scheduled for the same day!

With the International Fleet Review, Son et Lumiere and the biggest fire works display in history scheduled for Tuesday 28 June this would be an ideal opportunity for members to spend the day in Portsmouth. If any members would like to park their vehicles at the FRPU at Tipner I have space for 20 vehicles. You will have to make your own way into Portsmouth or Southsea using the regular bus service that departs from outside the Unit. Please note that this would be strictly on a first come first served basis so please let me know ASAP.

It will be a busy day at the Unit with up to 15 photographers coming and going so if you want to see a bit of photographic activity and throw some burgers on the section barbeque you are very welcome. **Please do not arrive at the Unit without having informed me beforehand.**

Future Events

Area representatives are working on organising events in their part of the country and members will be informed of any visits through their reps or future newsletters.

I look forward to seeing some of you during the coming months.

For all visits **please write** to me Lt. Stuart Antrobus BEM. RN at: FRPU (East), PP3, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 3LR.

Stuart Antrobus.

TREASURER'S REPORT

From Lt Richie Moss BSc Hons Royal Navy.

First of all, many thanks to those of you who set up a Standing Order for their RNPA subscriptions in January. There was a lot of bank activity and I am still getting a few cheques through the post for subscriptions. For those of you who continue to pay by cheque here are the bank details for setting up a standing order.

Name –

RNPA Account No. 54524480.

Sort Code. 72-06-00.

Please inform the bank to start the first payment on or around the 1st January. I have applied for online access to the account to make it easier to keep track of all transactions in and out of the account; this will be particularly important over the next few months for payments of the Malta trip. All deposits were banked week commencing 9 May 05 by the way. the online access facility will also allow me to make payments online - especially useful for payments of stationery items such as paper and ink and other sundry items to keep the club alive. A gentle reminder that some members' subscriptions haven't yet been paid so if you haven't paid yet please send me a cheque. My address is as follows: 12 Ouse Close, ValleyPark, Chandler's Ford, Hants, SO53 4RW. If for any reason you wish to discontinue membership then please let me know so I can take you off the database. Many thanks

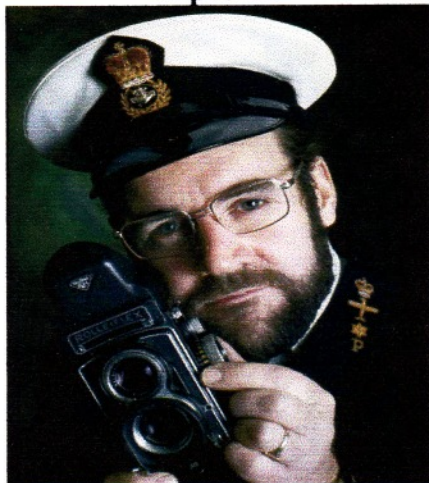
Richard Moss

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Dave Morris B.E.M. A profile



It was 1956, 17 years old, a grammar school education, a handful of 'O' levels, the world was my oyster. An aircraft fitter apprenticeship with Westlands was contemplated, but the Fleet Air Arm as an AA seemed a better prospect, so off to Salisbury Recruiting Office to sign on.

At the time photography was my main hobby along with motorbikes, caving and camping. Enough dosh was made to run my motorbike and girlfriends, photographing the odd wedding, soccer groups and general local farmers prize bulls!

At Salisbury recruiting Office, during the marking of the initial 'thickness test' I discovered that the Naval Airman branch had photographers – wow! Scrub round the 'Tiff' idea. So it was off with some other 70 bods to H.M.S. Gamecock to do part one training. Met Nigel Craft there and we both became photos, only two were required that month, we came top and second so we could choose our trades, off to Ford.

Swordfish site 18 men along with some Fire Station Handlers, was to be our home for about eight months. The school seemed rather daunting, run by Taff Roberts and Willy Bence, giants in their own right. Our instructor was Bill Barber a real gentleman. Came top of No.25 Phot 2's course, the last but one I believe, before we went back to Phot 3's. Again we could choose our drafts,

so it was 'here comes Yeovilton. Geordie Skelton and Ron Carol were on our course.



With Rusty Darker outside the phot section at HMS Heron

The section at Yeovil was run by Tom Ramsay and Ray Pugh, Ray a rugby expert and Tom with his dog Sable was another top man. I went down to an old R.A.F. station at Merryfield, as H.M.S. Heron's runways were being refurbished to NATO standards, possibly to take B52's. The section was a nissen hut and the PO in charge was 'Pin Head' Smalley who left me to do everything, very good experience.

Broke my femur to bits on my Ariel 350 NH motorbike and spent four months in a civvy hospital in Taunton, then back to Yeovilton. Soon I was on my way to Chatham to join the RN's first purpose built survey ship HMS Vidal equipped with possibly the last operational S51 Dragonfly fitted with twin F24's with a type 35 control in the cockpit. Smashing time, lots of flying around the West Indies and loads of rabbits.



On the flight deck of HMS Vidal with Chief AE Ken Measures, I'm holding bag with spare mags for F24

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After a year in the 'Windies' and South America we limped home across the pond with duff ASRI's, it took 34 days at 4 knots, plus stops for hydrography. During my leave I married my lovely Jean in August 1960, honeymoon in Falmouth and a Dragon Rapide flight to the Scilly Isles. I then went to RNPPTU at Ford to close it down. Nutty Head my boss put me on the Lawley cine processors relieving Ray Whitehouse. We had a smashing flat in St. Flora's Road 'chopper' which we sadly left to live in Fawcett Road Pompey because the RNPPTU had temporarily moved to Fraser Gunnery Range. Jan Forster and Freddie Rogers were there and we had a great time working with cine guru Charlie Robinson, making an instructional film for the Royal Marines of the GPMG machine gun. Yes we actually fired it on the Hythe ranges near Dover.

I was then involved in HS300 work for RAE Bedford on HMS Hermes in the Med with Johnny Orm, quite an experience for me filming bolting Gannets at 300 frames per second. The highlight of this period was spending some time on HMS Ashanti, the new Tribal class frigate, filming rate of descent trials with a Newman Sinclair, and that tuning fork spark generator. We lost a P531 Wasp on a flight destined for myself – luckily I was busy on stills and missed that trip.

I then went to Lee, Whitecroft House, for my Phot 1's course and the air element at Lossiemouth, then from the terrible winter of '62 to the sweltering HMS Simbang a married accompanied posting with my wife and son Steve one year old at the time, K.T.O.Smith was our Chief and I was now a Leading Phot. I spent some time in Sarawak at Nanga Goat filming helicopter operations and chasing Indonesian Kumpits off Tawaw with a 35mm Éclair, for Movietone News.

My highlight at Simbang was a vertical at 13,350 feet over the Straits of Jahore, to pinpoint a lost Buccaneer off the Ark. Yes, the pilot and myself wore parachutes, the

aircraft was a borrowed Wasp from HMS Dido, way above its service ceiling.



My land Dyak 'Girlfriend' when filming for movietone news in Borneo, circa 1963

Then with a lovely tan, after a 24 hour 'whispering giant' flight, via Bombay and the middle east it was back to general duties at Fraser. I have a feeling it was then ID cards replaced the pay book, hence thousands of shots of sailors, but not against a brick wall, one of my pet hates. Britannia was to be my home for the next two years, it was a unique experience. Expo 67 and a world cruise, West Indies again, giving British Guyana its independence and taking the Queen Mother's portrait.



Dave in cockpit of S51 on HMS Vidal we lost this one off Guyana at the time.

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OFF NEWFOUNDLAND 1967



21st December, 1967

Dear Petty Officer Morris,

I send you herewith the complete Christmas card which Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother has sent out this year and which, as you will see, is based on your excellent photograph.

Her Majesty was delighted with all the photographs which you took, and I hope that this may be a pleasant souvenir for you.

Yours sincerely,

Comptroller to Queen Elizabeth
The Queen Mother

Petty Officer D. Morris.

Picked up my PO's rate and was destined to be a permanent phot, but that was not to be, so off to the world of PR! Much to the consternation of our Chairman! (but, that's another story).

The PR course at DPRN actually was a joke, looking through back numbers of Navy News and a bit of instruction on Arriflexes, then into the deep end on the staff of the C-IN-CNAVHOME under a PRO called Malcolm Dunbar, then Jack Smith and finally Archie

Ventners who became my best friend, sadly no longer with us.

In 1968 I was the last individual phot to win the Peregrine Trophy which was presented to me by 'Black Jack' Frewen along with a Rollei camera.



My wife Jean holds the Peregrine Trophy while Admiral Sir John Frewin and I discuss my winning pictures.

It was while engaged in TV and national newspaper work, a PR course was devised which was used by all three services and culminated in my BEM in 1975.

I desperately wanted to be a Fleet Chief so farewell to the world of DPRN

I then went to the School at Excellent as Regulating Chief and Senior Instructor under Rod Safe and Keith Rushby. It was while at the School that my barracks endurance medal was presented to me by C-IN-CNAVHOME on board HMS Victory.



Fun & frolics at the School with a baby WRNS course and Rod Safe's old Morris 8

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My RN career ended in 1977 on medical grounds when I was invalided out of the service, but all was not lost as I then enjoyed twenty happy years as a senior Press Photographer for the Portsmouth News amongst many good friends.

Photography, thanks to our branch, has been very kind to me and I enjoy my hobby of over thirty years, scrambling over the Scottish mountains winter and summer and roaming around the south in my veteran BMW's and quite a bit of flying with Roger Smith, another air photographer, in his Cessna 152. I must add that the old PR types used to be castigated by the rest of the branch, but we pioneered news gathering and put the services on TV and National Newspapers. Our branch, now do this superbly albeit with satellite and digital wizardry, well done them.

SERVING MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTION

LIVERPOOL L/PHOT LEADS HIGH PROFILE MEDIA OPS IN APT NORTH



LA (Phot) Dave "Griff" Griffiths was deployed from the Fleet Photographic Unit East to HMS Liverpool in the Caribbean back in March and hit the ground running, securing a major world wide scoop photographing a

rendezvous between Ellen MacArthur and HMS LIVERPOOL. This image was syndicated widely and appeared in the Times and the Sydney Herald as well as many others.



The force is with MacArthur

By Edward Thomas
Sailing Correspondent

ONE of the greatest feats of seamanship in the world is to sail a ship round the world. It is a task that has been undertaken by a handful of men, but now it is being undertaken by a woman. Ellen MacArthur, a 40-year-old Welshwoman, is the first woman to sail a ship round the world. She is currently on her way to Cape Town, South Africa, where she will be competing in the Cape Town Regatta. She is currently on her way to Cape Town, South Africa, where she will be competing in the Cape Town Regatta.

MacArthur is currently on her way to Cape Town, South Africa, where she will be competing in the Cape Town Regatta. She is currently on her way to Cape Town, South Africa, where she will be competing in the Cape Town Regatta.

Griff has also had other images in the media, having photographed Private Gideon Beharry VC in his home Grenada. During Ships visits and stop overs Griff has been involved in stories and features promoting the Royal Navy as a force for good in charity works, defence, diplomacy and sporting events.

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the Admiralty some money, I suspect). We were demobilised together from HMS Daedalus in 1948. Stan subsequently signed on for extended service of 3-4 years, which involved many postings, HMS Norfolk, Birmingham, Mauritius, then ashore at HMS Vernon and lastly I believe at HMS Superb.

Stan always spoke nostalgically about his Naval Service and like many good RN Photos, before and since, used his expertise to good purpose in his civilian career. The wanderlust took him to the oil industry, BAPO, Bahrain, this was followed by Ilford Ltd. Who sent him to do Photo Marketing in Chicago. He then moved into selling printing inks as well as photographic materials, which job was followed by a partnership in California, where the firm sold Photo Equipment and specialist dyes. At his instigation, the business later extended into IT and computer software.



PETER BATTEN



Obituary
Peter Batten

By Bob Lomax

Sadly Peter Batten passed away in Yeovil on 2nd March 2005.

Peter joined the branch in 1947 and trained at RNSOP Ford on No. 3 course.

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He served in various Phot. Sections during his seven years in the service, Gosport, Yeovil, Ford and aboard Indefatigable. He was one of the first team of Photographers sent out to cover the Korean conflict which was somewhat of a surprise for his new wife Margaret as they had just married thinking they were off to Singapore for a two year plus honeymoon in quarters. On leaving the service in 1955, Peter joined "Westland Aircraft" as it was then, as a photographer whilst awaiting a promised job as cameraman with ITV.

He stayed at Yeovil, eventually setting up Westlands' film unit and for the rest of his working career travelled the world shooting many helicopter and Hovercraft training and sales films.

As Films and Television Manager he also took on responsibilities in Westland Helicopters Press Office dealing with their exhibitions and catering at various Air Shows.

I think everyone who worked with Peter accepted him as a great cameraman and perhaps above all a terrific friend to have.

He will certainly be missed by his loving family and many friends.

Bob Lomax

From the Editor and Committee of the RNPA,
a poem for all our departed and sadly missed members



*The tide recedes but leaves behind bright
seashells in the sand,
The sun goes down, but with gentle warmth
still lingers on the land,
The music stops, and yet it echoes on in
sweet refrains....
For every joy that passes something
beautiful remains.*

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