



The Peregrine Phots Post



Spring
2012
Issue 29

Ahoy there!
It's your Editor

The Royal Navy Photographer's Association

I have just come in from digging the garden and its time to produce another newsletter no doubt by the time I have finished it the sun will have gone in. First of all let me wish you all a very Happy Easter, have a great time.

We had a committee meeting on 12th March 2012 at SFPU Whale Island Portsmouth, where Ray Whitehouse volunteered to be Acting Chairman and Jan Larcombe Acting Secretary in view of Ian Hooper's resignation from the post of Secretary. This is until the AGM which we hope will be held towards the end of September, so far we have had no names put forward for these posts. Both will continue in their roles as Social Secretary & Historian.

It was decided to disband area reps as we have had no news from them for some time and decided they are not necessary.

Steve King informed the committee that the new database is now completed and running, it is quicker and is more versatile in what it can reproduce very quickly, than using Excel to work out information.

Membership Cards - Hilary has now completed making up the cards and has added Single and Joint membership where appropriate and now is in the process of sending them out.

The Grog Tub has been made just awaiting brass plate which is being sorted.

The Newton Bell - a lovely brass bell has been obtained and is in the process of being mounted & engraved.

Jan reports he has a list of 1049 photographers who have been on course from 1946 to 2008 in his Historic records.

Ray reports we were in for a busy social year and is planning to arrange two major events, details on page 2.

I still need stories and pictures to produce this newsletter - I have struggled this time hence more peregrine trophy photos. Thank you to everyone who has submitted articles.

Next newsletter Paul Yockney's PR tour of Schools. Your committee has been trying to encourage new members any suggestions welcome.

Happy Easter



**To Celebrate Her Majesty
The Queen's Diamond Jubilee**
we have included a photograph
taken by LA(phot) Abbie Gadd of The
Queen's visit to HMS Ark Royal.

**Remember to look out for
Mike Gilbert** on 3rd June, he will be
on one of the 1,000 of boat on the
Thames as part of The Queen's
Diamond Jubilee River Pageant
escorting The Queen.

Hilary King



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RNPA COMMITTEE

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RNPA Social Events for 2012

Ray Whitehouse your Social Secretary has been very busy between moving house and sorting out our social events for the year and this is what has been planned to date:-

- 1) A Memorial service in the Midlands where a Plaque to be dedicated at the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield at Alrewas . Details to follow shortly.
- 2) A Jubilee Reunion & AGM in Portsmouth on weekend 28th - 30th September 2012 staying at The Holiday Inn (not Holiday Inn Express) :-

Friday night casual social at The Still & West Pub meal & cash bar, with use of the conservatory.

Saturday Morning a tour to be arranged, afternoon AGM 3pm at Holiday Inn followed by 'Up Spirits' (non member £5 per tot).
Evening Social 6 - 10 pm at The Square Tower, this 600 year old Fortress is steeped in history, it is quaint, casual and low in cost. We will run our own bar so Beer, Wine, soft drink and a buffet will be arranged.

Sunday Roast Lunch 12.30pm at the Dolphin Pub old Portsmouth opposite the Cathedral.

Full details and cost will be sent out soon. This is a planned weekend which Ray will need you full contact details.

Ray Whitehouse new details :

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**The Square Tower
Portsmouth**

In Commemorating of the 30th anniversary of the Falklands Campaign



1982



2012

The Royal Navy's most advanced warship has set sail from Portsmouth for a six-month deployment to the Falkland Islands.

HMS Dauntless, a Type 45 destroyer, was waved off by the families and friends of the 190 strong crew from a sunny vantage point overlooking the ancient harbour. The warship's departure from Portsmouth comes exactly 30 years after a naval task force of more than 120 ships set sail from the same port to retake the Falkland Islands following the Argentine invasion in 1982. The ship will be responsible for patrolling the waters around the islands in the South Atlantic, and is part of a rotation in which another ship, HMS Montrose, a smaller, less sophisticated frigate, will return home from the South Atlantic.

On 14th June 2012, Falklands 30th Anniversary Service will be held at Yeovilton. Jan Larcombe has applied for a ticket so he can represent the RNPA.



ROYAL NAVAL AIR STATION YEOVILTON INTERNATIONAL

AIR DAY

SATURDAY 23 JUNE 2012

**30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FALKLANDS CAMPAIGN**



Air Day 2012 will be commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Falklands Campaign with a thrilling flying and static display of fast jets, helicopters, historic warbirds, classic jets and formation aerobatic teams. The event will culminate with the traditional Commando Assault demonstration with plenty of aircraft, troops and pyrotechnics!



Happy Easter

Heres a lovely Spring photo taken by our olde shipmate Pete Thorne who is now home after a short spell in hospital. Here's for a speedy recovery Pete.

Peregrine Trophy 2011

Here is another small collection of photographs submitted for this award.

HMS Ark Royal was operating in the south coast exercise areas off the coast of Dorset 3 Apache helicopters from 656 Squadron Army Aircorps which embarked in Portsmouth onboard for 3 weeks for a period of intensive training.

Photo by POA(Phot) Ray Jones



Royal Marines of 5 Troop Bravo Company, 40 Commando at Sangin Afghanistan during Operation Herrick 12. In the front Sgt Cleminson.

Photo by LA (photo) Si Ethell



Air to Air shot from one Harrier to another with RAF Akrotiri in the background.

Photo by LA (Phot) Luis Holden



Able seaman Joel Rouse taking images in cold weather whilst on Defence Photographer Course.

4 Photo by LA(Phot) Jason Ballard



Young Officer from the Commando Training Centre Royal Marine(CTCRM) participating in exercise Wet Warrior in The Sea Lochs of the west coast of Scotland.

Photo by LA(Phot) A J MacLeod

HMS Portland conducted boarding training to ready her boarding teams for possible boardings, during anti piracy or anti drug patrols.

Photo by LA (Phot) Simpson.



Low flight of a GR9 Harrier. Taken for the RN Amateur photographer competition. Highly Commended 2011.

Photo by CPO Richard Crane



HMS Triumph coming in HMNB Clyde, 7th of the Trafalgar Class.

Photo by LA (Phot) Ben Sutton



HISTORICAL TRIVIA "FREEZING THE BALLS OFF A BRASS MONKEY"

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem.... how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled.. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey; Thus, it was quite literally, Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.' (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you.)



Eugene Esmonde VC Remembered

By Ray Pogson

ONE of the most remarkable acts of bravery by a Fleet Air Arm pilot in World War Two, which culminated in the awarding of the Victoria Cross, was celebrated at a South Yorkshire war memorial on February 12th – 70 years to the day of the action.

Eugene Esmonde was born on March 1st 1909 at Thurgoland, five miles south of Barnsley, where his father John Esmonde was a temporary GP doctor. Later the family returned to their home at Drominagh near Tipperary in Ireland.

Lt Cdr Esmonde, 32, was CO of 825 Squadron, comprising six Fairey Swordfish torpedo bombers based at Manston, Kent in readiness for the breakout from Brest and the Channel Dash of the German battleships Sharnhorst and Gneisenau and the heavy cruiser Prinz Eugen as they headed back to their home ports of Wilhelmshaven and Kiel.

Despite the lack of promised heavy fighter cover and daylight conditions when a night action had been anticipated, 825 Sqdn pressed home its attack at sea level against a tremendous barrage of heavy anti-aircraft guns, flak and dozens of Focke-Wulf and Messerschmitt fighters as well as accompanying Kriegsmarine ships and E-boats.

Esmonde's aircraft was hit early in the action by an enemy fighter but he managed to release his torpedo 3,000 ft from its target before crashing in flames into the sea. All six aircraft were destroyed during the raid and only five of the 18 aircrew survived. Four received the DSO and one a CGM.

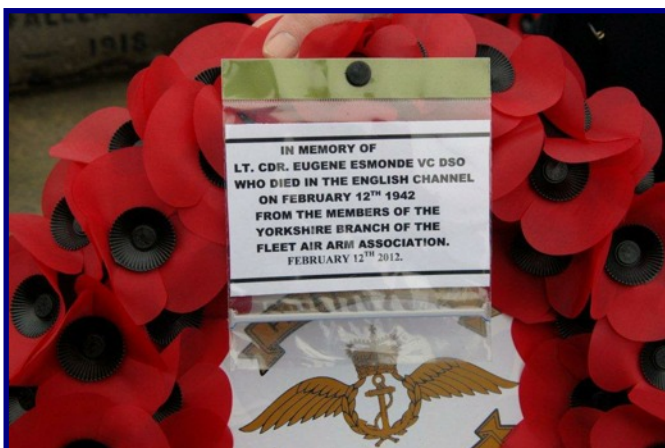
Vice Admiral Bertram Ramsey, watching the action from his Dover HQ said afterwards: "In my opinion, the gallant sortie of these six Swordfish aircraft constituted one of the finest exhibitions of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty the war had ever witnessed."

Esmonde had already received the DSO for his participation in the battle to sink the Bismark the previous year, 825 Sqdn then operating from HMS Victorious.

The VC was presented to his mother by King George VI at a ceremony held on St Patrick's Day, March 17th 1942. Two of his two brothers were in attendance.

Esmonde's body was washed up in the mouth of the River Medway at the end of April and was taken to Chatham before being buried at Woodlands Cemetery, Gillingham where a 70th anniversary commemoration also took place.

Members of the Yorkshire Branch of the FAA Association, HMS Victorious Association, British Legion and local RN Associations attended a service in Holy Trinity Church, Thurgoland, before marching with standards flying to a wreath-laying ceremony at the war memorial where the Last Post was sounded.



FAA Association Yorkshire Branch chairman Fred Grubb marks the heroism of Eugene Esmonde exactly 70 years to the day of his death in the Channel.

Things Historical

As most of you will know by now I have been updating the courses information and revamping the course pages on the Web site. My thanks to all those who have replied to my emails asking for information and a plea to those who have thought about it, but have yet to delve in their lofts and sheds, to do so soon.

One thing that the updating has highlighted is the number of course photographs missing from the archive (and this for a photographic branch). If you search for "Held" on each of the pages you will see what I mean. Please check the web site for your course photograph and if it's not there send me a copy.

A Taster Mystery picture

Unidentified Group

Back, Lyons, Robb, Long, Green, Edwards, Evans, Sutan,
Middle, ? , Brinton, Piper? Taylor, Pinkcombe. Peeling,
Front, Capon, Brown, Mitchell, Hawes, ? , Baww ?

Taken at Felpham so some time between 1943 and late 1947. No badges on uniform so a basic phot course.

I have heard the names Pinkcombe and Peeling and I am sure that

Hawes (4th from left on the front row) is Bobby Hawes who ended up working as a civilian photographer for the MOD.



Two very interesting exchanges came up with:

Reminiscences of John (Andy) Edwards

I joined the Navy as an Ordinary seaman (Candidate for photographer) at the new entry training centre HMS Excalibur, in Alsager near Crew for basic training and then went to Siskin where I worked in the phot section before being drafted to Lee on Solent and then to Ford for my Photographic course.

Course CS No 3 overlapped Nos 1 and 2. There were about 24 on course and Peter Batten was on the course with me. WO Graham, PO Buck Taylor, PO "Mac" McMacken, LA "Pinky" Porter and the Barber brothers were the instructors,

Having qualified I was drafted to St Merryn wearing just a camera badge with no stars. At St Merryn I took a written test to Qualify as a Leading Photographer and having passed was rated Leading Photographer shortly after and wearing a badge with one star over the camera.

I was drafted to Sasebo in Japan with Peter Batten and Eddie King and before going we were sent to Alexander Palace, the BBC news HQ, to study the work of the film cameramen. We were loaned cameras and went on assignments to get experience of news gathering skills, our efforts being edited with our mentors.

During the Korean War we spent three years in the American navy base at Sasebo and lived on HMS Ladybird HQ of the Far East Fleet (Admiral Scott Moncrief, 2 I/C FEF) an accommodation ship for RN personnel. There was no section on board but we attended the morning briefings and then more or less decided ourselves which ship, doing "Interesting" things, we would join. We were able to send our own signals to our chosen ship, (not appreciated in some places!)

There were Officers appointed to the unit. Cdr Alan Brockbank RNVR was in charge with S/Lt Gus Langford on the staff. S/Lt Langford and NA Phot Ricky Penman were taken prisoner by the North Koreans while ashore from HMS Cockade and spent the rest of the war as POWs, until the cease-fire, which is still in Place.

Whilst in London and before going to Sasebo we went to a photographic shop in Trafalgar Square and bought two Newman Sinclair cine cameras and two Leica 35mm stills. Our VNs were not much good, but we were able to "scrounge" some Speed Graphic 5x4 Press Cameras with Film Packs from the US Navy Photo Store on the base, a veritable "Aladdin's" cave.

Our "boss", of the unit, (Fleet Naval Information Unit) was the Chief of Naval Information in Whitehall, Captain Clarke. We sent all our negatives and one print to UK once a week by air (BOAC) from Tokyo. A press conference was held once a week and the Press could take their pick!

During WW2 Alan Brockbank (then LT/CDR) had a similar unit with six S/Lt's. One of whom was Gus Langford. Also was Cyril Page a well-known news cameraman for many years. I met him at the Press Camp. Just behind the front line near Soul in Korea, in 1951. He was also one of our mentors at "Alley Pally".

Reminiscences of Raymond White

I joined the Navy on 2nd May 1946 at St George, Gosport and having been told that there were no such animals as photographers ended up at the Supply and Secretariat school HMS Demetrious/Ceres at Weatherby Near Leeds. Whally Donkin (Ex NAFFI man) was also at the on S&S courses at the same time.

One of the first things that happened was a course photograph and this was taken by a blue suited photographer. I don't know who he was but asked him about photographers in the Navy and he said go for it. I spent a while at Ceres deliberately failing courses until they got fed up with me and sent me off to train as a Photographer

No1 Phots 2s course in September 1947 was a mixture of Seaman and Naval Airman with Paul Johnson, Norman Harvey, Leopold Smith-Mcinley, Bill Hart among others also on the course

The course last almost a year from November 1947 to Nov 1948, it started at Felpham and moved to Ford during the latter part of 1947 and early part of 1948 We just left Felpham and Joined Ford while the National Servicemen on course did virtually all the work for the move.

At the end of the course there were no Naval airman badges so we were sent to the Naval Tailors to have some made. My aircraft, two stars and a "P" badge was so big it nearly filled my upper arm Greenburghs had the drawing but no scale.

Anything like these, ancient or modern gratefully accepted.

Jan Larcombe

Tee Shirt & Embroidered Fleece

The RNPA Logo has been embroidered as shown in photograph it has been sent to a manufactures and two samples have been purchased, it will be possible to have the following items:-

Fleece Jacket, Polo Shirt, T Shirt, Tie & Scarf

If members are interested and would like any of the above items send a cheque to me made payable to RNPA with an address for the items to be sent to.

All items will be Navy Blue

See price list attached for sizes . Steve King

8 Tel: 01926 334190, email:- h.king2@sky.com



Tee Shirt & Embroidered Fleece

	S	M	L	XL	XXL	PRICE	P&P	TOTAL
T Shirt £9.50								
Fleece £11.95								
Polo Shirt £11.50								
Silk Tie Printed £12.95								
Scarf £9.50								

If people are interest in these items we could arrange for them to be picked up at the AGM saving postage cost. The tie is a printed design but if we make an order for a number we could get them embroidered.

NAME	
ADDRESS	
TEL:	
E MAIL	

Send to:-

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CV33 9SD.**