



The Peregrine Phots Post



Summer
2014
Issue 38

The Royal Navy Photographers Association

Ahoy Shipmate

Hope you have enjoyed the warm weather & avoided those thunder storms. At last we have managed to produce this newsletter there have been a few distractions:- Tennis at Wimbledon, The Tour de France, World Cup Football, Commonwealth Games to name but a few. In this issue we say hello to HMS Queen Elizabeth as she was launched by her majesty the Queen on the 4th July the photo shows the fly by of the Red Arrows. Photo by Getty Images

HELLO

&

FAREWELL

Below HMS Illustrious arrives in Portsmouth after her last voyage & tour of duty and it is a sad farewell to her.

Photo by Ray Whitehouse



A family & friends day was held on 8th July at the FAA museum Yeovilton - full story on pages 3,4 & 5. - a great day.

Just to remind you the next reunion will be held on HMS Belfast London on 18th October full details page 9 - please contact Ray Whitehouse to book a place.

Thank you to all who have sent in photos or articles please keep them coming.

Hope you enjoy Newsletter 38

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Hilary & Steve King₁

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JOHN COOMBS 1933- 2014

John was born in the Portsmouth area and was 22 when he joined the Navy and started his photographic career on No 19 course in 1955. Slightly older than his contemporaries he became the daddy of the course. He had a quarter share in the (in)famous London Taxi "Bessy" that four members of No 19 course bought for £10 and used, fully laden, as a run ashore vehicle.



From course he joined 830 squadron flying Wyverns which was based at Ford and was deployed on Eagle during the Suez crisis. Later at Yeovilton he met and married Jess who was a Range Assessor working in the same building.

A spell at Hal Far, Malta with the Pilotless Target Aircraft team followed by a return to Yeovilton in 1960 and by No 2 Phot 1s course at Lee on Solent in 1961. He was the Royal Yacht photographer for two years before a period at the FPU in Excellent.

He completed the SD course at Frazer Gunnery Range and was commissioned and appointed to Victorious for his "out of branch" service but a fire on 13 March 1968 led to the Vic being decommissioned. As a Sub Lieutenant he served at the RNPPTU at Frazer and Dolphin.

Promoted to Lieutenant in April 1971 he was appointed to Fulmar, JSOP Cosford and Excellent before enjoying an exchange posting with the US Navy at Arlington Virginia.

Returning to the UK he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and had a long appointment as the Fleet Photographic Officer before retiring in 1983.

Following retirement from the RN he spent several years in control of the photographic equipment procurement organisation for the Army.

John died on 7th June 2014 after a long battle with cancer

RNPA at the Fleet Air Arm Museum



RNPA members, family & friends enjoyed a reunion at the FAA museum Yeovilton on 12th July.

Starting with light refreshment & then free to explore the many excellent displays.



Old shipmates catch up at the reunion. Roy Penny chats to new RNPA member Ken Dunstan with John Cunningham.

Sue Eagles gave a presentation on the Heritage Flight & funding. Above chatting to Rod Safe & Pete Bunting. She also presented prizes to the children after completing the museum quiz.





The new Photo display produced by Danny du Feu



A few of the camera collection and below Rod Safe's badge collection on display



Peter & Jan Pinnock & Doreen Larcombe touring museum.



Dinner was served underneath Concorde - **excellent food**. A big **Thank you** to Ray Whitehouse our Social Secretary for a great reunion - he is pictured surrounded by his family

St Bartholomew's Church

Once the parish church of Yeovilton village now the Fleet Air Arm Memorial Church, has become the spiritual home of the FAA. Having been made redundant some time previously, St Bart's was purchased by the Royal Navy from the Diocese of Bath & Wells for a £1 in 1988. There followed a series of national international appeals to raise the £300,000 needed to fund the restoration work, and on 11th November 1993, St Bart's reopened as the Fleet Air Arm Memorial Church.



After a church service at St Bartholomew members of the RNPA toured the church. The majority of St Bart's was built in the 13th & 14th centuries & many medieval features can be seen today.



Above admiring the old stone altar top or Mensa which was discovered buried under the Chancel floor during the restoration in 1992 & restored to its rightful place in 2009



Sunday Lunch at the Ichester Arms: Steve Thompson, Hilary King, Pat Thompson, Kay Dobson (wife of the late Bob Dobson) the Larcombe family with Maurice hidden & Doreen next to him, Roy & Elizabeth Penny & family, Jonathan Robbins & partner Angie next to him.

Things Historical

How's this for a draft note/ - 1916 style

From O i/c Photographic Section

(Note. This was Lt William Gamble RNVR. In charge of all Royal Naval Air Service Photography and based at RNAS Chigford)

To Leading Mechanic Robert Dowty No 8744, RNAS Chingford

8th January 1916

Under Air Department instructions you are being drafted to take charge of a photographic unit attached to Flight Commander Nansen's Squadron. You are to report to Clement Talbot works on a date to be subsequently given. Your duty will be to carry out photographic work with the assistance of a junior rating Air Mechanic 1 John Frederick Shepard, No 8872, and to do such photography as may be required by the Commanding Officer.

For this purpose there has been provided stores and gear, the nature of which you have been made fully conversant with from time to time during their preparation. The stores and gear are in 8 cases, all marked "Flight commanders Nansen's Squadron" which will be sent to Brook Green Skating rink, according to Orders. Two of these cases contain calcium carbide – which must be carried as deck cargo – and may be lost, and under such circumstances it will be necessary to draw a supply of carbide from other sources which are available. You are to use stores of every description on the assumption that you are not likely to receive any more. Please exercise the greatest possible economy otherwise you may find yourself in difficulties. Should there be any technical difficulty you should write to me for information as quickly as possible, obtaining the Commanding Officers permission to do so. One of your first duties on arriving at your destination should be to ascertain whether the stores and gear are likely to be sufficient for a reasonable time for the work that the Commanding Officer desires should be done. If any article be required you should make application to the Commanding Officer through the Stores Officer, stating in plain language your requirements and leaving it to this section to make the necessary arrangement for supply, you are, however not to ask for anything not directly required for service work. Do not ask for unusual things without stating the precise purpose for which they are required. If circumstances permit of your obtaining any kind of building for work, by all means secure it.

With regards to cameras the following are supplied, 2 aeronautic with 8" lenses, F4.5 aperture, these lenses are fitted with satisfactory K.2 Filters, and whenever possible these filters should be used, If, however, the filters are not used, then the exposure should be reduced to 1/3. Please note that the lenses are adjusted to give a sharp image. And on no account whatever should the adjusting screws be altered, otherwise it means resetting, which you will find extremely difficult. Please note that the position of the lens is the same with and without the yellow filter.

It is not anticipated that ordinary ground photography will be required and the apparatus provided is not suitable for the purpose, simply because the present type of aeronautic cameras the lenses not provide with focusing adjustment. If you are called upon to do work upon the ground in any quantity, you should submit to the Commanding Officer that apparatus be demanded for the purpose.

Plates: - Paget Extra Rapid Orthochromatic Plates are provided as well as Wellington Extra Speedy Press Plates. The Paget plates will give better results. If the Wellington plates are used then the filter must not be employed in the lens.

The exposure in all cases can only be settled by trial, aided in the first instance by the exposure meter. To simplify matters as much as possible the developing agents have been made up in the form of powders, packed in tins and tubes, these bearing full directions for the use and these formulae must be strictly adhered to.

For darkroom work a special portable developing tent has been provided and the use of this apparatus has been demonstrated to you. It is important to note that the portable developing tent is to be erected inside a convenient building or other tent and is not suitable for general work out-of-doors, except when the weather is fine. In order to work the enlarging apparatus it will be necessary to erect the tent out of doors. Please note that it is extremely difficult to make such a construction light tight when it has to stand tropical sun, and you will probably find it necessary therefore to work before sunrise and after sunset, unless you can obtain sufficient protection from the intense light and heat. In addition there is supplied a RNAS enlarger with two slides.

It will probably be necessary to pay attention to the water supply, and if a still be required for producing distilled water it could be sent out to you.

Your duty will be to give information to observing Officers as to the use of the aeronautic camera. In the respect you are to give the simplest possible information without unnecessary explanations. It is possible that the Commanding Officer will allow you to make aerial photographs yourself, in which case the experience will be valuable as a guide to others.

Difficulties may arise as to the storage of negatives, and as these are likely to be valuable, if they become at all an encumbrance you might submit to the Commanding Officer in the proper way – through the officer immediately above you – that they be sent to this Section to be held in keeping.

You must take the greatest possible care to keep sealed up in the tin boxes provided, all sensitive plate and paper, otherwise you will probably find deterioration of these materials result

Charles W Gamble
LIEUT. RNVR

PRINCESS ROYAL SEES NAVAL BASE FROM LAND AND SEA

26th June 2014

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal travelled on land and sea to observe the inner working of Portsmouth Naval Base on 26th June 2014.

The Princess, in her role as Commodore-in-Chief Portsmouth, was shown what goes on at the waterfront areas of the 300-acre base. HRH started her tour at the rigging shop which has been housed within Semaphore Tower since the 1940s.

The royal guest watched riggers at work before BAE Systems' master rigger Martin Paine explained the fascinating history of the shop.

Base Services Manager, Commander David Hilton, said The Princess enjoyed meeting a wide variety of people in different trades and occupations.

"Her Royal Highness took a keen interest in all the different roles that take place along the waterfront areas of the base and how it will change to accommodate the Navy's two new huge aircraft carriers," he said. "The harbour tour made The Princess appreciate just how large the base is and the vital role it plays in supporting the Royal Navy worldwide".



The Royal Marines on duty at Buckingham



From Delabole local newspaper

Congratulations to Chris Hore

We heard today that our very own Delabole Webmaster has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours list

Chris was born in Delabole on 12th January 1946, only son of Ken and Norah. He attended Delabole School leaving at the age of 15 to join the Royal Navy at H.M.S. Ganges on the 25th April 1961, as a Junior Marine Engineer, progressing through H.M. Ships, Raleigh, Centaur, Adamant and Ulster. Then seeing the error of his ways, changed branches to the Photographic Branch. He joined R.N.A.S. Culdrose for basic airmanship before going to H.M.S. Ariel to await Phot 2's course at R.N.A.S. Lossiemouth. On completion he served in H.M. Ships and Shore Bases, Excellent, Osprey, Vidal (Gulf Survey), Hydra (Malacca Straits Survey), Seahawk and Drake. He Left the Royal Navy as Leading Airman (Phot 1) D/062220A on 15th September 1976 physically unfit for naval service (Broken Ankle).



He later served as a member of the Retained Fire Brigade in Cornwall from 1978 until 1987. He left with the rank of Leading Firefighter at Delabole Fire Station.

Chris was instrumental in the formation of the Delabole Branch of the Royal Naval Association and was a Founder Member enrolling on the 29th June 1983. He was elected as Chairman on the commissioning of the branch on the 10th September 1983 and as Secretary in 1986. Before becoming the Branch Chairman again he was also the Branch Standard Bearer until the 1994 A.G.M. and Editor of the branch newsletter 'The Broadside' from 1986 to 1992. Chris has also attended National Conferences and has been the Branch Delegate to No4 Area since the Branch's inception.

Chris was elected to serve on the committee of No4 Area at the 1990 Area A.G.M, and has since been elected as the Vice Chairman. After completing 10 years as Deputy Chairman he stood down and was presented with Life Vice Presidency of No4 Area.

He built and commissioned the Area [website](http://www.no4arearna.co.uk/) <http://www.no4arearna.co.uk/> and continues to do so. He was asked to take over the National website from Shipmate Stuart Thorn in 2007 and completely rebuilt the site. The website <http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/> has since been professionally rebuilt with Chris still as the webmaster.

Chris was awarded the BEM in Her Majesty the Queen's 2014 Birthday Honours List for Voluntary Services to Veterans

Chris still lives in Delabole with his wife Pauline. The picture shows Chris being congratulated by First Sea Lord Admiral Sir George Michael Zamballas KCD DSC DL.

We all add our good wishes and thank Chris for his many services to the village over the years and his continued help putting The Delabole Slate on to the www.delabole.com website.