

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST
THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2006

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ISSUE 15

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EDITORIAL

My thanks go out to all contributors for items sent for inclusion in the Peregrine Post. I have a couple of items I have kept back for the next edition but don't let that stop anyone else from contributing. Please send your photos/items to me in plenty of time for the Spring edition

Johns Eye Blondie



Chairman's Report

Greetings fellow members,
Another year rolls by and the aches and pains remain!

The latest on the R.N.P.A. -:
Lt. Cdr Stuart Antrobus, who was our Vice-Chairman and Social Secretary, has resigned due to pressure at work. He will remain an active member but I shall miss his drive and enthusiasm. Peter Newton will return as Vice-Chairman for now and Pete Bunting has kindly volunteered to do Social Secretary. I am hoping that we will be able to hold our AGM next year as planned when I think that the committee members should be put up for re-election (or otherwise). Peter Newton is not in the best of health and I ask you to keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Now - the proposed A.G.M. in Coventry. I ask you to give it serious consideration. If you would like to attend please, please let Brian or myself know. Even if you are not attending can you let us know, Just a quick phone call to test the interest in an A.G.M.

Finally I wish all our members and their families a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and may the New Year bring you all every thing your heart desires.

John "Paddy" Cunningham

RNPA COMMITTEE

President: Lt. Cdr. Martin May-Clingo RN

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Vice Chairman Peter Newton, 01903 219996 or, Mobile 07876 292809 email: fawnewton@aol.com

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Newsletter Editor/ Production Ops. Brian and Val Robertson, see above for contact details

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Northern:- Brian (Blondie) Robertson 01274 530982

Midlands:- Danny Du Fue. 0116 289 8725

Southwest/Wales:- Ian Gutteridge 01326 564514

South:- John Flack. 01329 235325

Southeast:- Ray. Whitehouse 01903 77090

RNPA LAPEL PINS



Order from Peter Newton
£3.50 + P&P £1.50 Cheques or P.Os with order, payable to F.A.W.Newton

President's Message

After the headiness of Trafalgar 200 in 2005, this has been a year of serious 'heads-down' operational support. You will all be aware of the major operations world-wide, and in most of them RN Phots have been working in support of Intelligence and Media Operations.

To ensure we are able to continue supporting the 'sharp-end' I have reconfigured 4 Second Line billets to Front Line; consequently 49% of LH billets are now Front Line. By maintaining this clear focus on the Front Line, I believe we have ensured that the Branch is in a healthy state to meet the closest scrutiny and survive for many years to come. Considering the cutbacks in the size of the Fleet and resulting manpower reductions, the Branch has done extremely well to hold its own.

We currently have 3 photographers deployed to Afghanistan supporting 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines and 800 Sqn, (Harriers). Operating in a potentially hostile environment and challenging climatic conditions, our photographers are producing some stunning images helping to inform the great British public on what their Armed Forces are achieving. Technology moves ahead in leaps and bounds and has meant that the Phots in Afghanistan have deployed with broadcast video cameras that are now capable in a tactical environment and can also capture a stills image. Both video and stills can then be transmitted back to the UK via portable satellite transmission kits.

Of course we have Phots deployed in HM Ships across the globe, and this year the ops that have captured significant media attention have been the Counter Drug Ops, where we have achieved significant TV and newspaper coverage. Less obvious is the work in support of intelligence and this is a growth area too, with new billets being established in support of UAV and other projects, as well as personnel routinely deploying at sea.



The people who work behind the scenes in the RNPA do a great job in what can sometimes seem a thankless task. Therefore, on behalf of you all, I take this opportunity to thank all the 'Committee' of the RNPA for their work over the past year in keeping us informed and organising events. Personally, I find the Newsletter an absolutely fascinating read; I am sure every member of the Association has an interesting dit or two to tell, so do try and find a spare half-hour to share your story with us all.

Whilst we all prepare for the festive season, let's remember all our forces away on operations, including the 'Phots'.

Thank you to you all for being active members of the RNPA – its success is your success. Best wishes to you all for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2007.

Martin May-Clingo

Lieutenant Commander Royal Navy
Fleet Photographic & Image Analysis Officer

Secretary's report

Festive Greetings

It has been just over a year since we took over the role of secretary and what a year it's been. As you know the AGM of 2006 had to be cancelled through lack of enthusiasm.

The venue was selected after I found that the Armourers, Safety Equipment and other Associations have been meeting there for years. It may not have the allure of some places further south but it does put members further north within striking distance. I have re-negotiated a deal with the same hotel in the hope that a General Meeting could be staged in 2007.

In the last two newsletters I have asked you to let me or John know if you would like to attend. You will see that in back issues of Peregrine Post we have implored you to respond without delay.

Result - response for a GM in 2007 - SEVEN!

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Just in case you no longer have the last newsletter here again are the packages available.

Package 'A' will include 3 x nights B&B, (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) Carvery lunch on Saturday and Sunday and the Saturday night RNPA Dinner/Dance Special.

Package 'B' will include 2 x nights B&B, (Friday and Saturday) Carvery lunch on Saturday and the Saturday night RNPA Dinner/Dance Special.

Package 'C' will include 2 x nights B&B, (Saturday and Sunday) the Saturday night RNPA Dinner/Dance Special and the Carvery lunch on Sunday.

Package 'D' will include 1 x night B&B, (Saturday) and the Saturday night RNPA Dinner/Dance Special

Package 'A' = £140.00 Per Person
Package 'B' = £125.00 Per Person
Package 'C' = £125.00 Per Person
Package 'D' = £ 70.00 Per Person

** Please note an important change of **
** procedure **

All future reservations should be accompanied by a cheque for 25% of whichever deal you are selecting made payable to the **RNPA** and your choice of room/bed. Those who have already made your booking need do nothing else for the moment.

We need to know the number attending and so do the hotel. At present we are not able to pay the deposit the hotel requires to confirm the booking based on the number of members responding. There is a real risk that our get together will be cancelled again.

As John says in his report, if you are not going to attend a quick e-mail/phone call to John or myself just to let us know would be much appreciated.

Now on to non AGM matters . . .

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Mid Nov 2006 found me on the floor suffering a nauseating dizzy spell that ended with a 999 call. Off I went to A & E and the initial diagnosis was a viral infection of the inner ear.

Two days later after numerous tests I was discharged and the diagnosis was (guess what!)- a viral Infection of the inner ear.

Val informed me that I should now know what sea sickness feels like! Never had it and don't want it. I still veer off to the right when attempting to walk in a straight line but it is getting a bit better. Funny, the tot used to have the same effect!!

Now under the heading of Stop Press I read in John Cunningham's bit that Pete Newton will be taking over the Vice Chair and Peter Bunting the task of Social Sec. This is great news for Val and I - but - I can still hear voices

*Yours Aye
Gloucie*

p.s. from Val, it may amuse those of you who joined me being drowned in Malta to hear of my experience with the RNA standard at a more humble ceremony in Bradford this year, I had to use two hands and brace my feet so as not to take off in high winds, Have a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A Potted 12 years By Roy Penny

I signed on in Portsmouth for 12 years in August 1948. Given a railway warrant and sent to 'Royal Arthur' at Corsham, Wiltshire. There to be issued with my uniform, boots, great coat, oilskin and given a hammock. A hair cut and drill were on the books as well.

There we were given our first duty free tobacco and told we were to shave whether we needed it or not. It was not all downs, as sweets were not rationed. Not that we had much money to spend on them.

The first draft was three weeks later to the Illustrious in Portland Harbour for seamanship training. Whilst I was there the liberty boat from Weymouth to the ship sank on entering Portland harbour with the loss of many lives, quite a number were trainees.

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After three weeks I was drafted to Blackcap, R.N.A.S Stretton, which was near Warrington, for Naval Airman training. We went through all aspects of the branch, including meteorology but not photography. I passed out top. The Divisional Officer informed me I had to be a meteorologist or a photographer. I chose the latter.

In January 1949 I arrived at Seahawk to await course and stayed there until March 'working' in the section and the control tower. Then to the school at Peregrine for the 9 month course. Wooden huts, a bunk bed and a coke stove in the centre.

22 course members were: Pete Pinnock, Bob Lomax, Reggie Marles, Johnny Noble, Hill, Trow, Nock, Masters, Freeman, McGuire, Tilling, Walker, Allsopp, Chilton, Rapkins, Swanson, Tafft, Higginson, Hart, Cates, Grantham and myself.

After the course in November 1949 down to Cornwall to join the section at Vulture, R.N.A.S St Myrren. An enjoyable 10 months there. Then drafted to C in C Home Fleets Staff on the Implacable.

There were the three of us - Ginger Bromelow (the leading hand), Pete Pinnock and myself. We were soon on the move to the Vanguard for a cruise to Gibraltar, Genoa, Madeira and Cape Verde Islands.



Pete Pinnock, with a VN press camera, and Roy in Vanguard's darkroom

Back at Gibraltar we were off to the Indomitable. The cruise this time was to Stockholm, Invergordon, round Scotland to Liverpool, the Isle of Man to discharge Avgas then back to 'Pompey'.

In September 1951 I was at Excellent not on Whale Island but at Tipnor Rifle Range where the Portsmouth Command Photographic Unit was based.



Roy trimming a job at Tipnor

We victualled ourselves and there was always money left at the end of the month. At the weekends we had to cook for ourselves and the Chiefs and P.O's. The jobs we undertook were the usual course groups, P.R, low angle marking etc.

After two years a draft to Dalrymple in Devonport. The Dalrymple was laid down as a frigate but finished as a survey ship at the end of the war.

I relieved Taff Bowen and was off on a two year foreign commission. We sailed for the Persian Gulf to be based at Bahrain. In the Gulf we spent two weeks at sea sailing up and down running survey lines.

One week end off of a desert island chasing lizards and the other in Bahrain.

Whilst in the Gulf I had the job of postman as well. When the winter season ended we sailed for Zanzibar.

One night as we left the Gulf my hammock was shaken and I was told the M.O wanted me.

He had a P.O with very bad stomach pains and they had the portable X-ray machine out and I was told to process the film. Now there was a problem! We did not have the developer for it and I had never done this before. Still MQ plus caustic soda and the 'doc' was able to say that it was a twisted gut.

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Full steam ahead (16 knots) for an R.A.F base in Oman and a serf boat to take him ashore. The R.A.F then flew him to Aden.

My lasting memory of Zanzibar was the scent of cloves which you could smell a mile off shore.

Every so often we refuelled in Mombassa.

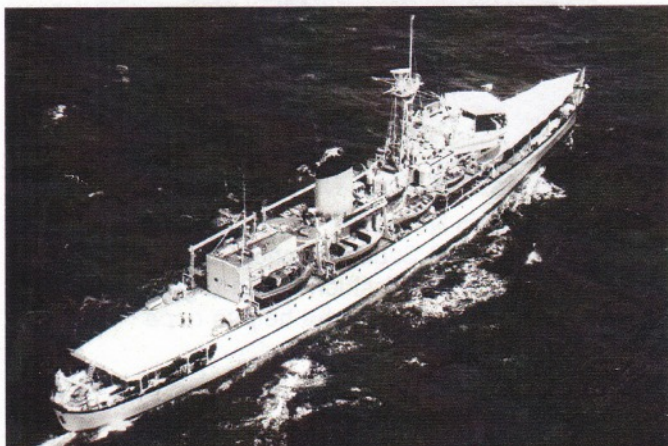
Down to Simons Town in South Africa for a three month refit. A good time was had by the whole ships company. Back to Zanzibar with a trip to the neighbouring island of Pemba to watch a bull fight.



The bull was not killed, just teased by the local lads.

Back to Devonport in July 1955 and a draft to R.N.S.O.P Trials unit. Promoted to Leading Airman at last.

One job for the BBC was with Ron Bowie filming the Dainty coming out of 'moth balls'.



Ten months later I was on the Vidal, another survey ship, in the West Indies, replacing a P.O.Phot who had been sent home ill. We were based in Kingston, Jamaica but visited and surveyed off many other Islands.



Air branch on Vidal

February 1958 saw me back in the U.K and back at Excellent again. In July I was given a few hours notice that I was to fly to Malta and wait at Hal Far Section for further orders. I took a still camera with me.

We flew with squadron personnel who were bound for the Eagle. We being Tony Fisher with cine camera and myself. On arrival at Hal Far an R.P.O told us the whole draft was going to the Eagle. Protest as we may he would not move. Both of us decided next morning we would go and see the Phot. Officer to sort it out.

Early next morning were loaded into lorries and deposited on the Navasa to troop to Cyprus. On arrival we were transferred to a tank landing craft from which we did a jackstay transfer to the Eagle's flight deck. The leading patrolman was puzzled as to why we were there. Ten days later we were escorting a prisoner back to Malta. Just over a month later we were back in the U.K.

On the 13th July 1960 I was in Victory awaiting discharge which came on the 16th August

Many Thanks to Roy Penny for this article
(Other shipmates note :-
more like this most welcome)



Photo Gallery



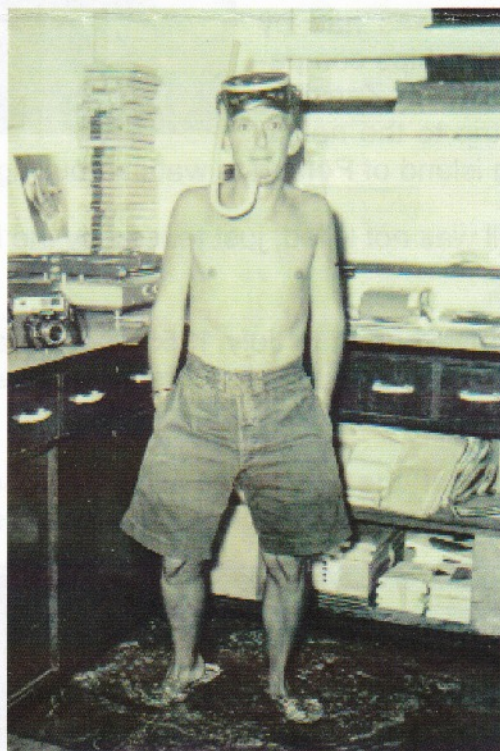
Lee-on-Solent September 1962 -
 Phot 2s Course - from Jan Morgen's album
 Back row - Colin 'Noddy Blunden,
 Jan Morgen and Tam Black
 Front row - Keith Rushby and
 Tony 'Chas' McDevitt



Yeovilton Section December 1966 Divisions Day
 Back row - Brian Cooper, Noddy Blunden, Topsy Turner,
 Taff Morgan, Steve King and
 Geordie Davison(Davidson?)
 Front row - Pete Thorne, Paul Yockney, Lt. 'Dutchy' Holland
 (Phot O), Bill Huggett and Bob Watson



Naval Airman Chris Dalby - HMS Al-
 bion May 1967 - ashore at Magilligan,
 N. Ireland, after what was promised to
 be a dry lannding. It wasn't!



HMS Albion November 1971 - L/Air Pete
 Graig, the 848 Squadron phot., who re-
 sponded in this 'fashion' to an urgent
 phone call requesting he help to cope
 with a section flood.

Thanks for the memories to Paul Yockney and Jan Morgen

Visit our web site : www.mpa.org.uk

THANK YOU FROM PETE NEWTON

I was most surprised to receive so many letters, emails and phone calls from RNPA members wishing me a speedy recovery, it really cheered me up no end. There are also a few members who insist on contacting me regularly for progress reports by telephone and email, I really appreciate your concern and welcome the regular contact.

I WISH TO OFFER MY SINCERE THANKS TO THE MANY MEMBERS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT MY HEALTH

For the benefit of the members, I thought it would be advisable to update the situation. I was receiving hormonal treatment for prostate cancer, however, this was not successful and the cancer spread to my bones making it difficult for me to walk. I now have to have a complete scan which will be followed by radium treatment, hopefully this will be more successful.

My apologies to members for having to give up producing the newsletter, which is now in the capable hands of Brian and Valerie Robertson who deserve our thanks for their dedication in serving the RNPA and keeping it going.

I wish you all the best, keep the RNPA alive with your support and try your best to attend the next AGM/Reunion.

Pete Newton



A Seasonal Photo Find

DPRN Christmas pic 1978

From Brian Jackson, many thanks for this reminder

I'm forwarding some info. on the Victory Service's Club, which believe me, has changed out of all recognition from its slightly 'poor Peter' image into a rather smart place. The deals are good for serving and retired forces personnel. Other Phots may be interested in this so please copy as you wish.

The VSC at the Marble Arch at the end of Oxford Street (don't tell the ladies that bit) may perhaps be a good centre for a future Phot Reunion. Of course, even though the manifold attractions of London cannot compare to those of alluring Coventry... if you see what I mean.
<http://www.vsc.co.uk/>

A Christmas tale from Val

DPRN 1976

As a 'wet behind the ears' Jenny Wren at DPRN I was amazed at the organisation which went into the Christmas party there.

Brian, Sue, George and Jimmy organised the drinks, food and lighting with one of the civvies, Peter, doing the sound. The section was transformed into a disco for the night and we had loads of visitors, Marines, MOD officers civvie production guys et al.

Brian created a special 'Champagne' cocktail for the evening and it was so well received we had to keep topping the bowl up!

One WRNS officer, who shall remain nameless, came over to the party for half an hour as she was committed to going to another party, needless to say after a few cocktails she stayed at the section party and boogied 'til midnight.

A certain Phot got so drunk he
(Brian says I can't put that in print - now you will have to come to the General Meeting to find out the details).



Our shipmate David Lawson crossed the bar in Late November 2006. David Joined in Jan 1945 and left on May 1947 as a Killick. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.