

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 6

SEPTEMBER 2004

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

EDITORIAL

We are now approaching our Reunion / AGM which, I know from the response, will be well attended. The Secretary will be giving you more information on the programme in his report. I don't know if there are any more rooms available, but if you have not booked and you now wish to attend, try contacting the Secretary, and if he can fit you in, I am sure he will oblige.

I have had a good response from members and have received a few items for inclusion in this issue with captioned photographs, hopefully this trend will continue and help to give you a better and bigger newsletter. Contributions from serving photographers- *some of whom I believe read this publication*- will be welcomed, as some of us old, or ,older ex RN Phots, would be interested in hearing about life as a RN Phot in today's navy.

Talking about Phots in today's Navy, I have introduced a **CAPTION COMPETITION**, with an RNPA lapel pin as a token prize, the photograph is of an RN Phot from the old days telling currently serving P.O's how it was in days gone by.

Our new President Lt. Cdr. Martin May-Clingo will not be contributing to this issue of the newsletter, he will be addressing members at the AGM/REUNION next month which will be reported accordingly in the next issue of the newsletter.

Pete Newton



HMS HERON SECTION PHOTS 1944/45

RNPA COMMITTEE 2004

President: Lt. Cdr. Martin May-Clingo RN

Chairman: John Cunningham 02392 780806

ViceChairman: Peter Newton. 01903 219996
email fawnewton@aol.com

Secretary: Lt. Stuart Antrobus, BEM. RN. .
O.I/C. FRPU Tipner. 02392 547112

Treasurer: Lt. Richard Moss, BSc.(Hons) RN
023 8026 5212

Webmaster: W/O Paul Cowpe

Historian: Maurice (Jan) Larcombe.
jandor@which.net

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Serving:- PO(Phot.) Richard Thompson DNR

Scotland:- John Berracloth. 01382 457601

Northern:- Ray Pogson 01226 763167

Midlands:- Danny De Feu. 01162 241974

Southwest/Wales:- Ian Gutteridge 01326 564514

South:- John Flack. 01329 235325

Southeast:- Roy Penny. 01634 241071

N. Ireland :- William Porter. 01232 381251
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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The 85th Anniversary of the R.N. Photographic Branch and Reunion is upon us and is taking place next month, I have already intimated in a previous newsletter that I would be pleased to hear from members in the Pompey area, should they wish me to arrange transport to Bournemouth. To date I have not had any response, but, I don't believe members would prefer to find a parking space in which to leave their cars for three days.

I will be phoning members in the area to try and see if we can raise enough interest to enable us to run suitable transport to and from the Hotel.

I recently attended the visit to the FRPU, HMS Invincible and HMS Victory arranged by Stuart Antrobus and with the other members who were there, enjoyed every minute of the day. Well done Stuart.

I look forward to meeting most of the members at the AGM/Reunion next month.

John Cunningham

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It only seems like a few weeks since I was updating you on the recent activities of the association. It's amazing how time rushes past when there is so much going on.

As each month goes by another name is added to the growing list of ex naval photographers who genuinely want to get involved with the association. There are still one or two who have not replied to either the Treasurers letters or ones from me and we can only assume that they have either moved on to a new address or no longer want to be members. To date we have 148 fully paid up members so, as I'm sure you will agree, we're on the increase even though it's a slow process.

In a bid to get more ex naval photographers in contact with each other, area representatives are being sent a list of the contact details for members in their immediate area. Following the success of the visit to the FPU, HMS Victory and HMS Invincible in July the area

reps will be asked to organise something similar in their area so please give them your support.

The London visit to the Old War Office is still planned for 9 Sept 04 but there are only a couple of places left. The visit will include a tour of the DCC(N) Phot section (formally DPR Navy) and the Civil Service Photographic run by Mr Peter Finlay.

I did request a visit with the First Sea Lord as mentioned in the last news letter but, as luck would have it, he moved back into the newly refurbished MoD Main Building at the beginning of August. On the day of our visit he will be in the Crimea attending a commemoration ceremony. After a tour of the Old War Office building itself we will grab a bit of lunch before heading over to the Imperial War Museum to view the latest exhibits. I am still trying to organise an extra attraction for the day but I will not have confirmation of that until nearer the time. Please call me on 02392 547112 if you would like to come along.

I've had several phone calls recently from members asking if they can still get tickets for the AGM and 85th Anniversary Dinner and Dance on October 23rd. Half the tickets have gone now but in true naval tradition I expect a rush of requests as we approach the date. My advice is to get your bid in as soon as possible because once we reach the 200 point we will be on a reserved list. A booking form is enclosed.

As you can see from the attached guest list there's going to be a fairly diverse collection of photographers and their partners from those presently serving right back to Second World War veterans.

The final programme will be sent out with the tickets a couple of weeks before the event but the menu choices are listed on the next page.



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MENU CHOICES

Starters: *Fan of Honeydew Melon with Prawns and Marie Rose Sauce*

Chef's Pate with Cumberland Sauce and Melba Sauce

Soup: *Cream of Tomato and Orange Soup*

Main: *Roast Sirloin of Beef with a Red Wine and Shallot Sauce*

Supreme of Chicken with an Asparagus and Champagne Sauce

Sweet: *Chocolate Gateaux with Cherries and Kirsch*

Vacherin with Vanilla Ice Cream and Fruits of the Forest

Actor and comedian Jack Mackenzie from 'Taggart' 'Star Wars' and 'Bernard's Watch' fame will be delivering the after dinner speech. Hearing how Jack has stumbled through life from his early days as a Royal Marine through to his time as a Police Officer and finally life as an Actor will certainly leave many of us with aching sides! As many serving and recently retired photographers will know, Jack is a staunch supporter of the photographic branch and, as he will probably explain on the night, is deeply indebted the Royal Navy.

Guest list for AGM / 85th Anniversary Dinner & Dance so far:

Mike & Jo Adams, Ron Alexander & guest, Jules Anderson, Stuart & Colleen Antrobus, Mr & Mrs John Berreclough, Mr & Mrs Ron Bennett and guest, Dave Burnie, Mr & Mrs Pete Bunting, Mr & Mrs Rick Burch, Ben Cartwright, Len Cobbett, Mr & Mrs Nigel Craft, John & Moira Cunningham, Danny & Tina du Feu, Flo Foord, Roger & Pam Forbes, Ron Graham, Mike Gilbert & guest, Ian Gutteridge, Mr & Mrs Geoff Holland, Mr & Mrs Jan Larcombe, Steve Lewis, Mr & Mrs David Lipson, Mr & Mrs Ian Hooper, Pete & Linda James, Mike & Jean Keeling & guests, Bob & Betty Lomax, Mr & Mrs Brian Lowe, Richard Matthey, Mr & Mrs Mike Mitchel, Martin May-Clingo, Jan Morgan, Dee Morgan, Dave Morris, Ritchie Moss & guest, Peter & Rita Newton, Mr PJ Packenas & guest, Mr & Mrs Peter Parkins, Mrs

Cecelia Philbrick, Mr & Mrs Peter Pinnock, Mr & Mrs Roy Penny, Mr William Porter & guest, Steve Potten, Rebecca Radford & guest, Vince & Yonna Richards, Julie Richardson & guest, Mr & Mrs Charles Robinson & guests, Bill & Rose Stenning, Bill Simpson, Peter & Angela Thorne, Alfie Tubb, Paul and Kath Wellings, Leslie Wenden & guest, Stuart Wood, Paul Yockney.

With the AGM fast approaching if there are any members who have any points or issues they want included in the agenda then please let me know by the end of September at the latest.

I hope this summer newsletter finds you in good health and I look forward to seeing many of you in October.

Stuart Antrobus



RNPA members visit FRPU, back row l to r, Pete Bucknell, Mike Keeling, John Flack, Doug Manning and Bill Stenning. Front row l to r, Rod Safe, Rose Stenning, Lt. Stuart Antrobus, OIC FRPU, John Cunningham and Dave Morris.

THINGS HISTORIC

By Jan Larcombe

Any Branch Newsletters out there? Apart from a "who was where when" they are a good source of information on the branch and

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what was going on at the time. I have 1966,67,69,70 and 71. As usual I will scan and return asap with the aim of getting them onto the web site so that everyone can have access.

Half a dozen of you have been in contact and lent photographs but I am still after more. Course photographs confirm who was on which course and usually give a pretty good start date. More please.

We still haven't got the Image gallery as we would like it. Apart from helping with the twins Webmaster Paul has just moved from Cosford to Plymouth and I have had a hectic summer.

The FAA museum have accepted three publications and a couple of pieces of kit that came my way. So if you have anything that you think should be preserved forever please let me know and I will offer it to the museum.

OUR FRIENDS IN THE NORTH

NORTHERN region representative Ray Pogson combined a little RNPA business with pleasure in June by meeting up with three former Lossiemouth-based photographers still living in the area who he last saw at various times in the 1960's.

Ray, 62, was on his way south from Durness after five days fishing for brown trout on the Cape Wrath Hotel's renowned limestone lochs, and was revisiting some of the old haunts made memorable during his three drafts to HMS Fulmar as part of his annual Scottish holiday in the far north.

Aware that several ex-photos had remained in the area, a check in the phone book located Terry Gill living in Mosstodloch near Elgin, who with his wife Sue and grandson Luke, met Ray at Lossiemouth's Harbour Tearooms for a breakfast coffee and the opportunity to catch up on developments during the intervening years when the former CPO worked as a graphics artist/photographer for

The Northern Scot newspaper in Elgin. Terry, 67, left the navy in 1977 and retired a couple of years ago.

Sue - organisation personified - immediately contacted Tony Spring in Lossiemouth and Alfie Tubb in New Elgin to let them know that Ray was in town, and he was able to meet up with both men for more 'what ever happened to...?' chats that invariably occur when ex-photos get together.

After leaving the navy in 1970, Tony, 74, took over Studio Tyrrell in Elgin the following year and ran the photographic business for 25 years before retiring in 1996.

The ex-CPO under-went a heart bypass operation two years later and almost simultaneously suffered a below the knee amputation of his right leg due to circulation problems.

"Tony was his usual ebullient self, he believes he's been given a second crack at living after a total of nearly 27 hours in operating theatres and is thoroughly enjoying life in Lossiemouth with wife Kate," said Ray.



Lossiemouth liaison... Terry, left, Ray and Tony - pictured by Sue Gill.

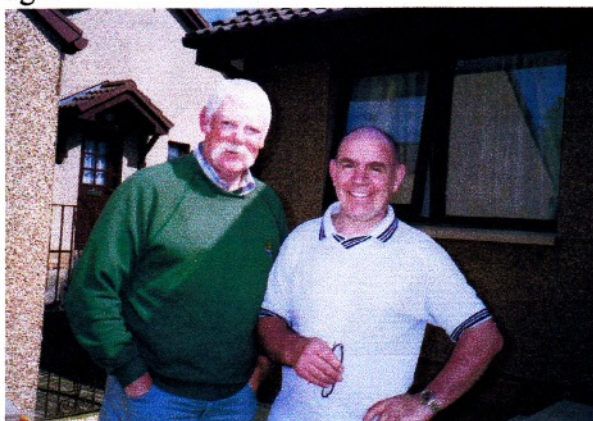
Alfie, 63, left the navy as a L/Airman in 1968 and was involved in medical, research and educational photography before joining The Northern Scot in 1979 as a photographer where he worked in the same department as Terry. He recently started an early retirement and is well looked after by wife Shona.

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"It was good to see all three of them once again after all these years, and I've made sure that Stu Antrobus has their contact details," said Ray. "Alfie was very keen to get news of Brian 'Bill' Lowe so I've been able to pass on his phone number. They've since been in touch for the first time in years and they plan to meet up at the reunion in Bournemouth.

"Big' Bill Smith and Phil Jenkins also live in the Elgin area but Frank Calder, who apparently was the town's most popular traffic warden, was tragically killed in an horrific car crash on the A96 a few years ago."



Ray with Alfie, right, who is hoping to meet some of his old friends in Bournemouth

THANKS RAY

I would like to extend my personal thanks to Ray Pogson for the excellent way he has presented his contribution to this newsletter.

The Editor.

PROFILE ON DAVE KING

Dave joined the RN as an Ordinary Seaman early in September 1947 and was sent to *HMS Excalibur* near Stoke-on-Trent to do his initial training and square bashing. He wanted to be a Photographer and was drafted to Lee-on-Solent, where, having been in the service for exactly eight weeks, was made a Bosuns Mate. His duties were varied, bell ringing, piping, playing official records on the Tannoy System, watch keeping and standing in for the bored Flag Sentry.

O/S King was next drafted to *HMS Heron* at Yeovilton to await joining the next Phot 2's

course, in the meantime, he continued as a not too efficient Bosuns Mate, who, often raised the flag all wrong at Divisions and constantly failed to identify those who required 'early shakes' and was still looking for them well after reveille. Eventually, Dave got his draft to Ford *HMS Peregrine* and RNSOP where he joined No.2 Phot 2's Course where he changed his rate to Naval Airman 2.



Taken in Ford Phot Section, Back row l to r Taff Bowen, Dave King. Front row, l to r, Iain Hutchinson, Mick ? and Johnny Taft

After nine months training, he emerged as a fully fledged Phot 2 and was posted back to Yeovilton, but this time to the Phot Section. Dave got itchy feet at *HMS Heron* and together with his mate Geordie Moss, volunteered for a foreign draft, Geordie got Malta and Dave got Australia and *HMAS Sydney*. After a spell on the *Sydney*, Dave joined *HMAS Albatros*, a shore base in New South Wales. Problems at home saw Dave boarding an Avro York on a flight back to Britain which took 8 days (it landed each night}, at Singapore he was arrested and put in cells as a suspected deserter, this was soon sorted and Dave continued his flight back home.

The next stop during 1950 was the Phot Section at Ford, where I was serving at the time and I got to know Dave quite well. Soon he was away again and joined the training carrier *HMS Triumph* as an L/A Phot running the Phot Section. After a spell on the *Triumph*, he went on No.4 Phot 1's course after which he was posted to Culdrose *HMS Seahawk* in 1953 as Acting P.O. i/c the Phot Section. I'm not sure how long Dave was at Culdrose, but, his next draft was to *HMS Glory* in the Med Fleet as PO i/c of the

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section. Having spent some time cruising the Med enjoying the scenery, he was required at RNSOP in Ford as an Instructor for Phot 1's, 2's and 3's courses during 1955/56.



Dave King training Phot 3's at RNSOP Ford
In 1956 Dave found himself in Hongkong, HMS / Tamar i c Fleet Photographic Unit in what Dave describes as "three wonderful years", he was his own boss, living it up in a nice set up by the dockyard gate. He did mostly gunnery photography and also quite a bit of publicity etc. He says he had no duties and lots of travel down to Malaya, Singapore and other territories in the area. In 1959 he found himself back in Ford and demob in June, after 12 years and 3 months service. Dave then worked at the RAF SOP for six months before moving to Africa for 13 years, doing a variety of filming assignments involving plenty of travel, adventure and mostly hard work.



Hongkong 1957. Dave with F24 filming at Port Shelter Gunnery Range



A run ashore, Culdrose 1953, l to r, Dave King, Reg Marles, ?, ?, Reg Bridges

CAPTION COMPETITION



Dave Morris telling the Petty Officers what it was like in his days in the Navy.

GIVE US YOUR CAPTION FOR THIS PHOTOGRAPH and I will print the best ones in the next newsletter. The winner will receive an RNPA lapel pin.

RNPA MEMBERS VISIT FRPU

Report by John Flack (Southern Area Rep)

Nine members arrived at the Fleet Regional Photographic Unit and were welcomed by Lieut. Stuart Antrobus OIC of the unit, who, after treating us to light refreshments, gave a presentation on the branch and history of the FRPU. This was followed by a tour of the unit and the Digital Suite, where Equipment currently in use in the RN was on display. At lunchtime we were invited to a barbeque prepared by the FRPU, which gave us the opportunity of meeting the section staff. After an enjoyable Barbie we boarded the bus provided, which transported us on a dockyard tour, after which we went on board HMS Victory, it was interesting to see how

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much work had been done on the vessel in recent times. We were next transported to HMS Invincible where we were met by Petty Officer Paul Smith, who proceeded to show us the type of work currently undertaken by the staff of two in the Phot Section, which we visited, on board the carrier. We then toured the ship including the hangar, flight deck and operations room.

Special thanks are due to **P.O. Paul Smith** who made us most welcome and who could not have been more helpful.

We returned to FRPU before going our respective ways, which for some of us was a local hostelry.

We would all like to express our gratitude and thanks to Stuart for organising and conducting a most memorable day.

From our observations, the branch remains in very good hands.



RNPA members visit to HMS Invincible .l to r, Stuart Antrobus, Pete Bucknall, Rod Safe, Rose Stenning, John Cunningham, P.O. Phot. Paul Smith, Mike Keeling, Douglas Manning, Dave Morris and John Flack



RNPA members visit HMS Victory



RNPA members on HMS Victory



HMS Drake Phot Section 1980. Back row l to r, Ken Johnson, Kath Todd, Mike Lay, Lin Herbert, Ginge Corrick. Front row, l to r, Brian Mooney(eye Patch), Stuart Antrobus, ?, Eric Thompson, Karen Grainger.

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THE BOOT LACE

(A gem of official correspondence)

1

The Commanding Officer, HMS "Tragedy"

Sir, I have the honour to submit
That I may Have, should you see fit
Gratuitous issue of one boot lace
To keep my starboard boot in place,
Yesterday the first of June
Preparing for my lunch at noon,
I parted one in thirteen places
Although my boots had service laces
Report of loss is made by me
I have the honour, sir, to be
(Signed) R.DUPP, Lieutenant,R.N.

2

The Vice Admiral Commanding "X" Sqdn.

Submitted for consideration
This Officer going to his station
Of lunching ship, had hardly started
Before the lace in question parted.
And I consider there's no blame
In wilfully destroying same.
Submit, the other lace is matched,
(A pink defect list is attached)
(Signed) VERE.A.SHACKLE,Captain,R.N.

3

The Commanding Officer, HMS "Tragedy"

Attention is directed to
Article 6, paragraphs 1 and 2
Of Home Fleet Order Book, which state
Demands should be made in triplicate
As to the lace, describe the fracture,
Give the date and place of manufacture;
With details as to length and size,
How many kinds of knots it ties
Its colour whether black or blue,
Its pattern number, price when new,
And also to the nearest penny,
Its market value now, if any
(Signed) CROCKET KNOTT. Vice Admiral.

4

The Vice Admiral Commanding "X" Sqdn.

Submitted in compliance with
Your minute 3, demands herewith;
Prints of the fracture are enclosed;
The lace itself, it is proposed
To keep until the Dockyard sends
To take on charge its broken ends.
The details, as required by you,

Have also been attended to

(Signed) VERE A. SHACKLE, Captain R.N.

5

The Secretary of the Admiralty

Be pleased to place before the board
Full details of this untoward
Disaster to a service lace,
Request permission to replace
The same with pattern 3a (large)
And make the issue free of charge,
Observing that the deed was done
By accident, and not for fun.
(Signed) CROCKETT KNOTT, Vice Admiral

6

The Vice Admiral Commanding "X" Sqdn

My Lords regret the recent loss
Of service laces 1 in Nos.
And they are pleased to give approval
For its immediate removal.
The fractured pieces should be sent
With full report of accident
To Chatham Dockyard, that they may
Be subject to a strict survey.
When they have duly been removed
Gratuitous issue is approved
Of laces, black, pattern 3a (Large)
1 in number free of charge.
Tragedy's Quarterly Account
Of clothes, should show the full amount
As "Special Issue", they should head it
With voucher to support the credit.
Two sketches are attached, they show
The most efficient type of bow
Adapted to the service boot lace
To keep the boot or shoe in place
When seen by all officers concerned
They should be noted and returned.
(Signed) GISSA SMILE for Secretary

7

Tha Commanding Officer, HMS "Tragedy"

For action as my Lords decree
Note and return to Admiralty.
(Signed) CROCKETT KNOTT, Vice Admiral.

THE END

