

# THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



**MARCH 2006**

**SPRING**

**ISSUE 12**

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## **EDITORIAL**

Tempus fugit – the last three months have simply flown past and it's time once again to produce the newsletter.

I know you all enjoy reading the RNPA newsletters, but, it is getting more and more difficult to find contributors, so come on you photographers, let me have your profiles and dits, which you think may be of interest to your colleagues, past and present. Without your help, this newsletter can not continue in its present form, it may have to revert to pre Peregrine Photos Post, one page sent out occasionally by the Secretary to let you know of forthcoming events.

In the past, PO(A) Phot. Flo Ford was a great help, he used to collect the newsletter after I had printed all the copies, he then put them in addressed envelopes and posted them. On behalf of the Committee and members, THANK YOU Flo for all your help.

Alas! Flo is now at DEF PR(N) London and I have got this old job back. I now have the task of finding out which members have paid their subs and are entitled to receive the newsletter, so, it's up to you to ensure your name is on the circulation list by paying your subs on time --- (1<sup>st</sup> January each year). To give you some leeway, I am using the pre 1<sup>st</sup> January circulation list for the last time, any future list will only consist of paid up members.

Unfortunately due to all the recent RN moves taking place, there have been no reports from our Social Secretary who is in the process of moving to DGA in Bath and our web site is a bit behind due to Lt.Paul Cowpe moving to JSOP at RAF Cosford as O/C Training. Apologies from all involved in these changes. Finally, I would like to say WELCOME to our new Secretary

'BLONDIE' ROBERTSON

Peter Newton

## **RNPA COMMITTEE**

**President:** Lt. Cdr. Martin May-Clingo RN

**Chairman:** John Cunningham 02392 780806

**ViceChairman** Lt. Stuart Antrobus, BEM. RN.

**Secretary:** Blondie Robertson, 33, Stanley Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire. BD2 1AS  
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**Treasurer:** Lt. Richard Moss, BSc.(Hons) RN 023 8026 5212 email: [richris95.m@virgin.net](mailto:richris95.m@virgin.net) 12 Ouse Close, Valley Park, Chandlers Ford, Hants. SO53 4RW

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## **AREA REPRESENTATIVES**

**Serving:-** PO(Phot.) Flo Foord

**Scotland & N. Ireland:-** John Berrecloth. 01382 457601

**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

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## **Presidents Report**

Lt. Cdr. Martin May-Clingo, Royal Navy.

Well 2005 was certainly an eventful year, both for serving and retired members of the Photographic Branch. The major event was the International Fleet Review and the Son et Lumiere which formed part of the Trafalgar 200 celebrations. Most people I spoke to who attended were well aware that they are unlikely to ever again see such a spectacle in their lifetimes, and many were moved emotionally by the Battle Re-enactment with its evocative firework backdrop.

The Photographic Specialisation worked as one. Over 40 Photographers were employed on the day, both on stills and video. They worked hard for their privileged positions but were rewarded with some stunning images, many of which will provide the lasting memories of this historic occasion.

Of course it all seemed like a great party from the outside, however the serious issue was raising the profile of the Service and the message being pushed was about the relevancy of today's Royal Navy to British society. T200 did a great job in achieving this; now we have to maintain that profile. "Defending British Interest's Worldwide", is what the RN is doing, and the Specialisation has the challenging task of supporting this message through imagery.

Disaster relief - post tsunami and earthquake, Counter Drugs operations, submarine rescues, nation building in Iraq; these are some of the headline operations covered by RN Photographers over the past year. Demonstrating the ability of our people to adapt and respond positively in difficult circumstances, their images were used worldwide. Media Ops is a demanding arena and we continue to develop the skills of our photographers and encourage them to be innovative and creative.

Video is an example of this. Re-introduced for Electronic News Gathering, this is now evolving into a limited 'production capability'. To encourage our personnel to take time out to hone their video skills, I have introduced a 'Video Category' to the 2006 Peregrine Trophy Competition.

Support to intelligence continues. CPO O'Shaughnessy is employed as an Image Analyst (IA) with the US/UK Combined Predator Force in the USA. His role is as the Sensors Operator for the Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, (UAV), being flown remotely over Iraq in support of Allied operations there. One of our LH's, Fred West, played an important role in the Maritime UAV trials earlier this year and I am convinced that the Specialisation will be further engaged in UAVs in the future.

I have stood up new billets at the RAF's Tactical Imagery Intelligence Wing (TIW) at RAF Marham. IA's in TIW will provide support to Harrier GR7's undertaking Tac Recce globally; including onboard our carriers.

Sadly we lost the last of our NATO foreign billets this year as a result of a NATO reorganisation. Lisbon closed down in July and CPO De-Silva will turn off the lights in SACLANT in the New Year. Although I never personally enjoyed a 'foreign draft' as a Phot, I have always recognised the benefits of these aspirational posts, so I will continue to seek out new opportunities.

Our personnel are frequently recipients of prizes and awards; however this has been a particularly good year for recognition of the talents of our personnel. PO Richie Harvey was awarded the MBE for his sterling work as the pivotal member of the team at Faslane that developed the digital Periphot capability. Furthermore, he and WO Jon Garthwaite have also been rewarded for their work on this project with a Gems Award, (big bucks!). Malta, I understand, was a resounding success for the Reunion in October and I expect many fond memories were rekindled during that week. On your behalf, I would like to acknowledge the work of your Committee in organising the event, and in particular Stuart Antrobus and John Cunningham.

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 2006.

Lt.Cdr. Martin May-Clingo, Royal Navy.



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## Chairman's Report

I wish all members a belated - Greetings for the New Year – May 2006 bring you peace and prosperity and continued good health.

With regards to the few comments about our Malta trip, I do apologise for the “cock ups” that occurred – the non existent banquet etc. – but being good willed and tolerant people !! you did not give me a hard time. I thank you one and all, for your support and help and I have asked the Lord not to let it rain on our parade again!!!

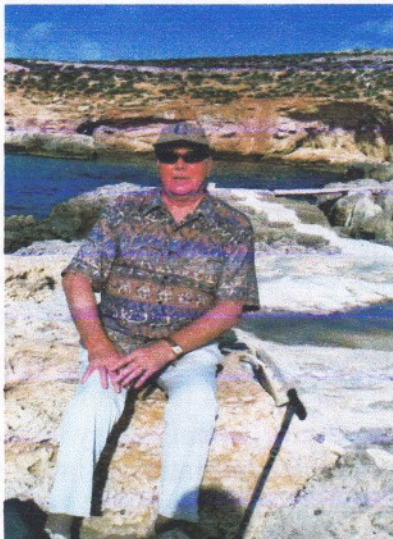
I would like to thank Peter for all his hard work over the years he was Secretary, it was not an easy task, but, he carried it out to perfection. I am most grateful to him for his whole hearted support over the years and I am pleased that he will be continuing to produce his excellent newsletter.

We are also saying goodbye to Stuart, who is moving to D.G.A. (Bath). Hopefully he will return to the Portsmouth area after his stint in Bath.

I feel we should plan to have our next AGM somewhere in the heart of England so that all our members could attend ---SUGGESTIONS PLEASE ---- KEEP IN TOUCH AND PICK UP THE REINS AGAIN.

John Cunningham

### John's Malta Pix follow.



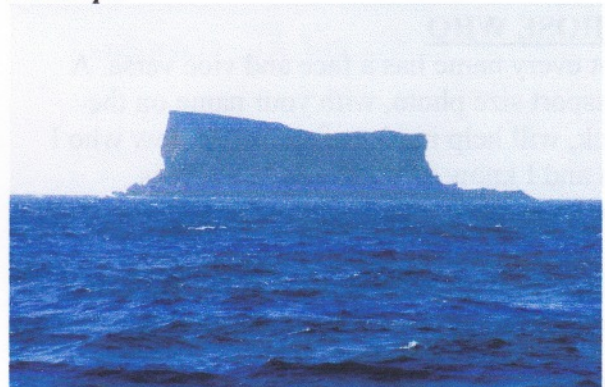
*A well tanned John on Comino Island*



*Some of us on Comino Island enjoying the warm weather and swimming on tour around Malta.*



*The majority of our group at the Malta Cenotaph*



*I think the older members will recognise this lump of rock. Over the years we knocked great lumps out of it (ship bombardment) Filfla Rock.*



*Dave Morris, Joseph Saliba and Rod Safe. Joseph was a Leading Seaman on the gunnery team when Rod was the last boss of the team.*



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## THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### YOUR NEW JOINT SECRETARIES REPORT

#### Brian & Valerie Robertson

After 23 1/2 years in the Andrew and hearing that phrase 'Never Volunteer' over and over –

WE DID !!!!

Val and I as a team under the heading Blondie have become your new secretary. Pete has handed over all that is needed to run the post, Val and I are slowly getting to grips with it, and it is hoped that you out there will not notice the change.

However there are a few things that will help

#### SUBS

Have you paid up?

If not - Why?

Via the treasurer it will be possible to notify those of you who need a little encouragement to pay up and remain members of our association

#### WHOSE WHO

Not every name has a face and vice versa. A passport size photo, with your name on the back, will help in identification. I know who I am and I know some of you but help is needed to put face and name together. Just think of it as help for someone who left the R.N. some years ago and cannot remember everyone met or whose round it is next.

#### EMAIL

... Address. Please could you drop an email to Val at [valerierobertson@hbosplc.com](mailto:valerierobertson@hbosplc.com) if you get chance so that she can get in touch via email if necessary. If you have a website include details. Let Val know if you don't want your email or website address passed on to other RNPA shipmates.

#### GREAT!

... is the buzzword of the moment.

It describes our association.

It can be used when remembering past events. When you met so and so who you had not seen for ages.

When you read the obituaries and find out you are still alive.

Thanks to those of you who gave reassurance when you heard about a new sec who was hearing voices saying 'Never Volunteer'.

Thanks to Pete for doing the job before it was transferred in Malta

Thanks for reading this and 'don't worry'

Oh no! Voices again . . .

Regards

Blondie Robertson



*Brian and Valerie Robertson*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear all,

This time of year is usually the busiest for the RNPA in terms of finances. Membership subscriptions dominate the Bank Statements; sometimes dozens of Standing Orders and Cheques per day are credited to the account. Sadly, subscriptions have decreased over the last two years: From an initial database of over 145 members (including 7 serving members), there are 93 members fully paid up - 23 of which are Joint Memberships. With over 50 people "falling off the plot" Brian Robertson (Blondie) and I are keen to entice them back. Over the next few months we will be getting together to mail every one who hasn't paid into the Association to invite them to renew. On another note, could I kindly ask everyone to check and ensure that their Standing Orders have been correctly amended in line with current Membership subscription rates; there are a few who are still paying



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£5.00 for single membership and £7.50 for Joint. As a reminder, the subscription rates are:

**SINGLE MEMBERSHIP    £10.00**  
**JOINT MEMBERSHIP    £15.00**

Last year was a very successful year in terms of visits and 'holidays to Malta' and special thanks go to Mr Norman Grantham who graciously donated £50.00 to the Association for drinks at the banquet in Malta. He couldn't make it but wanted everyone to have a good time. Before I sign off, I am updating the RNPA database so could I ask everyone to email me their own email address. Please note my new address is as follows:

**RICHRIS95.M@VIRGIN.NET**

Finally, if anyone has any ideas of what they would like to see in the coming year please contact me or any other committee member and we'll gladly look into what can be achieved this year.

In conclusion, the Association remains healthy and has over £1800 in the account. With continued support from members' subscriptions and the great work the committee are doing with the Newsletter and various visits to Photographic sites the Association can only go from strength to strength.

Many Regards.

Richie Moss  
Lieutenant RN

### A CONTRIBUTION FROM NORMAN GRANTHAM

#### An Abridged Profile on Photographer (A) Albert G. Mash and his only ship.

The French Colonial Intelligence Service Vessel LeRhin, built in 1920, was handed over to the RN at Gibraltar in 1940.

This well equipped surveillance ship, streets ahead photographically of any RN warship (and in most respects) was renamed HMS Fidelity and sailed to Barry, where she was

fitted with 4" guns, four torpedo tubes, two Kingfisher Seaplanes (ex French) and an MTB. She embarked 51 RM Commando and was fitted out as an armed merchant ship (Q ship). The British referred to her as a SSV {Special Service Vessel}

She joined Convoy (ONS 154) sailing to the far east at the end of 1942. All her crew were issued with Noms de Guerre. Unusually Fidelity had on board a First Officer WRNS, listed as Madeline Barclay although her real name was Madeline Gueslcin.

Off the Azores Kapitan Leutnant Stretlow in U435 sank HMS Fidelity which was on its way to French Indo China. The U boat pack almost decimated Convoy ONS154. HMS Fidelity was lost with all hands amongst whom was : **Photographer (A) Albert George Mash**, born in Forest Gate West Ham on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1920. Albert had been apprenticed to Swains, the court photographers and on finishing his apprenticeship he joined Polyphoto in Ilford moving to Torquay on promotion, where he met his wife.

He volunteered to join the Photographic Branch of the RN and was sent to HMS Daedalus for basic training. He later volunteered for SOE (Special Operations Executive) service on HMS Fidelity which was about to embark on a top secret Indo Chinese venture. Albert had been sent for specialist training with the RM Commandos in Scotland and issued with his nom de guerre. HMS Fidelity was his first and only sea going ship.

Lee on Solent Memorial Bay 4 Panel 5  
Mash Albert G. Photographer (A)  
P/MX102075.

May he rest in peace.



*Albert George Mash. Photographer (A)*



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## A CONTRIBUTION FROM PETER PINNOCK by email

Hi Pete

Herewith the Sea Fury prang pics, and text to accompany. I am quite happy to be corrected if any readers were on Indom: at the time, and have details of the event.

Indom: was in the med: in 1952 I think. Wilf Atkinson was on duty with the K20. The sea fury came into land but when he touched down was right on the port-side of the flight deck. When his hook caught the arrestor wire, because he was so close to the edge, there was "no-give" in the wire and his tail was snapped off clean.

He came down the flight deck on his nose, hit the "crash barrier" stanchion and did a somersault, landing on his tail-end, on a "pom-pom" gun emplacement, his momentum tipped him forward and he hung over the side, kept there by his starboard undercarriage.

The pilot got half-way out of the cockpit, realised he had left his fuel on, got back in to turn it off, then leapt from the cockpit onto the flight deck. The engine was on fire and fell off, and the remains were pushed over the side. The pilot's only injury was a sprained thumb, as far as I can recall!!

Regards

Pete



## NEW MEMBERS

**Desmond Ashton**

**Gerry Caswell**

**Colin Hembrow**

**Ralph Mortimer**

**WELCOME TO THE RNPA**