



JUNE 2006

SUMMER

ISSUE 13

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IMPORTANT NOTICE!

**AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO RECEIVING THE
NEWSLETTER BY POST IT CAN NOW BE
RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY EMAIL**

**IF YOU WOULD PREFER AN ELECTRONIC
VERSION PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO THE
TREASURER AT**

RICHRI95.M@VIRGIN.NET

**Additionally we are updating the members' database so could all
those with email accounts please send an email to the above
address. VMT – Richie Moss.**

THE PEREGRINE PHOTOS POST

THE ROYAL NAVAL PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

I am pleased to report that I have had some response to my last editorial --- one ,or, two ex phots have contacted me with the very kind offer of supplying material for this and possibly other newsletters, so, god willing, you may be assured of newsletters for the rest of 2006. However, I am still looking for items from you which you may think would be of interest to your RNPA colleagues, letters, ideas, profiles, dits, photographs of interest (with captions or articles), or, even your opinions and comments on any matter relating to the RNPA or, the RN.

I missed the Peregrine Trophy event this year, I did intend going, but, unfortunately, I was required to work at the last minute due to the shortage of staff. You will probably read all about the event held at the MOD building in Whitehall, in the Navy News, they usually publish the Trophy photographs.

Our Chairman is currently laid up with a broken ankle, not I may add through playing football, but, it was an unfortunate accident at home. We wish you a speedy recovery John.

Our Treasurer, Lt. Richie Moss, in his efforts to economise, has suggested that I place his notice to members on the front of the newsletter. Good man Richie, if it is successful, it will save me a lot of time not having to print hundreds of pages of the newsletter and the Association will save production and postage costs.

Unfortunately, Petty Officer Flo Foord has not had the time in his new job, to continue promoting the association to serving members and to contribute articles to the newsletter. It is probable that he has to cover varying assignments on a global or national basis.

Peter Newton



RNPA COMMITTEE

President: Lt. Cdr. Martin May-Clingo RN

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564514

South:- John Flack.01329 235325

Southeast:- Ray. Whitehouse 01903 770906

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

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Chairman's Report

Greetings to all fellow members, it is good to see that we have new members joining, in particular I welcome Colin "Taff" Hembrow as we spent some time together in Culdrose and look forward to meeting up with him again, perhaps at the next AGM/Reunion.

We are currently in the process of organising the 2006 AGM and are looking into the possibility of using RAF Cosford. There are several reasons for this, the main reason being that it is fairly central and our loyal Scottish members wouldn't have so far to travel. Our Webmaster Lt. Paul Cowpe, who is the OC Training at the Defence School of Photography at RAF Cosford, could work on this possibility. If you are anything like me --- - you will end up with a migraine when you see the modern day setup in a phot section! another good reason for visiting Cosford. However, the committee may make alternative arrangements when they meet in the near future---- (I can't be at the meeting because of my broken ankle).

John Cunningham

SECRETARY'S REPORT

For those of you who have no idea who I am apart from being the sec of the RN Photos association let me give you a brief summary; joined the RN Oct 1955. No 22 Phot II course Mar 1956 to Nov 1956. Left the RN Apr 1979, after 23.5 years, as a CPO Phot, PLUS lots of places in between! As far as Freemantle Western Australia in one direction to San Diego California in the other direction, PLUS meeting lots of people. Now down to the serious stuff.

After the last (my first) newsletter I did get some feedback, not a lot . . . but some. Good to hear from those that got in touch.

The published e-mail address was incorrect. Contact can be made by various means;

1. E-mail :- valerierobertson@hbosplc.com
2. Snail mail :- 33 Stanley Road, Bradford, West Yorks, BD2 1AS
3. Phone:- 01274 530982

Please make a note of these even though they are in the newsletter.

And now for the commercial break

Have you ever thought of joining the Royal Naval or Fleet Air Arm associations? (typists note - or the WRNS association J)

A couple of hours a month at one or more of these worthwhile groups will give you a BUZZ.

Meet and talk to members, enjoy the occasional trip to somewhere interesting. They are not difficult to find and you never know, you could enjoy yourself. Go on and give them a try. Force yourself.

And now back to business

The AGM later this year has your committee at work on a suitable venue with something of interest for everybody.

Southeast is organizing a trip to Ford on June 22nd and as it is a weekday there may be some prisoners visible!

Val and I are on for the trip so if you are too then get in touch with Ray Whithouse.

The committee have had a meeting minus your Chairman John Cunningham who has a leg in plaster. We hope that some of the items on the agenda will be brought to your notice in the next newsletter.

All the best John but what a way to get out of a little housework.

Before I finish I will just tell you what Jan Morgan put in an e-mail, "Sec's is good for you"

Keep in touch Folks!

Blondie (and Val)

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

It's been quite a while since we last met socially and for those who didn't make it to Malta, it will be nearly two years. Now that I am in a better position to organise some events I hope to be offering some interesting venues over the coming months. For now though, the most important event of the year

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is the AGM and the following suggestion will hopefully meet with your approval.

AGM 2006

With a view to coming up with a solution that will suit everyone our new Secretarial Team, Brian and Valerie Robertson, have looked at COVENTRY on a similar basis to the weekend we had in Bournemouth. Other groups like the Fleet Air Arm Handlers Association and the Fleet Air Arm Armourer's Association meet at the ROYAL COURT HOTEL, every year. Another factor is that Coventry is more centrally located making it less of a distance to travel for our northern members.

November 10, 11 and 12 is the only date available and Brian and Valerie have come up with the following details for the weekend.

ROYAL COURT HOTEL



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' = £135.00 Per Person

Package 'B' = £120.00 Per Person

Package 'C' = £120.00 Per Person

Package 'D' = £ 65.00 Per Person

The Royal Court Hotel has provisionally reserved 60 rooms (Doubles and Twins) for the RNPA. They will be held until **30 JUNE** which will allow us to get a better idea of numbers wishing to attend. So if you are definitely planning to come along and have a fun filled weekend then could you please **email** me before the cut off date.

stuart_antrobus@hotmail.co.uk or gsiptgama3a@fox.mod.uk or **write** to me at 135 The Keep, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 5UE or **telephone** me on 07745570381.

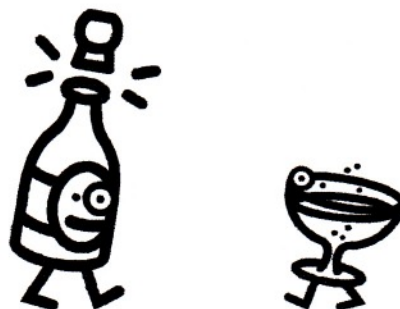
We need a quick response on this one.

Useful Information:

Warwickshire and Coventry are full of interesting places to visit and offer things to do all year round. Whether it's tracing the footsteps of William Shakespeare through Stratford, or being part of the crowds during one of the Godiva festivals there should be plenty to keep us amused. Other attractions include magnificent castles and historic houses, which make it interesting to the more cultural members! If you want to find out more about the area visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk. If you want to have a look at the hotel on the web you can find it by searching using the Google search engine.

I will be announcing other events in due course but please make the AGM your priority for now. A full programme of events for the AGM weekend will be arranged once we know how many will be attending.

Regards and best wishes to you all, Stuart Antrobus.



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BRIAN JACKSON-----A PROFILE

Phot Memories

Prologue.

How it all started

“Dear Mr Jackson.

**Thank you for sending us the photograph
‘On Watch.’**

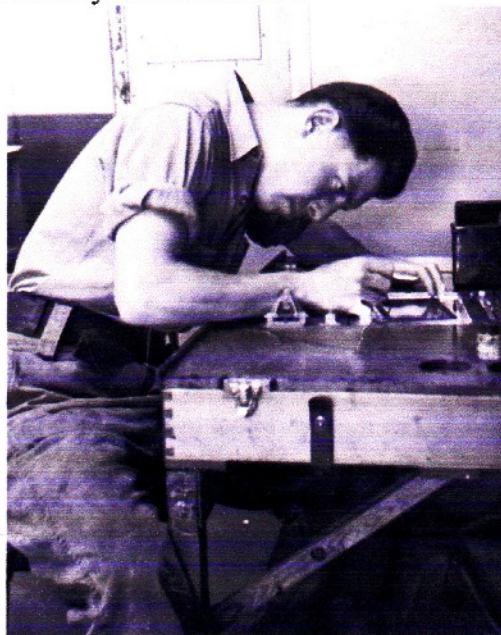
**Unfortunately, it does not fit in with our current
advertising plans. We are therefore returning...”**



‘Dave’ this is not the shot referred to in my article, but was taken at the same time. Sorry I can not remember his surname. I seem to remember he was a squadron phot who suddenly appeared with the squadrons from Culdrose. I gave Dave the original rejected still.

My very first reject. The ‘On Watch’ shot was a close up of a fellow photographer, a one-badge killick, whose name I seem to remember as Dave. There’s always a Dave isn’t there? The shot was a close-up of the said Dave holding a mug of something steaming hot and showing him just about to take sippers whilst dutifully peering into a misty Basil Rathbone style dawn. Older phots will know what sippers used to be. Sadly, I understand the rum issue is a casualty of

peace and therefore also gone will be wonderful vernaculars like ‘gulpers’ and ‘thumbers’. The location for my opportunist masterpiece was the signals deck of the then recently refitted majestic HMS Indomitable on full sea trials in the Atlantic somewhere in the Western Approaches of the English Channel with a couple of squadrons checking in, presumably from Culdrose.



Me doing a bit of retouching on the Indomitable, I always prettied up the portraits I took. Work came my way because I removed unflattering bits and pieces and put a twinkle in the eyes which seemed to please JollyJack

In my ageing process I forget the date- must have been 1950 but I do remember Jock Morrow was our genial photographic officer.

Just a thought- has anyone ever spoken about the ‘English Channel’ whilst talking to a Frenchman? You never know which small incidents may lead to life changes. In my case they led to several careers, three of which ran and are still running concurrently. My life changing incidents, unlike the steady progress of a ship underway gracefully altering course, often veered violently at severe to gale force angles.

Where to start! Suffice it to say, my dear fellow phots, unlike your good-selves who have freely chosen a career in the Andrew, I was press-ganged into His Majesty’s Royal Navy.

Having been taken away from studies and job as a junior photographer with a comfortable company to be told by an interviewing officer

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at Royal Arthur that I had the choice of either training as a navigator, God knows why- as my maths' were embarrassing to say the least, or the alternative of becoming a lovely stoker did not go down too well with me.

Schoolboy remembrances of films I'd seen of sweating great-muscled men covered in blackened dust heaving oversized shovelfuls of coal into enormous fiery furnaces came to mind. I was worried. I didn't know at the time a great many HM ships were oil fuelled. I also didn't know at the interview time that the RN had navigators that actually flew in feather-light contraptions, which buffeted and bumped wretchedly callipered and compassed operatives, desperately calculating just how lost they were.

I was nonplussed by the paucity of choice. As I'd already heard jokes about three badge stokers, I didn't think that stoking was for me. The alternate vision of guiding trustful souls to their Marie Celeste doom did not appeal either. I could hear myself saying, 'Sorry capt'n sir! I think we should have turned left sir, at that last bit sir.'

What could I say? This officer was killing all my romantic notions of seeing the world; fighting for King and Country. I know I didn't really quite have those ambitions but this chap seemed to be downright obstructive. 'Any chance as a photographer?' Survival instincts had prompted the question.

"No chance. Why?"

An incredible question, because my papers could or should have told him I was already well into a photographic qualification at Manchester University College of Technology. I could have been temporarily exempted from call-up at the time but had decided to get the misnomer National Service over and done with. I explained I thought it might be a good idea to pursue my life as a photographer. "There is a photographic course coming up, but it's already full. I might see if they can squeeze one more in."

The sainted interviewing officer, blessed forever be his never known name, did 'see' and I was duly squeezed with fourteen or so others into the Royal Naval School of Photography at RNAS Ford.

So, my life's story began with that word 'see' which led me to: dance and sing on stage at Drury Lane's Theatre Royal with Ginger Rogers; be instrumental in the creation of the music for CHARIOTS OF FIRE and BLADERUNNER; become THE MAN FROM DEL MONTE; solely own and run the largest private photographic, film and recording studio complex in London; tremble



This is me at the start of a contract that was to last for seven years. There were 25 or so commercials filmed in the period shooting at worldwide locations, which were telecast in 32 countries and in 28 languages.

in Moscow; consult for and represent mega-TV corporations; be wooed by at least two former East European Peoples 'Security' Committees; write and produce TV commercials: film sunsets in the Yemen; produce films; present starry theatrical plays on Broadway and the West End; witness chained slaves being worked; shoot major advertising campaigns; be caught up in revolutions; re-voice thousands of hours of programmes for worldwide television; present my own programme on BBC TV, love and still be loved.

Each of the above episodes is a story in itself but there are more, many more episodes in my life than are mentioned here. I will try to write about some of them from time to time before infirmity starts its awful journey that began as a small boy when I used to sing, "I joined the navy to see the world. I joined the navy to see the sea." Yes. I have seen a lot of

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our wonderful world into which I was launched, courtesy of the RN.

On social occasions or when meeting other journeymen where travellers tend to temporarily cross paths, I have had a recurring problem when strangers ask, 'What do you do?' I usually say 'I'm in photography.' Since my teens I've always been involved and associated with camera



The Persuaders. On set at Pinewood Studios with Roger Moore and Tony Curtis. I was the baddie in the episode. Tony was as entertaining off screen as he was on. He taught me how to throw a stunt punch as well as how to take one and make it look real.

work one way or another starting before my RN days by photographing and acting in local amateur plays through years of doing the same professionally with classic productions at The Old Vic and with The Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford upon Avon and its London venue.

My careers have and do span three category headings of photography, acting and producing, each with several allied subdivisions, often happily overlapping while acting in film work I'd written and produced.

© Brian Jackson. 2006

Brian has offered to continue with a series depicting his diverse career spanning the course of his most interesting life. These will be published in the next few issues of the RNPA newsletters.

Editor

SEQUEL TO PETER PINNOCKS ARTICLE

By John Cunningham

It brought memories back when I read Peter Pinnocks article on the deck landing crash on HMS Indomitable.



Peter Parkins and I joined Indom in the spring of '53 to relieve CPO Willy Bence who was doing deck landing trials for the new mirror landing sight, ---- he was most upset at being relieved by two Naval Airmen!!!! We used a Newman Sinclair 90 (wow! 90 f.p.s!!!), we would film 50 or 60 landings which would then be assessed. Feeling hungry on a hot Maltese day at lunchtime, we decided to put our cameras away and make our way to the phots mess deck for our dried out scam.(Our mess deck was below the pom pom guns, featured in the final frame of the photographs in Peter Pinnocks article).

I went to the Phot shop to let CPO Soapy Watson know that we were going to have our lunch and he asked me to take some papers to the Captain's Office as I am a good "bleeding pleader", but PO Jan Suter said he would do it. As we sat down to start on our dried out lunch, there was an almighty bang – the ship shuddered – "bad deck landing" I said. We peeped over the edge of the flight deck only to observe the island engulfed in flames. "The Burma Road" a passage way that ran the length of the ship on the starboard side was flooded in aviation fuel and someone had tried to close a blast proof door which created a spark which ignited the spillage.

I believe there were 45 fatalities and about 80 badly burned personnel – Jan Suter being one of them.

Peter and I used to stand on the bomb lift and used a long lead to operate the camera. The blast lifted the lift off its stanchion and it

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dented the underside of the island, the lift weighed 3.5 tons --- Peter and I would have been 18 inches tall if we had carried on filming.

Indom limped into Grand Harbour and we rushed ashore to send telegrams to our folks. The cutter approached the jetty, the leading seaman in charge tried to cut the engine but without success, the cutter smashed into the jetty and started to sink, we leaped ashore safely and I said to Peter loudly "there is no way am I going up in the Barakka lift".

----- I'm still around -----

A CONTRIBUTION FROM Ralph Mortimer

Scouse Contraceptive

After having their 11th child, a Liverpool couple decided that was enough, as the social wouldn't buy them a bigger bed and they weren't strong enough to nick one, the husband went to his doctor and told him that he and his wife didn't want to have any more children.

The doctor told him there was a procedure called a vasectomy that would fix the problem but it was expensive. A less costly alternative was to go home, get a firework, light it, put it in a beer can, then hold the can up to his ear and count to 10.

The Scouser said to the doctor, "I may not be the smartest guy in the world, but I don't see how putting a firework in a beer can next to my ear is going to help me". "Trust me, it will do the job", said the doctor.

So the man went home, lit a banger and put it in a beer can. He held the can up to his ear and began to count: "1, 2, 3, 4, 5," at which point he paused, placed the beer can between his legs so he could continue counting on his other hand...

This procedure also works in Birmingham, parts of Essex, Sunderland, Aberdeen and anywhere in Wales.



VETERANS BADGE

Ex servicemen who served in the forces before 1954 are entitled to receive the VETERANS BADGE to be worn with civilian clothes. Application forms are available on the following web site: www.veteransagency.mod.uk

UK Armed Forces Veteran Lapel Badge

Did you serve in HM Armed Forces up to and including 31st December 1954 ? Men and women who served in HM Armed Forces up to and including 31st December 1954 are entitled to a Veterans Badge.

Other groups who served up to 31st December 1954 are also entitled as follows:

Cyprus Regiment

Merchant Navy Seamen who took part in military action

Home Guard

Polish Forces under UK Command

Please note, this criteria does not include Veterans who served in Armed Forces of other Countries and who served alongside HM Armed Forces. For example; Canadian Navy, or Royal Australian Air Force.

It is regrettable that the badge cannot be issued posthumously. The badge is a survivors' badge, which is to be worn on civilian attire. The only exception to this is War Widows and Widowers who are getting a War Widows/Widowers Pension.

If you served between 1/1/55 and 31/12/59 you will be entitled to a badge with effect from 27/6/06. We cannot accept applications from veterans within this new criteria until then so please do not send an application now.

If you would like a badge you can apply by the following methods:

Postal address:

Veterans Agency, Thornton-Cleveleys, Norcross, Blackpool, FY5 3WP

Fax: 01253 330561(UK Only)

+44 1253 330561 (Overseas)

Email: help@veteransagency.gsi.gov.uk

Contact Veterans Agency by telephone:

Free: 0800 169 2277 (UK only)

Free: 0800 169 3458 (Minicom)

+44 1253 866043 (Overseas)

The Editor