



THE PEREGRINE PHOTO POST



Winter
2009
Issue 20

The Royal Naval Photographer's Association

EDITOR'S REPORT.

We have a new chairman
Lt Cdr Stuart Antrobus replacing
John Cunningham who now
becomes an honorary associate
member. We would like to thank
John for his hard work over the
Years for the RNPA, we all appreciated it.
The other changes to the committee
are listed on page 2 where the details
are up to date.



The AGM and Social was held on 30th
November 2009 in Portsmouth. The out
going Secretary (our new Chairman),
in the absence of any major association
activity over the past few months, took
the opportunity to report on what has
been happening with the RN Phot Branch
itself. He also explained the updated
version of the RNPA Constitution.

Richie Moss the Treasurer provided the
treasurer's report and it was agreed to
increase subscription to £15 per year for a
single and £20 for a joint subscription.
Serving photographers wishing to join the
association will now come under the same
rules as retired members and be required
to pay full subscription.

The editors would like to encourage serving
photos to send us your photos and stories -
we might be retired but all photos like to hear
about each others experience whether it was
years ago or yesterday. Next issue we will
include photos from 2009 Peregrine Trophy.

After much discussion it was decided to
look into purchasing a Ships Bell inscribed
with the message "In memory of a dear
friend and colleague Peter Newton - Cheers"
the idea will be to chime the bell at AGM's or
meetings where Rum is on the agenda!

The 90th Anniversary Ball and weekend Reunion
was discussed at length. It was generally felt that
September/October would be the preferred month
as this falls at the end of the peak season.
Bornemouth, Poole, London and Portsmouth were
all suggested as possible locations.
The Social Secretary & other committee members
will research this and report back in the new year.



The RNPA display boards in use at the AGM
were put together by Danny du Feu .
They were very well received. Well Done!



Visit to HMS Illustrious page 4 & 5

Ray Pogson onboard Photo by Les Ashton



RNPA COMMITTEE

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Historian	Maurice (Jan) Larcombe. e-mail jandor@which.net
Honoraray Associate Member	John Cunningham

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

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South	John Flack 01329 235325
South East	Ray Whitehouse 01903 770906 e-mail ray@chilston.com

Farewell to our Shipmates



Henry Allingham the oldest man in the world and the last surviving world war 1 serviceman has died aged 113. He joined The Royal Naval Air Service in Sept 1915 and served in Ypres before transferring to the RAF in 1918.



From your editors:

We had the chance to visit The National Memorial Arboretum near Litchfield which we found to be a very special and moving place. The Fleet Air Arm memorial we really liked and is by the Heart of Oaks a block of Oak trees that will look magnificent when they are mature. The wording on the attached wreath card says it all.



**Bowey at the graves of Major John Maxwell
and Sergeant Ernie Smith**

Ron Bowey
by permission of The Daily Telegraph.



Ron Bowey, who has died aged 90, was a Navy photographer who, in 2004, fulfilled a life time ambition to return to the Far East and search out the graves of his comrades in Kranji cemetery in Singapore. The fallen he sought were Major John Maxwell RM (under whom Bowey had served in the war), Colour Sergeant Ernie Smith RM, and Sub Lieutenant John Thomlinson RNVR, who had been beheaded by the Japanese in July 1945.

Maxwell and Smith had been members of a special forces group which had landed on the island of Phuket from a submarine in March 1945 to reconnoitre beaches and airfields. Thomlinson, flying a photoreconnaissance Hellcat from the escort carrier *Empress*, had crashed into the sea off the coast. The trio had been driven to a hill north of Pasir Panjang, Singapore, where, because they had refused to answer any questions, they were executed. Bowey learned of their deaths shortly afterwards in an intelligence report. After finally visiting Kranji, Bowey wrote: "My trip to Singapore was very memorable and sobering. I faced the headstones, closed my eyes and said a short prayer. I felt my years slip back to my early twenties, which would be the average age of the majority here. They had been gently recovered from jungles, the swamps and from the jails and brought to the cemetery. They were no longer scattered across the battlefields and wherever else they fell. They were all together, in serene peace."

Ronald Arthur Bowey was born on September 14 1919 at Caterham, Surrey, and joined the Royal Marines in 1938. He specialised as a physical training instructor, and then as a photographer. He recorded the Japanese surrender to Lord Mountbatten in Singapore. Wounds in 1942 and 1944 left him with a pronounced gait but, fitted with metal plates, he was able to continue his photographic duties and, in 1949, he transferred to the film and trials unit of the RN School of Photography. Bowey filmed many state occasions and in 1956 accompanied Prince Philip on a world tour, beginning at the Olympic Games in Melbourne.

For many years after leaving the Navy in 1964, Bowey worked as cameraman and then director for Granada Television, on *Coronation Street* and *World in Action*. Increasingly he became preoccupied by the fate of his three executed comrades, and determined to visit their graves. The fulfilment of his ambition was all the more remarkable because, by the time he resolved to go, Bowey had lost both legs and his fingers to diabetes. His force of personality and his humour were always sufficient to persuade others to help him however, and he never griped about his physical disability. Ron Bowey, who died on November 2, married Joan Knight in 1957. She died in 1993 and he is survived by three daughters and one son. Remembrance Sunday this year would have marked his 48th commemoration parade



From A/B Brian Pebody HMS Vidal
1956/58 picture taken 50years ago
in 2 mess Roy Penny on the left
with Brian Pebody in the middle.



The RNPA web site has re-launched please visit **<http://www.rnpa.info>**



Victory Social November 2008

Photographs by Ray Whitehouse

Sorry we have not got captions but hope you enjoy trying to ID your oppos.



Illustrious Celebrations to mark 100 years of Naval Aviation

Photographs by Des Ashton and Ray Pogson



Illustrious Celebrations to mark 100 years of Naval Aviation - Oct 2009

By Ray Pogson

There was plenty of activity on the flightdeck of HMS Illustrious to keep both visitors and goofers interested as guests waited to board the ship during part of her five-day courtesy visit to Liverpool at the end of October. The occasion was the penultimate event in the year-long Fly Navy 100 celebrations and was blessed with a day of superb autumnal sunshine.

I had not previously met Des Ashton but we had communicated by email after receiving invitations to represent the RNPA and whilst I was taking shots of the ship's helicopters lifting off from the stern in preparation for a massed fly-past later in the day, he was similarly engaged at a much better location near the bow. One of his shots made Navy News 29 years after he'd last been published in the paper.

Our "Dr Livingstone I presume..?" moment came beside a Gatlin gun on the upper deck as small parties of VIPs, local dignitaries and Naval association members including field gunners and handlers were being shown round the ship, and we continued the tour together. Drinks were being served in the hanger as HRH the Duke of York KG, Commodore-in-Chief of the Fleet Air Arm arrived aboard by helicopter where he was greeted by HMS Illustrious's skipper Captain Ben Key RN before joining guests at a buffet lunch. Commander-in-Chief Fleet Admiral Trevor Soar, who accompanied Prince Andrew, later spoke of the long and close association between the Royal Navy and the port of Liverpool and also of the large and vital part played by the FAA in the history of the Royal Navy, points reiterated by the Prince in his speech. During all this activity Des and I had been aware of two Illustrious photographers on the job and we introduced ourselves to PO Paul 'Wheelie' Barrow and Leading Airman Des Wade. The two Des's come from the same part of East Yorkshire and it transpired that Des Ashton is a close friend of one of Des Wade's teacher - small world.

We were then transferred to flight deck by the aircraft lift to watch a rare 39-strong Balbo fly-past named after the Italian inter-war aviator renowned for mass aircraft displays. Flying from east to west down the River Mersey the aircraft were stacked at three different altitudes Hawks and Falcons at 1,500 feet, Jetstreams and a vintage Seafire at 1,000 feet and a variety of helicopters, chipmunk, Grobs and Fireflies at 500 feet. For a brief moment the nearby Liver Buildings resounded to the roar of aircraft engines. Quite a sight which was also enjoyed by large crowds ashore near the Queen Elizabeth Cruise terminal where HMS Illustrious was berthed. What better way to round things off than to watch and listen to the band of the Royal Marines as they counter marched along the flight deck as Prince Andrew took the salute. Stirring stuff.

While other guests were disembarking, Des and I made our way to the Phot Section for a cup of coffee. Being on two deck reminded me of HMS Victorious's phot section which was bigger and better laid out than the long and rather narrow space that Illustrious's photos have to work in, but then with Victorious at 34,000 tonnes, you're talking proper carriers! Des and I thoroughly enjoyed being back in the Navy for the day and we were royally entertained.



THINGS HISTORICAL

Things Historical

Thanks to Geoff Sellars and Barbara Boston
(who did all the digging out)

we now have details of all the Cosford courses from 1972 to the present. As usual these can be found via the courses link on the main Historians web page at:

<http://www.users.waitrose.com/~jandor/>.

At the AGM on 28th November I met up with new member Brian Jupp who was on a course between Nov 1956 and Oct 1957 (with some waiting time I suspect). I have no information on Brian's course and he does not remember who was on it with him. Does anyone remember him on course please? It was probably No 25 or 26 at Ford. Brian later served at Fulmar, Maidstone, Tyne and Excellent before being invalided out in 1961.

I also gleaned new information from half a dozen other members who originally thought they had nothing to add - so please see my plea at the end of the article

Mystery Picture RN Film Unit c 1945/6

We have some names associated with the picture but the only one we know for sure is the inset (also back right) is Naval Air Mechanic Mac Hartley. -

Others include: -

Joe Henry Mendoza, Puck Bishop,
Hazel Wilkinson, Dora Wright,
Humphrey Jennings, Gordon Dines,
John Paddy Carstairs, Paul Beeson,
Clare Turner, Anthony Kimmins,
Guy Vivian Phelps.

Most of the people who worked at the Film Unit had worked at Elstree Studios prior to the war and several members went on to have successful careers in entertainment after the war. Can anyone put names to faces please?



Half a Mystery Picture



HS 300 trials on Hermes - I recognise Harry Graham, Wilff Bridges and Terry Gill and I think Lt Harry Ragg.

Can anyone supply the names and date for the picture?

If anyone lives near the Public Records Office at Kew with a bit of time to spare to delve into the photographic AFO/DCI archives which are held there please let me know.



Finally, the usual plea, Please check the entries on the web pages that involve yourselves and let me have any corrections or additions together with any photographs of Groups and Photographers at work or play.

Having been brought up to date there are now some obvious gaps in the course details I hold. Some from the Phot 3 era and also some of the WRNS courses at RNSAP Whale Island. If anyone can help with any missing courses please make contact. If you don't have access to The Webb you can always give me a ring on 01963 23426 and I will send you anything I have on your name. **Jan Larcombe** jandor@which.net

Photographic Events 2010

Focus on Imaging
NEC 7 - 10th March
car park £8

Photokina Cologne
21 - 26th September



RNPA

Royal Navy Photographers Association

Merry Xmas Everyone Membership Secretary

It was great to meet up with so many of you at the AGM last month and as we had 6 new members join the Association then, perhaps we should hold an AGM every month? NO! ONLY JOKING!!

I will continue to update the RNPA Database, but need YOUR HELP in passing me names & contact details of Ex-photos. Thank you to those who already have, it has been a great help.

PLEASE CONTINUE!

Why should I join?

Without the support of the Membership it would be impossible to fund and arrange any 'Social Events and Reunions', so for those of you who haven't subscribed yet, you would be helping yourselves get the most out of the Association, by joining!
Would all Serving Photos please contact PO (Phot) Amanda (Yam Yam) Reynolds to join now.

"How do I join?"

To join the RNPA is easy! Simple complete the Application Form and send it to me with Payment for 2010. (Full details on Application Form).
Also attached is the Standing Order Form, which you need to send to your Bank/Building Society for payments starting 2011, (See below for New Fees)
If you are already a member could you still please fill in the newly designed Membership Application Form to make sure I have your up to date contact details. Thank You!

'90th Birthday Party of Branch'

It is intended to have a 'Mega Party, Reunion & Celebration Weekend' in 2010. The plan is to hold it after the Peregrine Trophy Awards. Details to follow.

Stop Press! Paid up Members: 2007 - 75; 2008 - 86; 2009 - 124

New Voted in Fees are : Single/Associate - £15; Joint - £20

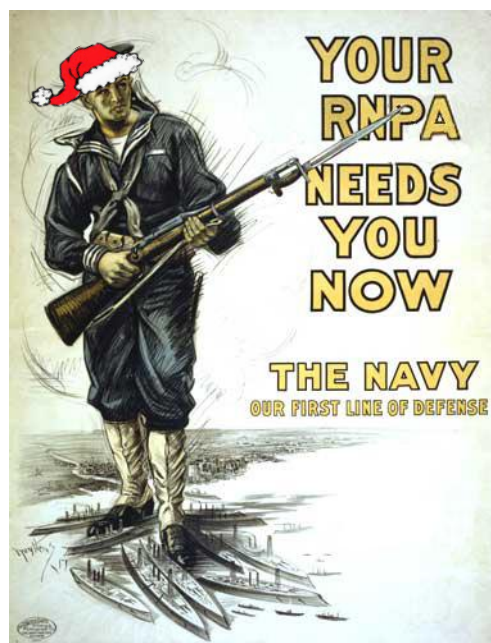
PLEASE ALTER YOUR YEARLY STANDING ORDER AT YOUR BANK.

Any questions or comments e-mail me at
danny@ddf-photography.co.

or call me on

0116 2898725 or 07891 660715

or Write to me at Danny du Feu
RNPA Membership Secretary
57 Westover Road, Leicester
LE3 3DU



"Without you we are nothing!"

Danny du Feu, Membership Secretary

HMS CENTAUR by Steve King

1963 -1965 4th Commission

15.11.1963 - 27.11.65

Capt OHM St. J. STEINER RN.

EX CDR D. W. Bazalgette

I joined Centaur September 1963 in Portsmouth Dockyard for her refit, our Photographic Officer was Steve Lock, CPO Mick Thorne & PO Mac MacCathy. LA Paul Yockney, NA Tom Stott, NA AJ Smith, myself NA Steve King & our Squadron Phot was LA Jack (Neil) Straw.



During the next three months we updated equipment, repaired and repainted the section on 6e deck. The section was soon up and running and we carried out general duties taking pictures of the ships progress and a visit from C-in-C Portsmouth. The Ship was commissioned on November 15th followed by sea trials off Portland and in the Lime Bay area where we encountered a force 9 gale we soon got our sea legs.

We sailed on 21st December to Aden our first stop, on route we picked up 892 Squadron (Sea Vixens) and 849B Flight (Gannets AEW Mk 111). On the December 23rd we received a request to go to the assistance of a cruise liner Lakonia on fire in the Atlantic off the African coast, we were soon on the scene but unfortunately we were too late to be of assistance. Our role was to pick up the dead and transport them to Gibraltar, Chief Mike Thorne had the task of photographing 55 of the 128 bodies recovered, we worked through the night processing and printing the pictures before we reached Gibraltar where they were taken ashore.

We continued to the Suez Canal and made our way through on Dec 31st. great fun we all took turns to carry out taking pictures with the F24 along the route and stayed in Aden for 5 days my first overseas port of call so I wandered around the shops looking for cameras. I bought my first camera a Yashikamat for £12, a twin lens reflex 2 ¼ square similar to the Rollic. Off Aden we carried out a work up, picking up 815 Squadron (Wessex Mk1 helicopters) and then preceded to Singapore, but received a signal calling us back to Port where 45 Commando and two Belvederes embarked we then made our way down to Dar-Es-Salaam, in Tanganyika where there was an uprising at Colita Barracks but this was soon sorted by 45 Commando and the 15th/16th Lancers.



Mombasa was our next port of call for four days of rest, it was a good run ashore and the camera was soon put to use, the beach at White sands was paradise and the locals were vvvvery friendly.....!!!!!! We left Mombasa and on the 8th February carried out crossing the Line and arrived in Singapore.

To be Continued in next issue.....

The Editors would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this issue without you there would be no RNPA Newsletter. Come on the rest of you those photos are gathering dust lets give them an airing. Merry Christmas everyone cheers - Hilary & Steve King.