



Issue 58 Summer 2019

Ahooy There

A busy few months since our last newsletter, on page 4 are the D-Day 75 celebrations in Portsmouth/Southsea which we watched on tv very impressive.

Below RNPA members visit HMS Queen Elizabeth very BIG!!!, a good time was had by all, more photos page 3. Coverage of the Peregrine trophy on pages 6 & 7 if you wish see more go to: <http://bit.ly/PeregrineTrophy19>.

We have a page of shipmates catching up and celebrations.

Don't forget the RNPA reunion on 11th October celebrating 100 years of photography in the Royal Navy.

Hilary & Steve King

RNPA Visit to HMS Queen Elizabeth

continued on page 3



Tony Darbyshire, Paul Parrack, Mervyn Ellis, Geoff Holland, Ray Pogson, Julia Richardson, Hilary King, Joan Roberts, Tina du Feu, Andrea Downing, Steve King, Sue Parrack, Mike Keeling, Pam Whitehouse, Helen Holland, John Flack, Jean Keeling, Linda Warren, Pauline Stanyard, John Sivitar, Bob Stanyard, Ray Whitehouse, Stuart Warren, Danny du Feu. Photo by L/Phot Barry (Baz) Swainsbury.

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Farewell to Shipmate Garry Nixon



Gary Nixon left and Bob Standyard on right, Bob was the one getting married

Hi Shipmates, sad day today, attending my shipmate and Best Man's Funeral in Weymouth. Gary Nixon, May you have calm seas and a following wind RIP old friend. Bob Stanyard

The funeral service was very emotional, well attended. His daughter depicted him so well in her speech for him and what a lovely family he produced. He will be sadly missed but remembered for sure. R. I. P Shipmate. Stuart Wood.

RIP Gareth..... A gentle man who will be sadly missed Peter Holdgate

Your family did you proud Gareth. Daughter Claire summed you up so well and Granddaughter Christie read such a loving reading. Sad but lovely day. Cecelia Stanyard

100 years Celebrations & Reunion

Hope you have all booked for the RNPA reunion weekend 11th - 13th October 2019 with a 'Run Ashore' on the Friday night at the Still & West PH spice Islands. With The dinner dance on the Saturday evening at The Royal Maritime Club, if you need to book contact Ray Whitehouse on tel. 01403 230848.

The RN serving photos have organized a Serving Photos Centenary Ball at Whale Island on Saturday 21st September 2019 information on page 11.

Both Dinners are Mess dress Black tie or Lounge suits and Cocktail dresses for the ladies.

RNPA visit to HMS Queen Elizabeth continued from page1

Members of the RNPA had very enjoyable day on HMS Queen Elizabeth. We soon found out how fit you have to be running up and down stairs, needless to say a few members were puffing at the end. Steve King found the Captains Chair very comfortable.





HMS Victorious 1961 speed trials

Here is something those of you on the 61/62 commish may well remember. Speed Trials. It was a Sunday somewhere in the Indian Ocean and our ship HMS Victorious was doing a 24 hour speed trial, which had started at midnight on the previous night, and during the hours of darkness had worked up to our maximum speed, which although classified information, was estimated to be around 40 miles per hour. There could be no flying, so all the departments utilized the time to inspect, maintain and repair the various bits of complicated machinery and equipment that makes a modern aircraft-carrier work efficiently and it was so hot and rattly in the ship that everyone who could be was on the flight deck enjoying the breeze. Down aft, engineers were replacing arrester wires, while up forward, the steam catapults were being tested and the lift was down and inoperative, with staging just a few feet down the lift shaft so that the operating mechanism could be worked on.

Also, the jet-blast shields at the back of the catapults were up and being painted. As it got light and work began, the ship was approached by an American P2V spy plane, which had obviously been attracted by our speed and the dead straight white wake in the very blue water which stretched for miles astern. It transpired that the Yankee plane was on a different radio frequency to us but wished to make contact. Eventually, it came down low, circled the ship and passed a message by flashing a Morse signal with its Alvis lamp. The message enquired "What's the rush, Mack?" Our Captain sent back "No rush, economical cruising speedMack." The P2V completed its circle, waggled its wings then flew off, no doubt with the pilot probably scratching his head and saying, "God damned chicken shit, them Limey bastards can really move their asses when they got a mind to." Later at tot time when we were discussing the Captain's reply some wag in our mess said the Skipper should have added, "Economical cruising speed but we do like to keep up with our jet aircraft if we can."

D-Day 75 Celebrations in Portsmouth/Southsea



In the early hours of 6th June 1944, Allied forces launched greatest combination of sea, land and air power in history headed for Normandy.

The single most pivotal day in World War II.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings, a host of social events took place across the UK and France. Here are a selection of photos taken at Portsmouth / Southsea celebrations.



Actress Celia Imrie introduced the programme.

D-Day 75 Celebrations in Southsea



French PM Macron, PM Theresa May, HRH Prince Charles, Her Majesty The Queen, USA President Donald & Melania Trump, Greek President Prokopoulos Pavlopoulos.



Spitfire at the Battle Proms Burghley House Stamford.
Photo Hilary King

Peregrine Trophy 2019



Winner RN Photographer of the year
award L/Phot Sammy Seele with Vice
Admiral Ben Key CBE RN



Ray Whitehouse, representing the
RNPA, explains the old technology



The Winner of the RN Peregrine Trophy Award
FRPU(W) and L/Phot Alex Coelin collecting the
trophy with Vice Admiral Ben Key CBE RN

Royal Navy photographers are charged with telling the stories of sailors and Royal Marines around the world through still imagery and video, taking them on deployments with warships and commando units wherever they may go.

In the past year their imagery and video has covered everything from Royal Marines training in the frozen Arctic circle to maritime security operations across the seven seas.

Leading Photographer Sam Seeley was named the Royal Navy's photographer of the year by the judges for his portfolio of imagery from operations all over the world.

Sam joined the Royal Marines when he was 20, gaining his coveted green beret and deploying to Afghanistan with Taunton-based 40 Commando where he trained the local Afghan police. He later specialised as a mountain leader, and ultimately joined the Surveillance Reconnaissance Squadron before becoming a Royal Navy photographer.

Joining up as any other rating into a particular trade such as logistics, engineering or warfare specialists, RN photographers work hard to excel at their chosen field before being accepted into the elite photographic branch.

Peregrine Trophy 2019 Images



RN Amateur Maritime Image Award
taken by LT Cdr Ollie Clark



HMS Queen Elizabeth under Forth Bridge
taken by L/Phot Haigh



HMNB Devonport
taken by L/Phot Barry Wheeler



HMS Monmouth Type 23 Frigate
taken by L/Phot Alex Ceolin



England U20s World Cup Football team spent 48hrs with
RM Commando Lymstone.
taken by L/Phot Ken Gaunt



Homecoming HMS Sutherland Photo
taken by L/Phot Barry Wheeler



The Best Maritime Image Award HMS Victorious
D class submarine.
taken by L/Phot Will Haigh

A Titanic weekend in Belfast

FORMER RNPA member Peter Thorne may no longer be with us but he was not forgotten when two of his phot mates enjoyed a weekend get-together recently in Northern Ireland.

For Bill Porter and Ray Pogson, along with their wives Anne and Angela, were joined by Pete's widow Angela, who flew in from London to be with her friends. This was their first meeting since Pete's funeral in Hertfordshire last November.

The group's get-togethers down the years have usually had a nautical flavour given its naval background...And this one, impeccably organised by Anne, was no different considering Belfast's extensive shipbuilding heritage and the city's new visitor attractions.

Bill, who celebrated his 80th birthday in May, is still working part-time as an attendant at the Northern Ireland War Memorial, a museum dedicated to the country's role in the Second World War.

However, it was a visit to the recently refurbished First World War cruiser HMS Caroline that was top of Ray's 'to do' list, as he retains fond memories of the 4,219 tonne C-Class vessel now berthed in the Alexandra Dock, part of Belfast's Titanic Quarter. Built by Cammell Laird of Birkenhead and commissioned in December 1914, she is the only remaining survivor of the Battle of Jutland.



Ageing veterans: Bill, light jacket, and Ray pictured with Battle of Jutland survivor HMS Caroline.

"As a member of HMS Dalrymple's ship's company visiting Belfast during 1963 and 1964 for short weekend leave whilst surveying off Bloody Foreland and doing water sampling dips near Rockall with Ministry of Fisheries' scientists from Torry, Aberdeen, the only place we could get a drink on Sunday when the Belfast pubs were closed was on HMS Caroline," said Ray. "She was the headquarters of the Royal Naval Reserve, and the welcome we received in the bar made her very popular with Dalrymple's crew. It's good to see she is in fine fettle after her recent restoration."

Also on the group's itinerary was a tour of Belfast's block-buster visitor attraction The Titanic Experience which has increased tourist numbers dramatically. The exhibition opens with the city in the early 1900's enjoying an economic boom as the linen industry, engineering and shipbuilding all prospered.

A gondola ride lets visitors experience the impressions of working high on the Arrol gantries, the noise and hard graft of ship-building and the heat and danger associated with the riveting process.

Other sections feature the launch of the ill-fated liner, its fitting-out, the maiden voyage, the sinking, the aftermath of the disaster, and recent exploration of the wreck. If there is a criticism of the Titanic Experience it is that there is almost too much information to take in on a single visit..

The party were based in the nearby seaside town of Bangor which, co-incidentally, was staging Sea Bangor Festival 2019, its annual maritime festival featuring tall-ships, army recruitment displays, street theatre performers and live music, so there was plenty to keep everyone entertained.

"It was another excellent weekend spent with friends," said Bill. "We had some great food, the odd dram or two of Irish whiskey, and the craic was good!"

Danny's 70th Birthday

When Danny du Feu celebrated his 70th birthday he did it in style with the weekend finishing with a Mexican BBQ helped by members of the RNPA.



Vince Richards, Roger Forbes, Danny du Feu, Richie Birch, Steve & Hilary King, Mike Gilbert.



Birthday Boy Danny



Vince Richards, Richie Birch, Steve in background, Geoff Holland, Roger & Pam Forbes, Yona Richards & Helen Holland.



Mike Gilbert & Steve King

Anniversaries



Congratulation to Nigel & Thurl Craft on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. 27th June 1959



Congratulation to Tony & Val Darbyshire on their Golden Wedding Anniversary

Things Historic

The pictures of the Wrens at Donibristle in the last newsletter were taken by Lt L Pelman and on investigation he turned out to be Lieutenant Leonard Pelman RNVR (Special Branch). He was recruited as an Royal Navy Official Photographer, joining the RN on 27th October 1942 and spending the war years traveling the world covering events such as the Dieppe raids in Aug 1942, the invasion of France in June 1944, the surrender of the German Fleet and the Navy in Berlin in 1945. He left the service in late 1945 or early 1946. The IWM hold just under 1400 of his pictures and if you would like to see the variety of his pictures just enter "Pelman" into the IWM search box.

Checking the Navy list for 1944 Penman is listed as above but with no attachment to a ship and there are over 20 other RNVR Lieutenants (One S/Lt) similarly listed with just one with (Press Div) after his name. Not all the photographs in the IWM are credited to individuals, some are credited "Royal Navy Official Photographer", some to (Lt A N Other) and there are many similar pictures without accreditation.

As far as I can see these RNVR officers had no connection to the photographic branch and had a roving brief covering both important and trivial events throughout WW2. Oddly a Google search on all the names produced only one who as listed as a photographer either before or after the war. He was J A Hampton and he worked in London in the 1930s taking a famous picture "Leap of Faith" in 1939. He joined the RNVR in September 1941 and maybe because he had worked for the Daily Mirror was the only one with (Press Div) after his name.

The National Archive have a file "RESERVES (65): Special Branch RNVR: recruitment and requirements" which needs investigation at some stage. I am a long way away but if anyone fancies a bit of sleuthing at Kew please let me know. There is also just a chance that someone knows something about a "Royal Navy Official Photographer" during WW2. The names I have so far are:

Rolfe WE, Russell J E, Oulds D C, Beaddell SJ, Pelman L, Parnell CH, Tomlin H W, Hampton J A, Mason HA, Coote RGG, Fraser T A S, Rope F G, Hudson F A, Stilling RS, Zimmerman E A, McNeill M H A, Allen E E, Priest L C, Darwell R H, Trusler C.

If any of them rings a bell with anyone please give me a shout

Jan Larcombe jandor@waitrose.com

Photo Corner



Two lovely photos of a Peregrine by Brian Cartwright.

We could do with more like this please



Serving Photos. Centenary Ball – 21 September 2019



ALL RNPA MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

As part of the centenary year for the RN Photographic Specialisation, the RN 100 Phot. Ball is taking place in the Senior Rates Mess onboard HMS Excellent (Whale Island) on Saturday 21st September 2019.

The price includes a three course meal with:

- live music,
- entertainment
- and more special events to be confirmed.

Dress Code

The rig is Mess Dress for Officer's and SR's, black tie or lounge suit for JR's and non-serving, and cocktail dress for the ladies.



The cost is £60 per ticket. **Tickets are limited so if any member of the Association wishes to go please book as early as you can to avoid disappointment.**

Please email:

rnphot100@gmail.com

with the number of tickets you want along with a 'phone number. This event is includes spouses/partners if you so wish.

A PayPal invoice will be sent to you for the amount required. Once payment is received then the ticket/s will be issued via email.

