

EDITORIAL

By Shipmate Chris Shellard

Hi Shipmates,

I am writing these words in the beginning of May, and all I can see outside are dark clouds and lots of rain. I guess we can be re-assured that the rain makes the flowers and the grass grow.

The sun did shine on the Battle of the Atlantic Parade held on May 4th, and members of our Association joined up with members of the Naval Club and marched from Hayden Street down to the Cenotaph outside the Old City Hall. The band of H.M.C.S. York provided the music. That was a long march, and for some, it was too much, so they took advantage of the bus that had been laid on for just that eventuality. Those of us that remained marched back to the Naval Club, where all the participants were invited in for some refreshments and food.

"Up Spirits" was piped at 1300, and those who were eligible had their tot issued.

We had a large contingent of Cadets in the parade, and they were allocated the Games Room as their area to have a bite to eat after the parade.

All in all, I think it turned out to be a good day for everyone who participated. My only complaint was that my hips ached for a number of days afterwards. I guess I must be getting old!

I was very disappointed in the turnout for our A.G.M. and I got to wonder just what we have to do to get more Shipmates out to our meetings. Do you have any ideas on that subject? If so, don't just sit on them and do nothing, give us your ideas, and we will see if we can't put some of them into practice.

(You can read the report on the meeting on Page 6).

When you write an article like this, sometimes you have to have a break, and get back to it at a later date. Well here I am coming up towards the tail end of the month of May, and I can say that the sun is shining and the flowers in the garden are looking just great.

I received the newsletter from the Adelaide (Australia) Branch last week, and in was a note from their Secretary, S/M Geoff Mather, in which he exhorts me to keep on digging that snow out, and soon the primroses will be up. Thanks for that Geoff, but I think, I hope, that we have seen the last of the snow until next winter, and I must say that the icicle pansies that Megs and I planted last October are a mass of flowers right now, even after being buried under snow for almost 6 months!

Have a good summer Shipmates.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

By Shipmate David Kemp

Hi Shipmates,

It was with deep regret that we learnt that Shipmate Ron Inch had crossed the bar. Ron joined the Branch in 1987, and I was privileged to have him on the Executive as the Vice-Chairman. His involvement in the Branch was curtailed due to ill health but he still managed to get to a couple of our Battle of Trafalgar Night dinners recently.

He will be missed and we send our condolences to his most supportive wife, Norma, and their daughter Stacey.

It was unfortunate that I had to miss the Annual General Meeting in April due to a family bereavement in UK. But then I was informed that it had to be cancelled due to the inclement weather. Now we managed to get it done at the May meeting and we welcome Bob Field to the Executive as Social Director and thank Bill Dickinson for his efforts over many years. Hopefully we will get some good weather for our get-together at Peterborough in June then on to the other events, which are detailed further in this newsletter. Jean and I wish you all a pleasant summer and hope to see you at our organised events and meetings.



Submarine News.

The nuclear submarine, H.M.S. Tireless has docked at the Naval Base at Faslane in Scotland after an incident where one of her ballast tanks was damaged.

The Ministry of Defence is holding an inquiry to find out why the ship collided with an object at sea.

The spokesperson would not comment on reports that the submarine had struck an iceberg.

Tireless had been in the news recently after cracks had been discovered in a cooling pipe near the reactor, causing her to enter harbour in Gibraltar, where she remained for some time while repairs were carried out. This problem led to all 12 of the Navy's nuclear submarines being withdrawn from service while surveys were carried out.

Submitted by S/M Chris Shellard.

Scribes Scribbles

By S/M Norrie Millen (Mr.)

I must express my extreme disappointment in the low attendances at meetings this year, especially our AGM in May and election of officers. I had wanted to stand down as Secretary, as I am involved with far too many other things. Not surprisingly with very low attendance at the AGM, there were no volunteers from the floor. I think it has to be the lowest attendance ever at an AGM. Only 19 members were able to make it out.

The May TVO drive saw only one volunteer – Shipmate Bob Field – thanks Bob. Sadly we could not seem to obtain a date that suited us, primarily due to our late application.

Talking of Bob Field, he had volunteered to serve on the Social Committee with Jorgen Olsen. Now Bob has been elected, as the Social Director and Jorgen is quite sick in hospital, we urgently require a social committee to plan and run the Trafalgar dinner this year. We have to start NOW.

Once again, wearing my Naval Club hat for a few minutes I have noticed that a few members who had joined the Club still have not renewed their dues this year. Please consider renewing and remaining a member. Apart from assisting the financial situation of the Club, the Club is yours to use 6 days a week. A nice central spot in the city, if you are downtown to take the weight off and even partake of some refreshments. There are other social events and formal events through the year, which I am sure you will enjoy. Please consider joining us, or renewing your dues, which ever is applicable.

The way I see it anyway!

Volunteers Needed!

We are still looking for volunteers to take over a few positions that have not been filled.

Honorary Secretary. At this time, S/M Norrie Millen is holding this position, but he wants to have a rest. If you have a computer and are willing to serve in this position, let someone on the Executive know.

Master-at-Arms. Did you do some training at Whale Island? No! Well we need someone who could make sure a bunch of old salts are parading properly. How about YOU?

Jack Dusty. S/M Alex Kerr has been doing this job for some time now, and would like a rest. It is not a really hard job, but requires someone who can keep records of sales and look after inventory. Any takers?

Lt. Col. Collins' Battlefield Speech Prior to the attack on Iraq.

Maintaining morale among troops facing combat is one of the greatest responsibilities -- and challenges -- for military field commanders. A commentary by Ben MacIntyre in the *Times of London* this weekend quoted a battlefield speech given by Lt. Col. Tim Collins, a 42-year-old commander of the Royal Irish battle group just hours before his troops went into battle, Col. Collins said this:

"The enemy should be in no doubt that we are his Nemesis and that we are bringing about his rightful destruction. There are many regional commanders who have stains on their souls and they are stoking the fires of Hell for Saddam. As they die they will know their deeds have brought them to this place. Show them no pity. But those who do not wish to go on that journey, we will not send. As for the others, I expect you to rock their world.

"We go to liberate, not to conquer. We will not fly our flags in their country. We are entering Iraq to free a people, and the only flag that will be flown in that ancient land is their own. Don't treat them as refugees, for they are in their own country.

"I know men who have taken life needlessly in other conflicts. They live with the mark of Cain upon them. If someone surrenders to you, then remember they have that right in international law, and ensure that one day they go home to their family. The ones who wish to fight, well, we aim to please. If there are casualties of war, then remember, when they woke up and got dressed in the morning they did not plan to die this day. Allow them dignity in death. Bury them properly, and mark their graves.

"You will be shunned unless your conduct is of the highest, for your deeds will follow you down history. Iraq is steeped in history. It is the site of the Garden of Eden, of the Great Flood, and the birth of Abraham. Tread lightly there. You will have to go a long way to find a more decent, generous and upright people than the Iraqis. You will be embarrassed by their hospitality, even though they have nothing... "

And in conclusion, Lt. Col. Collins told his troops: "There may be people among us who will not see the end of this campaign. We will put them in their sleeping bags and send them back. There will be no time for sorrow. Let's leave Iraq a better place for us having been there. Our business now, is north."

'D' DAY, JUNE 6TH 1944

This year marks the 59th anniversary of the landings by Allied Forces on the beaches of Normandy, France.

S/M Irene Walker was looking through some of her old correspondence and found this poem that an old friend had sent her many years ago.

The 'D' Day Armada.

The ships that formed this mighty fleet,
That battled o'er the sea,
'Twas only a hundred miles away,
The land that was not free.

A thousand ships and then some more,
Were ready for the task,
And everyone was thinking,
But daring not to ask.

The Day it came, the 6th of June,
It was an early morn,
And for the French across the sea,
A new day had been born.

The Royal Marines they had a task,
At landing on the beach,
With troops from every transport,
A grand job done by each.

The men they landed on the shore,
It was a sight so real,
And for the seamen on the ships,
How proud they seemed to feel.

From the ships we watched the fight,
'Twas us that brought them there,
Ours was a different battle,
But each man did his share.

Weeks have passed since "D" Day,
And many trips are done,
By merchant ships and troopers,
All with a silent gun.

When these ships are called for,
To bring back our men,
The seamen will be ready,
Another job for them.

The war will then be over,
With all our duties done,
We'll look back often at those days,
Of how this war was won.
(W. Pratt)

S/M Irene Walker sent this poem in as well.

"D" Day. June 6th, 1944.

*DEDICATED TO THE MEN OF THE ROYAL NAVY, ALLIED ARMIES &
MERCHANT NAVY, D.E.M.S. MARATIME R.A. & ROYAL MARINES, ALSO
THE MEN OF THE ALLIED AIR FORCES.*

We are part of a Mighty Armada,
We are proud of the part we'll play,
In destroying the Enemy's Strongholds,
And hast'ning Liberation Day.

We have forgotten those months of waiting,
We know that they had to be,
It's the exciting times of the future,
This Battle for Democracy.

There's thousands of old scores we'll pay Jerry,
Old scores that we've hated to owe,
It's been long, this Day of Retribution,
But at last we're ready to go.

Don't worry about us, we are happy,
The Greatest Battle of all Time,
Chasing to Berlin after Old Hitler,
And hearing the Victory Bells chime.

(C.L. Owen).

On a Personal Note.

Just before June 6th 1944, I was a seven year old, and lived in a little coastal town called Clevedon, Somerset. We had some American soldiers billeted next door to us, in what used to be a rather genteel hotel, but had been requisitioned for the duration.

Our family had a nice little black & white cat, and he was allowed to go wherever he chose. Unfortunately, just before June 6th that year, the Americans moved out and in doing so, must have taken our cat, as he was nowhere to be found.

I have often wondered what happened to him and I have always thought in my heart that maybe he was part of that Operation Overlord.

Submitted by S/M Chris Shellard.



WELFARE REPORT.

By S/M Bill Powell.

Hi Shipmates,

It is a sad day when we have to report on the passing of

one of our Shipmates, but S/M Ron Inch crossed the bar on Friday, May 23rd, after a very long battle with various ailments.

14 Shipmates attended his funeral and six of those acted as pallbearers.

We have also learned that S/M Jorgen Olsen suffered a stroke back in April, and was hospitalized in St Mike's for about 6 weeks. He is now in a rehabilitation home.

S/M Rob Roy is still in Sunnybrook, undergoing therapy after his stroke.

S/M Jack Mayes is recovering from a further operation on his knee, and S/M Ed Hughes has started treatment for his ailment.

If you know of anyone who is ill in hospital or at home, give me a call and I will make sure that he or she knows that someone out there cares for them.

To the rest of you, keep well!

More Naval News.

HMS Ocean arrives home

Hundreds of service personnel aboard HMS Ocean are arriving in Devon after serving more than four months in the Gulf.

The crew of the Royal Navy's largest warship are preparing for a jubilant homecoming from the war on Iraq.

Well-wishers packed the jetty at the ship's Plymouth base, ready to cheer the assault ship when she comes alongside on Wednesday morning.

About 360 of Ocean's crew members will be reunited with their family at Devonport Naval Base on Wednesday.

Speaking on board the ship before she sailed into Plymouth Sound, her commanding officer, Captain Chris Clayton, said she had made a "vital effort in securing southern Iraq".

"She has performed brilliantly," he said.

"Ocean was a major component of the assault on southern Iraq and particularly the Al Faw peninsula in those first three days."

He said of the ship's company: "Without doubt, they are all stars.

"The mood on board ship is euphoric but their pride is tinged with a bit of sadness as they remember that not everyone is coming home."

Dates for your Diary.

2003.

July 4th

Monthly Meeting at the Naval Club.

August 1st

Monthly Meeting at the Naval Club.

August 16th

Warrior's Day Parade at the C.N.E.

September 5th

Monthly Meeting at the Naval Club.

September 12th

Return trip to Plattsburgh, New York.

October 3rd

Monthly Meeting at the Naval Club.

October 18th. Dinner to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar, October 21st 1805.

November 7th

Monthly Meeting at the Naval Club.

November 9th

Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service in Cobourg.

December 5th

Xmas Party at the Naval Club.

January 1st 2004.

New Years Levee at the Naval Club.

HMS Ocean Continued.

Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram was on board the ship to congratulate her captain and crew.

Helicopter platform

HMS Ocean set sail from Plymouth on January 16 carrying 300 Royal Marines from Taunton-based 40 Commando and 400 air crew along with her 350-strong ship's company.

During the conflict in Iraq, she was a platform for 22 military helicopters, all of which flew off the vessel earlier.

Reported by the BBC, May 28th 2003.

SUBJECT "BALLS".

In the heyday of sailing ships, all warships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls, and it was necessary to keep a good supply close at hand for each cannon. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck?

The best storage method devised was a square based pyramid with one ball on top resting on four balls resting on nine balls which rested on sixteen. Thus a supply of thirty cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem – how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling out from under the others.

The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with sixteen round indentations. But, if this plate was made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it.

The solution to the rusting problem was to make the "Monkey" out of brass.

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey. Thus it was quite literally "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey!" (And all this time you thought that was a dirty expression, didn't you)?

NAVAL RECRUITING 1810.

People may talk of negro slavery and the whip, but let them look nearer home, and see a poor sailor arrived from a long voyage, exulting in the pleasure of soon being among his dearest friends and relations. Behold him entering the door, when a pressgang seizes him like a felon, drags him away and puts him into a tender's hold, and from thence he is sent on board a man-of-war, perhaps ready to sail to some foreign station, without seeing either his wife, friends or relations; if he complains he is likely to be seized up and flogged with a cat, much more severe than the negro driver's whip, and if he deserts he is flogged around the fleet, nearly to death.

Written by a William Richardson, c 1810, and copied from an article in the book called The British Seafarer.

2004 RNA Diaries.

We have to place our order for these diaries by the middle of this month, so if you would like to have one, give S/M Norrie Millen a call at 905 709 8897, or email him at norriem@sympatico.ca
Cost will be \$12.00 each.

MAY MEETING.

Where did everyone go? This was supposed to be our Annual General Meeting in which elections are held. According to our attendance register, we had 21 Shipmates who signed in. Unfortunately, S/M Bill Dickinson had to dash off to one of his Consular duties, and therefore we ended up with just twenty shipmates. Take into consideration that two of those were Fraternal Members and you end up with just eighteen shipmates who were eligible to vote.

We did hold our elections and the results are as follows: -

Vice Chairman – S/M Norrie Millen re-elected.

Treasurer – S/M Don Ashfield re-elected.

Social Director – S/M Bob Field.

Secretary – There were no nominations or volunteers for this position, so for the time being S/M Norrie Millen will continue in this very important position. As he wears a number of other hats inside and outside the RNA, he would like to have the responsibility of Secretary taken off his shoulders. If you feel that you can help out, or that you know of a suitable candidate for the job, please let one of the Executive members know.

A vote of thanks must go to S/M Bill Dickinson for carrying out the duties of Social Committee Chairman for more years that I care to remember. Thanks Bill, for a job well done.

Our raffle raised \$40.00 +, and the bottle was won by S/M Don Ashfield.

Thanks to those of you who donated the food and to those two Shipmates, Jean Kemp and Megs Shellard for getting everything nicely laid out for the snacks after the official part of the meeting had ended.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT.

Our membership numbers are as follows.

Life	4
Full	77
Associate	14
Total	95

We also have 8 Fraternal Members.

At this time last year, we had a total membership of 109 Shipmates, so it appears that we have lost 13 Shipmates.

Do you know of anyone who served the Navy? If so, why not encourage them to come along to one of our meetings. If we are to remain as a branch of the RNA, we need to grow, so we need new members.

Submitted by S/M Chris Shellard.

"COOKS TO THE GALLEY".

As we are now into the Barbecue season, I thought we should take a look at something we can cook on the grill besides steaks.

Here is a neat recipe for B-B-Q Potatoes.

Scrub and wash 4 – 6 large potatoes. Dice potatoes into ½" to 1" squares. In a large bowl mix potatoes with a pinch of salt and a dash of white pepper, 1 oz of fresh chopped dill, a pinch of paprika and four tablespoons of cooking oil, and mix well.

On a large sheet of foil, place the potatoes in the middle and fold the foil around loosely and wrap with another piece of foil to prevent dripping or leakage that may occur.

Cook for ½ hour to 45 minutes on medium heat on the BBQ.

CORNERED BEEF & BAKED BEAN SHEPHERDS PIE.

The only small ship that I was on that had canteen messing was the Carisbrooke Castle, and when we were in port on a Saturday, the Captain would do his rounds. To enable us to have a nice easy and quick to prepare meal after the rounds, the cooks of the mess would usually make this dish up.

1 can corned beef.

6 – 8 fair sized potatoes.

1 can baked beans.

Boil the potatoes and mash them up using some butter and milk to make them easier to handle.

Cut the corned beef into ¼" slices and lay them in the bottom of an ovenproof dish.

Pour the beans over the corned beef and then spoon the potatoes over the beans. Make a bit of a pattern in the potatoes with a fork and then pop the dish into an oven at 350° F, until the bean juice bubbles out of the top. This should make 4 servings.

I still make this dish up on occasions.

Submitted by S/M Chris Shellard

Admiral Dreyer continued.

Cairo during the withdrawal from Norway, and when she was bombed he transferred to the Coventry. Other ships that he served on were K.G.V, and Duke of York. He also served as Commander on the Vanguard.

As a Vice-Admiral in the Far East he had the acronym of FOCINCFEF, which the lower deck had great fun with, until the C-in-C Far East had the title changed.

He retired from the Navy in 1967 after serving as Second Sea Lord, and was promoted GCB in that year.

NAVAL OBITUARIES.

Rear Admiral Sir Richard Trowbridge KCVO.

Died on May 4th 2003. He was 83.

Sir Richard joined the RN as a boy seaman at the age of 15. He was commissioned in 1940 and served at sea throughout WWII. He was on the destroyer Wakeful at the end of hostilities with Japan and was in Tokyo Bay at the signing of the surrender.

On promotion to Commander he was Captain of the destroyer Carysfort in the Mediterranean from 1956 – 1958, then served as Commander of the cruiser Bermuda 1958 – 1959.

As a Captain he commanded the Fishery Protection Squadron during a very trying period from 1962 – 1964. After that he was given command of the guided missile destroyer Hampshire.

From 1970 to 1975 he served as Flag Officer Royal Yachts during some of the busiest times of the Britannia's' life.

At the time of his death he was a Vice President of the H.M.S. St Vincent Association.

Lt. Cdr. Dick Moore GC.

Died April 25th 2003. He was 87.

Sub Lt. Moore was a member of the Naval Unexploded Bomb Department at H.M.S. Vernon when he volunteered to help defuse several large mines that the Luftwaffe had dropped on to London and that had failed to explode. He team, consisting of himself and a Petty Officer, successfully defused his quota, but his Senior Officer, Lt. Cdr. Dick Ryan wasn't so lucky, as the mine his team were attempting to defuse exploded killing both men.

He was appointed the Torpedo Officer on H.M.S. Dido in 1942 and in 1945 he served as the Deputy Director of Torpedoes and Mining in Washington DC.

After the war Dick Moore went to work for the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, where he became director of reactor design at the UK Atomic Energy Authority where he was involved in the design of today's more efficient gas-cooled reactor.

Admiral Sir Desmond Dreyer

Died May 15th, 2003, he was 93.

He was the Gunnery Officer aboard H.M.S. Ajax at the Battle of the River Plate, and earned a D.S.C. for his part in that action. One of the items that helped aim the guns in the British ships was the Dreyer Table that was situated in the Transmitting Station. This very basic type of computer was invented by Sir Desmond's father, also an Admiral, Sir Frederic Dreyer. He was on H.M.S.

JUNE BIRTHDAY "BOYZ"

Ivor Harrison, Arnold King, Doreen Mayes, Jim Peate and Irene Walker.

JULY BIRTHDAY "BOYZ"

Richard Jackson, Peter Keleher, Alex Kerr, Fred Walsh and Peter Wilkins.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL!

Crossed The Bar Shipmate Jim Henry.

S/M Jim crossed the bar on Monday, April 28th; he had just celebrated his 79th birthday.

Jim joined the RCNVR in 1941 until 1945, after which he served in the RCNR until 1967. Among the ships that he served on are HMCS Sorel, HMCS Huron, HMCS Micmac and HMS Firedrake. He specialised in gunnery, ending his career as a Chief Petty Officer.

He joined the RNA 1988, and was a regular attendee at our meetings and parades.

Our sympathies go out to his family in their loss.

Shipmate Ron Inch.

S/M Ron crossed the bar on Friday May 23rd, after a very long battle with various ailments; he was 77 years old.

Ron joined the Navy in June 1943 and served as a Petty Officer E.R.M.4, until his discharge on Christmas Day 1946.

His ships include H.M.S. Kimberley, H.M.S. Marshal Sout and H.M.S. Dunlose Castle.

He joined the RNA in May 1987, and was a very active member of this branch for many years until ill health forced him to resign from his position as Vice Chairman.

He was always very grateful to us when we held our Battle of Trafalgar Dinner at Branch 210, Royal Canadian Legion, as it was close to where he lived and he was able to attend.

He was awarded "Shipmate of the Year" in 1995, for all he had done to help us celebrate our tenth anniversary the previous year.

Our sympathies go out to his wife, Norma and their daughter, Stacey.

We will Remember Them.

Submitted by S/M Chris Shellard.

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