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GUARDIAN ENSIGN



NEWSLETTER OF
THE FEDERATION OF NAVAL ASSOCIATIONS,
NUMBER 34 Autumn. 2007

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SECRETARYS' BRIEFCASE

Here we are again, the next edition of the Guardian Ensign, at which our Editor, Brian, slaves away I'm sure. He has requested more input and I therefore put my two penno`rth in, as they say, and start by asking for some items from our readers to hopefully make it more interesting. Lamp swinging tales of yore; Association news and tit bits from `your own` Associations, which will, surprisingly, be of interest to others; Reunion dates for circulation, etc` etc` and of great importance, any contact details of your Associations which we may not have in our listings, or which you notice is out of date. As efficient as we are, it does happen. Photographs will be welcome, as matelots find it easier to look at them than having to read things. So, why bother writing this you may ask. Who is going to read it anyway. Well there may be a RAF type who can read it to you. The possibilities, as they say, are endless. As long as you don`t ask a Pongo, as they have trouble understanding the photographs.

Been a busy year so far, with lots of meetings, functions and parades Etc`, not to mention the producing and distributing of badges and ties that we do. That was started as a, `I'll do half a dozen for the Council`, to can hardly find the time to fit it in now. Bad idea this trying to give people what they want at a proper fair price. I must stop having these crazy ideas and sit in a darkened room more. If I can find the time, that is.

One very obvious realisation that is coming over to me each passing year is they ever increasing pace that the reducing membership of ex-service Associations is taking its toll. Some are in a levelling out situation with a little fluctuation up and down, but many are without doubt on the downward slope. Looking at surface figures of the RNA alone, the losses are an average of 1000+ per year thus far, with nothing out there to replace these losses. The RN personnel of today is an entirely different animal than the matelot of our days. We have the upper echelons going on about the navy of today is just the same as it ever was, but of the many ship visits I've done and conversing with crew members, I beg to differ. The bottom line in my mind is that some Associations who wish to survive for very much longer have to really consider options such as merging smaller ones with the, at the moment, larger and more stable ones and put aside elitist thoughts. Or, even egos, where they exist and they assuredly do. In a nutshell, we should all be pulling and working together, no matter what organisation we belong to with the full realisation that none of us are any better or more important than anyone else. Who put that soap box under my feet?

VICE CHAIRMAN.

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Finally, honest, news of our AGM/Reunion Weekend. Due to the unavailability of our usual venue of Mill Rythe, I have been pursuing other lines of enquiry for an alternative venue and am pleased to state that I have secured one. I say I'm pleased, but whether, or not you are remains to be seen. To cut a long story short and stop boring you longer than necessary and with the agreement of the Council, I have booked Lyme Bay Holiday Village at Seaton. £80 per head for three nights and 50p bar over the weekend. Within the pages of this edition will be found a booking form with more information etc', so I will leave one and all with that and duly sign off. If I've missed anything out, then I'm afraid you won't be able to read it, or have your RAF oppo read it for you. Bye Bye, Sec`.

**EMBROIDERED BLAZER/BERET/JUMPER BADGES/TIES
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FNA CREDIT CARD.

Owing to the falling number of FNA Credit Cards out there and the situation of the actual cost of the licence that is needed to operate the whole thing the subject was discussed at the last Council Meeting. Added to the aforesaid cost, the Ombudsman is now going to add a Levy Payment to cover their services in respect of complaints, etc', to be paid when the licence is renewed, which is due in July 2008. Taking into consideration that the costs to the FNA are looking to be in the £1000 area, the Council has decided that the contract be dropped with MBNA, who operate the card, at the end of the present period and not renew the licence, as it will no longer be a viable situation. Sec`.

To Advertise in Lost Shipmates or Reunion Section'

Write your advertisement clearly and post or E-Mail to the Secretary below. Some entries may be modified due to space criteria at the Editor's Discretion.

FNA. 237a Tithe Farm Court S.Harrow Middx HA2 9DN
navy.bj3@ntlworld.com

All entries are free of charge, but any donations are most gratefully received ALL cheques Should be made payable to,
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DID YOU SERVE ABOARD HER DURING THAT PERIOD MOTTO, "HUNT LIKE HELL" HUNTING THE SHIPS CREW WHO SERVED WITH MY FATHER. WERE YOU ONE, OR WAS A RELATION OF YOURS. ANY INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT, TONY MARTIN On 01273 493924.



HMS LLANDAFF ASSOCIATION

**DID YOU SERVE ABOARD THE LLANDAFF. IF SO, WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU TO JOIN OUR HAPPY BAND OF MERRY MATELOTS. CONTACT, KEVIN WOOD, 178 SUTCLIFFE HOUSE, ADDISON WAY HAYES, UB3 2DJ.
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Marketing Manager,
Tel 01634 823812, email**

amorse@chdt.org.uk

Dear Mr Robson

**The Destroyer Memorial 1939-1945 - Unveiling and
Dedication Ceremony Mid-morning of Wednesday 14th No-
vember 2007 at The Historic Dockyard Chatham, Kent**

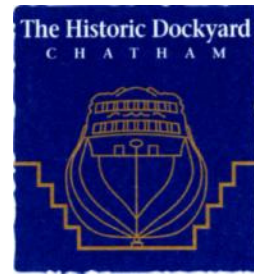
Mid-morning on 14th November 2007, a specially commissioned monument will be unveiled alongside HMS CAVALIER to commemorate the 142 Royal Naval destroyers sunk during the Second World War and over 11,000 men who lost their lives as a result. This unique memorial, created by the eminent British sculptor Kenneth Potts, will mark the very special contribution made by these ships and the men who served in them.

The Trust is particularly keen to ensure that as many of those who served in destroyers during the Second World War and the widows and dependents of those who lost their lives serving in such ships have the opportunity to attend the unveiling.

We would, therefore, be most grateful if you could print or copy the attached letter - which is from our Chairman, Admiral Sir Ian Garnett KCB - to member Associations of the FNA or use the content in a newsletter and to include information on your website, with a link back to www.thedockyard.co.uk.

If you would like any further information, please contact me to discuss.

Our grateful thanks for your assistance in this matter.



**Chatham Historic
Dockyard Trust**

The Historic Dockyard
Chatham, Kent ME4 4TZ

Tel: 01634 823800

Fax: 01634 823801

www.chdt.org.uk

REMEMBRANCE TRAVEL

VICTORY SERVICES CLUB

Important message for War Widows

100% grant for overseas visit to war graves or memorial

Please read this letter

We are writing, as part of our general service, to all War Widows who are either members here or associated with the Victory Services Club to inform about a special grant that is available. If your husband was killed/died overseas whilst serving in the armed forces between the years 1914-1967 you are entitled to one visit to his grave or memorial at 100% costs covered. Therefore if you have visited before at your own expense you are still entitled to this 100% grant which is made available from the MOD and administered by Remembrance Travel of The Royal British Legion. If you have remarried you are still entitled.

The travel arrangements, throughout, are made by Remembrance Travel who are the specialists and the appointed MOD agents and you will be staying at the VSC on the outward and return journeys, You may be accompanied by a friend/carer; the UK travel/accommodation costs for the carer or friend is free but overseas costs are at the normal rate.

The grant covers the following:

travel from home to point of departure eg airport and return accommodation at VSC on the outward and return journeys
all travel overseas by coach/air etc and hotel accommodation normally 3* plus
meals as shown in the programme
visit to your husbands' grave or memorial and a poppy spray
a service/ceremony of remembrance as appropriate
insurances -----
sightseeing as per the programme
a carer (eg friend / relative) can accompany you free within the UK

We are attaching the list of countries covered in the Remembrance Travel arrangements for 2007 and 2008 which could be applicable to you. If the country you wish to visit is not included please let us know and we will make special arrangements for you. Likewise if you wish to be accompanied on these special arrangements by a relative/friend you are welcome to do so but they will have to cover the full cost of the overseas arrangements

if you wish to visit your husbands' grave this year or in the future please contact them on 01622716729 or by e-mail at [remembrancetravel\(a\)bhtishlegion.org.uk](mailto:remembrancetravel(a)bhtishlegion.org.uk)

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REGULATING REUNION W/E

@Portsmouth Fri 5th & 6th Oct 07

Contact Tony Hadley 02392738902

Email ton34avf@ntlworld.com

OCTOBER 2007.

HMS ARETHUSA ASSOCIATION. 19TH REUNION ON 5TH -8TH TO BE HELD AT CHESTERFIELD. DETAILS, TOM SAWYER, 1 MANOR DRIVE CARAVANS, FLOCKTON, WAKEFIELD, WF4 4AW. 01924 848191 hmsarethusag8@yahoo.co.uk **CASTLE CLASS ASSOCIATION(CORVETTE/FRIGATE.** REUNION TO BE HELD AT TRECARN HOTEL. BABBACOMBE, ON 5TH - 8TH. DETAILS, MIKE BIFFEN, 81 BEAKES ROAD, SMETHWICK, B67 5RS.

TON CLASS ASSOCIATION. REUNION/agm AT PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, SOUPORT, 19TH - 22ND. DETAILS, JOHN SOANES, 8 ARRAN CLOSE, TORQUAY, TQ2 7BU. 01803 328450jsoanes@btinternet.com

SURVEY SHIPS ASSOCIATION. REUNION AT THE BRITANNIA HOTEL, COVENTRY, 27TH -28TH. DETAILS, SECRETARY SSA, 8 GROSVENOR COURT, 74 EAST LODGE PARK, FARLINGTON, PORTSMOUTH, P06 1BY secretary@surveyships.org.uk

NOVEMBER 2007.

HMS MOHAWK ASSOCIATION. REUNION FOR WW2 DESTROYER & POST WAR FRIGATE AT THE BRITANNIA HOTEL, COVENTRY, CV1 5RP. ON 2ND - 5TH. DETAILS, JOE ARTIS, 01483 824418joeartis@hmsmohawk.org.uk

HMS SUPERB(CRUISER) ASSOCIATION

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