



Newsletter Volume 4 – No 4. Autumn/Winter 2012.

Opening Comment: - Hi everyone,

It has been a little while now since the last missive and for this, sincere apologies are sent; however it surely comes down at the door of the Royal Mail with them upping their charges so drastically. I sent a letter a few days ago to France and it cost me 87p (roughly 1Euro-10cents). I received their reply with it costing them 77cents (roughly 61p); ***talk about rip-off Britain!*** I now have a list of 15 members who are happy to receive their copy by e-mail and this goes quite some way to keeping postal costs down.

Would Mr Smith, who spoke to me during the Coventry reunion on the subject of tracing the service records of Ex-RN people, please contact me if he still wishes to know how I went about tracing out my Great-G-father's records.

Newsletters Delivered by e-mail: - There has been a satisfactory response to this proposal and it seems to be working quite well. Anyone else wishing to go on this mailing list, will they please send me their e-mail address; also whether they would like it in word or PDF format.

Terry

Chairman's Chat: - This is my first report as your chairman and I must thank you for your support at the AGM. I look forward to serving you. I think we had a successful re-union in Coventry, personally I didn't hear anything unfavourable. I must thank Cliff for his help with the raffle and John and Rosemary for the quiz (***I will win one year!!!***) We now look forward to Bournemouth, the nucleus of the committee are meeting regularly with this in mind. We are open to suggestions about the format of these re-unions, so please do come up with your suggestions! I think that as we move on, the age factor will reflect on our activities so this must also be considered. I know that visits to specific places of note are popular, but we must think of financial restrictions in some cases. I look forward to hearing from you. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Tony Mendoza

Subs for Current Year: - I would like to send a gentle reminder that as yet there are still a few members who have not renewed their subs for the current year and half of this year has now gone by. We have been fortunate in keeping our subs very low, especially when they are compared with most other associations; we all get excellent value for our money. So please get your subscription to me if you are one of the 'lax' people.

Andrea

Secretary's Piece: - Hi Shipmates, things are going well with the 2013 reunion at Bournemouth. At the last check, we were informed by the hotel that 43 were booked in, so in view of the fact that the hotel can only manage 75/80, I would like to suggest you get your booking off quite soon in order to avoid disappointment. An itinerary will be drawn up of the weekend's programme and I hope to promulgate in the next letter details of any possible trips, either by group or singly. The committee and I have been quite busy since the last reunion, with me searching

around for possible venues for the 2014 reunion, then much subsequent discussion taking place. We need to make some fairly definite decisions quite soon, to enable provisional bookings for 2014 to be made.

If any member is aware of another's poor-health situation, would they please let me - or Terry - know of this, so that we can contact them.

Your very quiet secretary,

Cliff

New Member: - Please welcome aboard our newest member – M J A (Mike) Smith, Royal Marine, 58/60 commission. He has booked for Bournemouth, so we can look forward to extending a warm welcome to him that weekend.

Crossed the Bar: - (1). Stan Schaufler sadly died on Monday 16th July from the illness he so bravely fought and will be remembered with fondness by many shipmates; his funeral took place at St Faiths Crematorium, Norfolk on the 6th August. The following welcome comments were received from the Secretary of the Norwich Branch of the RNA: -

“There were over 40 shipmates and Korean Veterans attending Stan’s ceremony and the standards of the RNA Norwich and Korean Veterans were paraded; the chapel was completely full with many standing. Tributes were received with apologies the HMS Ceylon Association. The service was conducted by Padre Clifford Self of the Norwich RNA.

Altogether, a fitting farewell to a much respected man”.

Keith Smith, Norwich RNA Sec.

A card was sent to the family by Cliff on behalf of us all.

(2). It is with regret that I have to bring rather belated news of the passing on the 2nd April of Shipmate Brian Walder, a L/Signalman in the 56/58 commission. Brian lived in Corsham in Wiltshire and leaves behind a caring family. Brian was a staunch ‘Saints’ fan and after the service, which was held in the Isle of Wight, his ashes were taken for a last ride round the Southampton Football Stadium, courtesy of Southampton Football Club.

(3). Cliff received very belated news of the passing of R. (Bob) Watling, who served in the Ceylon as a S/Mech, 1944/5. He died on the 7th November after having suffered from a long terminal illness; unfortunately we have no more information than shown here. Cliff has sent condolences on the part of the association to his family.

Sickness Reports: - Our President, David Scott has joined the ‘Stent Club’! He reports that on the 17th May he attended Royal College Hospital, London, having been warned he would be in for two nights for a stent insertion into a blocked artery; after about an hour of ‘juggling’ the consultant was finally happy with the stent positioning. However the usual story, a shortage of beds meant that after arriving at the hospital by train at 0930, with the procedure following immediately, Matron’s ‘needs’ dictated his discharge, so it was home to Tunbridge Wells by taxi at 2000. Apart from some stiffness at the ‘entry-point’ and a restrained activity period, his prayers have been answered and he now feels healthier and a great deal happier.

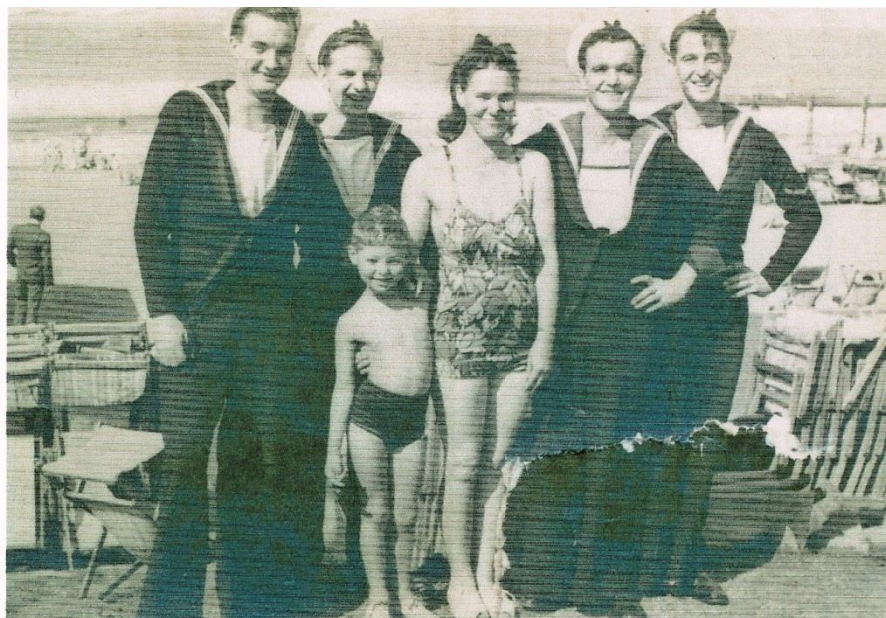
C30 Surfers: - I was recently contacted about the RN ships that participated in the Suez Crisis and reproduce the details as follows: -

Dear Mr. Boniface, I am a Polish historian interested in military history. Currently I am gathering material for a book about the Suez Crisis. I have some documents and books concerning that topic, as well as some personal accounts. Unfortunately I still have gaps - ***I have no personal account from any of the cruisers involved.*** Would you like to help me by sharing your personal account with me or passing my request to others members of the association who would like to do this?

Yours sincerely

Jaroslav Centek.

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John Bailey, an A/B from 1st commission, recently sent some very good quality photos of himself (see above) with three other shipmates of his time, taken at the time Ceylon was in Durban; one of whom went by the name of A/B Frank Hoodless. Anyone with an interest in having copies, will they please contact me; phone or e-mail.

Brien Harrison sent in the following piece of poetry; let's hope that everyone takes it in the spirit of naval humour!
He really is a nice bloke, so please do not go for him at the next reunion!

The Lord made a man in the Garden of Eden,
Then he said to himself, "There's something he's needing.
So casting around for a suitable pearl,
He messed with a rib, and out came a girl.

Two beautiful legs, so long and so slender,
Long, slim and firm - and ever so tender.
Two lovely hips to increase his desire,
And two lovely lips, to bring out the fire.

Two soft cuddling arms to welcome him home,
With two gentle hands to caress...and to roam.

Soft cascading hair hung down over her shoulder,
And two dreamy eyes, to help him grow bolder.

Just right for the man - it made his heart sing.....
Then he added a mouth and ruined the whole bloody thing!!

Member Resignation: - Back in June, Cliff received a nicely written letter, but unfortunately it contained news of a rather sad kind; perhaps it is really a sign of the times? Norman (Knobby) Braint, a founder member of the association and close friend of our founder, Sticks Pratt, feels the time to resign has arrived. I think that reproducing his letter is the best way of showing his feelings!

"Having received the Ceylon newsletter today, I do feel that sincere congratulations are in order to all members of the current and past committees, and wish you all the very best for the ensuing months/years you undertake.

As member No 4 of the association since 1983, when meeting up with our Founder Ron Pratt, who I first met when I joined the Royal Marines in May 1945 as a Boy Bugler. After two and a half years, I transferred to the ranks and met up with Ron again when I was drafted to the Ceylon Detachment on completion of a gunnery course at Portsmouth. In August 1955 I was discharged from RM Service and in May 1959 joined the RAF until 1982. Whilst in the RAF, I and my wife Joyce thoroughly enjoyed all the reunions we attended until

1999, but unfortunately in 2000 I spent a month in Southampton General Hospital undergoing a 'triple bypass' and was therefore unable to attend further reunions or travel long distances. Trusting that this missive is not too boring, we are now living in North Wales and as both of us are now in our eighties, we cannot travel long distances, so with sincere regret I have cancelled my yearly direct debit to the association. However we both wish the association happiness and success for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Norman V Braint.

Bucket Lists. I daresay that quite a few of us has one of these? I certainly have and one of the things on it has recently been crossed off! For many years I had the wish to visit Hartlepool's Historic Dockyard and tour the restored 1800's Leda Class sailing frigate HMS Trincomalee, the reason being that she was the last ship my Gt-G'father served in - 1880 to 1885 - having been in the R N from 1873 to the time of leaving Trinco. Ye Gods, but if we thought we had it rough, then I surely would not have wanted to serve or sail in her, magnificent as she undoubtedly was **and still is!** What makes it all the more poignant for me is that I remember the man very well, he died a few days before his 95th birthday at the end of 1949, just a few months short of my 19th! He showed great interest in the fact that I had joined Ceylon and that not too far in the future would be in a harbour, the name of which had been given to the 'Trinco' in honour of the successful 'Battle of Trincomalee' fought against the French Navy in 1782.



This little 'dit' of mine brings to mind the thought that many of us probably have such a list, so why not let me have something along the lines of this for future newsletters?

Well, another year seems to have come and gone and I for one am just wondering where all that time has gone; so **many** anniversaries! One that readily springs to mind was that of August 28th this year when 60 years previously, the crew of the 2nd commission arrived back in Portsmouth in the Vengeance after a "two & a half" spent mostly in the Far East Fleet; sadly time has meant that so many are now longer with us, with them now serving in that big 'cruiser in the sky'. However for those of us yet able to lead a full and joyful life, we must make the most of what there is and count our various blessings! Christmas and another year will soon be us and Barbara and I would like to extend our sincere best wishes to you one and all for as happy a time as possible for you. For those intending to be at Bournemouth next April, we look forward to seeing you; take care and best wishes to all.

Yours aye

Terry.

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