

Getting Underway

Royal Naval Association
Bridlington Branch Newsletter
July/August 2016



Volume 2, issue 4

July/August
2016

Once Navy,
Always Navy



Ahoy Shipmates!

As predicted the last few months have been very busy. With our branch having actively participated in Bridlington's Vintage Fair, and the very successful 1940's weekend held in the Old Town.

Ken Custus and Len Straker received their Legion D'Honneur medals at Alderson House, and at the time of writing we are preparing for armed forces day also at Alderson House on July 2nd. 2016. If you are available to help man our stall then please contact a committee member ASAP. Those intending to attend the marching parade through Bridlington should muster in RNA rig, at Station Parade at 11:45am for a 12:00pm step off.

On Saturday 2nd June members of our branch laid a wreath in memory of the Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen that lost their lives on D-Day in 1944. Shipmates Eric Hudson and Ken Kearsley along with members of the Bridlington branch of the Royal British Legion and The Lord & Lady Mayor. The service and prayers were conducted by Reverend Matthew Pollard of Bridlington Priory.



D-Day remembrance service

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION BRIDLINGTON BRANCH OFFICIALS



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President	Brian Hill	
Chairman	Martin Jolly	07765 895697
Dpty Chairman	Mike Blake	07836 798083
Secretary	Mike Rubery	07722 362949
Treasurer	Lee Broadbent	07809 458760
Standard Bearer	Martin Barmby	07786 228229
Welfare	Martin Jolly	07765 895697
Slops	Mike Blake	07836 798083
Committee	Vicky Barton	
Committee	John L'Amie	
Public Relations Off.	Mikki Jackson	07860 167342

RNA core values:

Unity

Shared backgrounds and equality in rank. We share the same bonds, the same mindset, and even the same language (Jackspeak!). We are all equal. We are the heart and soul of the RNA.

Loyalty

To each other and our dependents We will always support and look out for each other. Our loyalty is to all our shipmates, our local communities, the personnel and dependents of the Naval Service, along with other charities or organisations with naval connections.

Patriotism

We are proud to serve and proud to represent our country and the Naval Service. Our pride in serving our country never leaves us. Nor do we forget those who have fallen for our country or who fight now. We are deeply honoured to represent them on both a national and international level.

Comradeship

Friends in fun, fellowship and need. Your shipmates will always be here for you, whether it's about a job, ideas for a fun day out or just an arm around the shoulder. We will never leave you or your dependants in despair.



Getting Underway compiled and edited by S/M Mike Rubery

If you have anything you would like entered in Getting Underway please telephone or email on the above number or at secretarybridrna@gmail.com



News

New Members: We have one new member this month. A serving submariner, Jessica Metcalfe who hails from Hartlepool has joined our ranks so a big welcome to her. We now have six serving Royal Navy sailors that are members this may be a record for a non recognised naval port area. The Navy News have been informed.

Chevalier de la Legion D'Honneur

On Saturday 14th May 2016 shipmates Ken Custus and Len Straker received their much deserved medals from Commodore Paul Sutermeister, the president of RNA area 11, in a ceremony held at the Royal British Legion's Alderson House on South Marine Drive. Both shipmates were involved in the D-Day landings in June 1944 and have thus been recognised by the French government with the award of this medal. Our congratulations to both men.

Thanks to those members that attended and helped our shipmates, their families and friends to celebrate their award.



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Lady Mayoress, Lord Mayor Commodore Sutermeister, S/m Secretary with Len Straker & Ken Custus

Battle of The Somme

There will be a vigil of remembrance held at the war memorial on Friday 1st July 2016, from 7:00 to 07:30 the exact time the battle commenced 100 years ago. Later there will be a service conducted by the Reverend Pollard commencing at 10:40am where a wreath will be laid by the Lord Mayor. Over 19,000 men lost their lives during the first day of the battle and by the end, in November 1916, more than a million men had died.

The vigil and service has been organised by the RBL and all are welcome to attend.



The Battle of Jutland Memorial

The battle of Jutland was the biggest naval engagement of the 1st World War which saw massive losses on both sides. Four men from Bridlington lost their lives at Jutland and there was a short remembrance service at the war memorial on Saturday 28th May where a wreath was laid for each sailor. A local genealogist heard our plea on BBC Radio Humberside to help us locate family members of the men that died and happily he put us in contact with two members of **Stoker 1st class Edmund Grimshaw's** family who were overjoyed to be invited to lay a wreath in his memory. Two of our serving members, The Lord and Lady Mayor and several of Bridlington branch of sea cadets were also in attendance. The service and naval prayers were conducted by the rector of Bridlington Priory, Reverend Matthew Pollard.

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Wreaths were laid at the War Memorial in honour of Bridlington's lost sailors



BATTLE OF JUTLAND

The sailors from Bridlington that died at Jutland were:

Able Seaman Christopher George Edmond. Known by his middle name of George, he enlisted into the Royal Navy in 1901 aged 16. He was the only son of Jonah and Jane Edmond of St. John's Walk, Bridlington. George was on board HMS Indefatigable on May 31st 1916 when she was attacked and sank with the loss of over 1,000 men.

Stoker 1st class Edmund Grimshaw. Edmund was a naval veteran having joined the Navy in December 1889. he was the eldest son of Joseph and Mary-Ann Grimshaw of Quay Road, Bridlington. The eldest son of 11 children, Edmund was married to Elizabeth Mary Jane Grimshaw. They had five children, four of who were Joseph William, Ellen Ann Rose, Elizabeth Ivy Ann, and Lily Gladys May. The fifth child has so far been untraceable. Edmund was also on board HMS Indefatigable but was serving as a Royal Fleet Reserve having completed his naval service. He was 49 years old.

Leading Signalman Thomas Alva Thresh. The eldest son of John Thomas and Mary Jane Thresh of Chapel Street, Bridlington. Thomas joined the Royal Navy in 1910 as a Signal Boy 2nd class he too was aboard HMS Indefatigable and was just 21 years old.

Ordinary Seaman Charles Clifford Roberts. Charles was the youngest of the men lost on that day. He was just 19 years Old. He was born in Hull son of Frances Ellen Roberts of Hanthan Cottages, Cardigan Road, Bridlington. He had one sister named Betsy Isobel. he joined the Royal Navy straight from school as a boy Seaman in July 1912 aged 15. On 31st May 1916 Charles was on board HMS Queen Mary, when her magazine exploded after being hit twice by German battlecruiser Derfflinger.

The information above is taken from a book by one of our members: **Call The Hands (Bridlington's Lost Mariners 1914 – 1919)** by Falklands veteran **Andy Pare**. A great read and available at all good book sellers, a share of profits donated to Bridlington branch RNA.



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Shipmates Rubery, Jackson, Barton
Edmondson & Jolly at the vintage fair



Shipmate Mark
Edmondson's wife
provided this book
to display at the
vintage fair.



Chris Johnson who, along with his wife Carolyn, kindly supports all our events. Many thanks to both of them for supplying some fantastic naval related militaria including guns, uniforms and even vehicles.



Chris Johnson setting up the
Vickers gun adjacent to the RNA
gazebo and Jeep.



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Happy 90th
Birthday to
associate member
Jean Hudson



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Shipmate Martin Barmby instructs a sea cadet on the use of a Vickers gun at the 1940's festival.



Re-enactors at the 1940's festival



Shipmate Chairman presents Jean Hudson with a bouquet from our branch on her 90th Birthday whilst husband Eric watches on.

Shipmate Len Straker with Ordinary Cadet Jacob "Lofty" Smelt at his medal presentation.





SAIL - New Citizens Advice service for RN Veterans

Seafarers' Advice & Information Line (SAIL) is the only Citizens Advice service dedicated to seafarers across the UK.

SAIL has been giving support to merchant seafarers and fishermen for 20 years. It has now expanded and can give free advice to anyone who has ever served in the Royal Navy. They can also help their partners, widows and widowers.

Of course, this includes CONA members (which includes the RNA). Advice is given by phone, email or letter. All advice is free, fast and confidential.

SAIL can give advice on all of these and many more – benefits, pensions debts and money problems, housing issues, problems at work, maritime charity grants, consumer problems, family-related issues, immigration

SAIL has 6 advisers, all of whom are professional and fully trained. SAIL is independent from the Government, and from the Royal Navy. To get advice You can contact a SAIL adviser in any of these ways -

Call 08457 413 318 or 020 3597 1580 between 10 and 4 on weekdays. You can request an immediate call back if the call is expensive for you. There's an answer phone service at other times. Or Email advice@sailine.org.uk

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08457 413 318
www.sailine.org.uk



The very first JACK cartoon in *Navy News*, February 1973.

Great Warships of The Royal Navy



HMS *Formidable*

HMS *Formidable* was an Illustrious-class aircraft carrier ordered for the Royal Navy before World War II. After being completed in late 1940, she was briefly assigned to the Home Fleet before being transferred to the Mediterranean Fleet as a replacement for her crippled sister ship *Illustrious*. *Formidable's* aircraft played a key role in the Battle of Cape Matapan in early 1941, and they subsequently provided cover for Allied ships and attacked Axis forces until their carrier was badly damaged by German dive bombers in May.

Assigned to the Eastern Fleet in the Indian Ocean in early 1942, *Formidable* covered the invasion of Diego Suarez in Vichy Madagascar in mid-1942 against the possibility of a sortie by the Japanese into the Indian Ocean. *Formidable* returned home for a brief refit before participating in Operation Torch, the invasion of French North Africa in November. She remained in the Mediterranean and covered the invasions of Sicily and mainland Italy in 1943 before beginning a lengthy refit.

Formidable was 740 feet (225.6 m) in length overall and 710 feet (216.4 m) at the waterline. Her beam was 95 feet 9 inches (29.2 m) at the waterline and she had a draught of 28 feet 10 inches (8.8 m) at deep load. She displaced 23,000 long tons (23,369 t) at standard load as completed. Her complement was approximately 1,299 officers and enlisted men upon completion in 1940. The ship had three Parsons geared steam turbines, each driving one shaft, using steam supplied by six Admiralty 3-drum boilers. The turbines were designed to produce a total of 111,000 shp (83,000 kW), enough to give a maximum speed of 30.5 knots (56.5 km/h; 35.1 mph). On sea trials, *Formidable* reached speeds of 30.6 knots (56.7 km/h; 35.2 mph) with 112,018 shp (83,532 kW). She carried a maximum of 4,850 long tons (4,930 t) of fuel oil which gave her a range of 10,700 nautical miles (19,800 km; 12,300 mi) at 10 knots (19 km/h; 12 mph).

Formidable made several attacks on the German battleship *Tirpitz* in Norway in mid-1944 as part of the Home Fleet. She was subsequently assigned to the British Pacific Fleet (BPF) in 1945 where she played a supporting role during the Battle of Okinawa and later attacked targets in the Japanese Home Islands. The ship was used to repatriate liberated Allied prisoners of war and soldiers after the Japanese surrender and then ferried British personnel across the globe through 1946. She was placed in reserve the following year and sold for scrap in 1953.

Source: wikipedia



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I joined the Royal Navy in May 1964 as a PSBA, at the age of 17½, my part 1 training was a HMS Raleigh, all wooden huts and bunk beds.

My part 2 training was at RNH Haslar for 6 months, then a further 6 months at RNH Stonehouse, Plymouth. Then I was sent to HMS Heron my first taste of WAFUS, and I have been associated with them ever since. Next I went to Singapore for 18 months and had my 21st birthday there, not that I can remember much of it.

Then onto HMS Goldcrest (more WAFUs) it was here that the rum ration came to an end.

My first seagoing ship was HMS Fearless and I was assigned to the beach first aid station. Then back to RNH Stonehouse for some more training, before HMS Osprey beckoned for a couple of years.

A had a short spell on HMS Hermes with the Royal Marines doing cold weather training, attached to the Institute of Naval Medicine Alverstoke for Hypothermia Trials.

I then left the RN and did something totally different – agricultural machinery mechanic, in other words mending tractors and combined harvesters. The outdoor life was good in summer, sitting in the middle of a field trying to mend a combine, but the pay was rubbish, so I decided to go back into the RN after nearly 2 years.

Firstly to RNH Stonehouse for 18 months, then to the Royal Marine Barracks Stonehouse in the Dental Department, from there to HMS Invincible's Dental Dept. In November 1984 I was posted to HMS Cochrane to manage the dental department. A short spell at HMS Raleigh in March 1986, followed by HMS Illustrious for 18 months, then HMS Heron for 12 months before release for the last time in Feb 1989.

After I left the MOB I tried my hand as a driving instructor but it was a tough test and could not get through part 3, I then got a job with the then British Rail in Personnel & Payroll in Birmingham, stuck it out for 13 years.

I first join the RNA in Stourbridge after I moved there, and meeting my wife Ellie, it would have been in 1996 or 97, then we went to live in Spain for nearly 10 years and was a member there.

Doc is a regular meeting attender and branch supporter. He has taken on the role of "unofficial branch photographer" and has taken some great shots of both Eric Hudson's Legion D' Honneur medal presentation and more recently Ken Custus and Len Strakers presentation.

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QUIZ

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1. If a sailor in the Royal Navy asked if you would like some of his "nutty", what would you expect him to give you?
a) A tot of rum
b) A nut and bolt
c) Confectionary
d) A head band
2. Which member of the ship's company would be called a Bunting Tossler or Flag Wagger?
a) A marine engineer
b) A sonar operator
c) A Weapons engineer
d) A radio operator (tactical)
3. If a sailor in the Royal Navy were to invite you to join him in a game of "uckers", a variant of what game would you be playing?
a) Monopoly
b) Cluedo
c) Ludo
d) Snakes & Ladders
- 4) Who onboard would be known as Jimmy?
a) The Captain
b) The First Lieutenant
c) The Padre
d) The Doctor
- 5) In the Royal Navy, what does "Black Tot Day" refer to?
a) Last day the tot was issued
b) The Queens Birthday
c) Easter Sunday
d) Boxing day
6. During the Spanish Armada of 1588, who was in command of 'Ark Royal'?
a) Sir Walter Raleigh
b) Sir Francis Drake
c) Lord Charles Howard
d) Sir John Hawkins
7. Which famous German warship did HMS Prince of Wales engage on 24th May 1941?
a) Bismark
b) Tirpitz
c) Scharnhorst
d) Bayern
8. In 1608 the then ruling monarch renamed 'Ark Royal'. What name was she given?
a) Ark Covenant
b) Royal Ark
c) Anne Royal
d) Royal Anne
9. The mighty 42,000 ton battlecruiser, HMS Hood was launched in what year?
a) 1908
b) 1918
c) 1928
d) 1938
10. One of the Royal Navy's most short-lived ships was the frigate HMS MERMAID, which served for only four years from 1973 to 1977, when she was transferred to the Royal Malaysian Navy. She was originally built as "Black Star" and was destined to be the flagship and presidential yacht of which African country?
a) Nigeria
b) Cameroon
c) Ghana
d) Kenya

For answers see back page



BRIDLINGTON BRANCH MEETINGS

Come and join us for a social drink, some banter and a few dits. All serving and ex-serving members of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and their families are welcome as well as our comrades from all other branches of the Armed Forces

**We muster on the first Thursday
Of the month 19:30 hrs**

The Old Ship Inn, St. John's Street, Bridlington

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The Royal Naval Association has over 20,000 members across 370 branches in the UK and overseas, we are a family of current and former Naval Service personnel, relatives and supporters of our country's Royal Navy.

CONTACT RNA HQ

RNAHQ
Room 209
Semaphour Tower
HM Naval Base
Portsmouth
PO1 3LT

Whether we are catching up with friends at our regular social events; fundraising; advising on welfare and employment matters, or just providing an arm around the shoulder, our natural willingness to help others stems from the tradition and camaraderie that only Naval Service life can instil. Everything we do is inextricably linked to our core values: Unity, Loyalty, Patriotism and comradeship.



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

HQ Website: www.royal-naval-association.co.uk
Branch Website: www.bridlington-rna.co.uk
Facebook: Royal Naval Association – Bridlington
Twitter: @RNA_Bridlington

Quiz Answers: 1) C 2) D 3) C 4) B 5) A 6) C 7) A 8) C 9) B 10) C