



Invincible aid under the guns

LWREN Audrey Stevenson meets a group of Bosnian refugee children during a project by aid teams from HMS Invincible to reconstruct a wrecked school near the front line.

Under continuous threat from shellfire, officers and men from the carrier have been working in the heart of the war-racked country to get the school back into operation. We follow their efforts in our latest report on the Navy in the Adriatic on page 17.



INSIDE

THAT'S M'BOY!

A WINNING picture in more ways than one, this photograph by CPO(PHOT) Al Campbell helped HMS Neptune Photographic Unit to win the first prize for a portfolio in the Royal Navy's Peregrine Trophy competition.

Al achieved the sepia tint effect by printing on high-gloss paper normally used for colour pictures, while the charm was provided by CPO(W) Quarters Administrator Lynne Walsh and her 13-month-old son Steven.

Turn to our centre pages for more of the Navy's best pictures of 1994.



SURVEY GIANT WEIGHING IN

Victory events to have caring theme

THE BIGGEST and most sophisticated survey ship ever built for the Royal Navy has been ordered from BAeSEMA by the Ministry of Defence.

Weighing-in at a remarkable 13,000 tons, the new ocean survey vessel will be comparable in size with the assault ships HMS Fearless and Intrepid. She will be built around the most sophisticated echo-sounder available — a multi-beam device which requires a large, flat-bottomed hull as a platform.

The new technology will, however, dramatically enhance the results and efficiency of the Navy's survey work by transmitting an echo-sounding beam up to 120 degrees wide. This produces a single, three-dimensional image of an area of the sea bed covering — for example — 60 square miles at a depth of 5,000 metres.

The as-yet unnamed vessel will be built at a cost of £40 million by sub-contractors Appledore Shipbuilders Ltd at Bideford, Devon. She will be more than four times the size of the ship she is intended to replace — the 30-year-old survey vessel HMS Hecla.

wide, including areas remote from normal shipping lanes.

Her hi-tech equipment will make her capable of on-board data recording and precision navigation. She will have oceanographic and geo-physical sensors.

130m length

Power will be provided by two medium-speed diesel engines driving a single, controllable-pitch propeller giving a speed of 17.5 knots. She will have a length of 130 metres, a beam of 21m, a depth of 14m and draught of 8.3m.

BAeSEMA — equally owned by Bri-

● Turn to back page

Importance

Announcing the order in Parliament, Defence Procurement Minister Roger Freeman said the new ship would carry out systematic hydrographic surveys in the world's oceans.

"This order recognises the importance to the Royal Navy of a continuing specialist hydrographic capability and is part of the Government's plans to replace current hydrographic vessels and equipment as it becomes necessary."

The new vessel will enter service in 1997 and, despite her large size, will have a complement of only 65-70. She will have an ice-strengthened bow and is designed for deployment world-

OUT OF THE SUN...

HMS BROADSWORD cuts a dash in the Caribbean. The Type 22 frigate is due to leave the sun and return from duty as West Indies guardship in March.



Picture: LA(PHOT) Mark Histed

A NATIONAL campaign has been launched, in tandem with this year's victory commemorations, to acknowledge the debt of gratitude owed to those who fought for Britain and the Commonwealth in World War II.

Entitled "Tribute and Promise", the campaign was announced by Prime Minister John Major at a press conference in London last month. He said the Promise was a reaffirmation of the voluntary organisations that the caring companionship will not end with the special events.

"Our commemorations to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the war will give the nation the opportunity to remember the actions and sacrifices of those who won the war," he said.

Queen

Mr Major outlined the Government-sponsored commemorations which will form the nucleus of hundreds of events to be held throughout the country between March and October.

The end of the war in Europe will be marked centrally by events on the bank holiday weekend of May 6-8, with final victory being commemorated on August 19-20. The Queen and other members of the Royal Family will play a prominent part on both occasions.

More than 50 Heads of State and Government have been invited to attend the official VE Day events in London where the themes will be a celebration of 50 years of peace, reconciliation and the benefits won for the youth of today.

Hyde Park will be the focus for the VE events, May 6 being dedicated to veterans and their families. The day will culmi-

● Turn to page 24

ARGUS'S LUCKY NIGHT!

NATIONAL lottery presenters Anthea Turner and Gordon Kennedy seem in buoyant frame of mind for the draw televised by BBC1 on board RFA Argus.

In support are members of the Naval Party in Argus who are (clockwise from top left) RPO Noddy Holder, LS Dinger Bell, AEM Steve Sumner, PO

Kevin Stephenson, STD Dave Wilcocks and NA Chris Seager. With them is First Officer David Gatenby RFA.

The show took place in a specially constructed marquee on the flight deck of the ship as she lay alongside at Portsmouth.

Picture: CPO(PHOT) Stuart Antroub



Long arm of Liverpool in northern Gulf

HMS LIVERPOOL has penetrated further north than any other RN ship in the Gulf since the war against Saddam Hussein.



Like a broken whale, the war wreck of a tanker looms up against the sunset as HMS Liverpool passes her during patrol duty in northern Gulf. Picture: POMA Mark Ellis

Enforcing UN sanctions in company with US warships, the Type 42 destroyer carried out boarding operations within a mile of Iraq's territorial waters.

In January the "Shiny L" was in Bahrain where she took part in the visit to the area by Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames, who hosted a dinner on board for local dignitaries.

Earlier in the deployment, Liverpool exercised with the Omani navy, and then spent Christmas at Dubai where the ship's company were shown overwhelming hospitality by British ex-patriates.

As Navy News went to press, the destroyer was undertaking

self-maintenance at Penang, Malaysia. There many of the ship's company have been reunited with loved ones who flew out for a short holiday until Liverpool leaves on February 13 to resume Armilla Patrol.

Exeter

In the meantime her sister-ship HMS Exeter is on duty in the Gulf under the command of the Captain of the Fifth Destroyer Flotilla, Capt John Hance. Unusually, both Captains D have been on patrol in the Gulf simultaneously as the Shiny L is under the command of the Captain of the Third Destroyer Flotilla, Capt Laurie Hopkins.

Navy opposes recovery of Drake's body

A PLAN to raise the body of Sir Francis Drake from the sea bed off the coast of Panama is being opposed by the Royal Navy.

A British-led team of historians and salvage experts believes that sonar equipment could locate the precise spot where Drake's coffin was committed to the sea in 1596.

It is thought that the great Elizabethan seafarer was placed in a lead coffin, in which case his remains could be well preserved. The historians planned to repatriate the body and reinter it in Westminster Abbey.

However, in a letter to Sir David Nicholas, a supporter of the venture, the Second Sea Lord said the Navy did not approve of the scheme.

'Importance'

Admiral Sir Michael Layard told Navy News: "No one can doubt the importance of Sir Francis Drake in the United Kingdom's maritime history. Whilst I would wholeheartedly support marking the anniversary of his death, the idea of disturbing his grave and bringing the body home is one which I, and many others in the Navy and in the West Country — including the City of Plymouth — could not support, however well-intended..."

"Sir Francis Drake received an honourable burial at sea, fully in accord with the naval traditions of the time, and indeed of today. I believe that his grave should be respected in the same way as any other. It should be left in peace."

Sir David Nicholas's view was that the return of the body would be a "great stimulus" to young people to learn more about the period. However, it is understood that the team would not go ahead in the face of naval opposition.

● The 17th-century warship The Dartmouth is among 500 wrecks plotted off the coast of Scotland by archaeologists from the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments based in Edinburgh.

Longest serving WO retires



● WO Kennard

THE most senior serving warrant officer in the Royal Navy has retired after 43 years.

WO(WTR) Derek Kennard joined the Navy in 1951 and has served in many ships and establishments at home and abroad. Among his first ships was the aircraft carrier HMS Albion, and he has completed tours of duty in Bermuda, Singapore and Naples.

For many years until his retirement last month WO Kennard was a member of the Naval Careers Service, and in recognition of that he was presented with a plaque by Director Naval Recruiting, Commodore Ian Craig.

● The Navy's last "promised man" retires — see page 7.

City to honour Dryad

FREEDOM of the City of Winchester is to be granted to HMS Dryad, the School of Maritime Operations at Southwick, Hampshire.

At last month's meeting of the city council, the Mayor, Cllr Ray Pearce, proposed that Freedom be granted to the establishment in recognition of its contribution to the economic and community life of the district.

Seconding the motion, Cllr Ken Carter — who represents Southwick and Boarhunt Ward — said Dryad had been an important part of the community since the Navy's Navigation School moved there in 1941.

Arrangements are now being made for a formal ceremony.

Arms depots in shake-up

EFFICIENCY measures proposed for naval armaments depots are to go ahead. The Ministry of Defence announced last month that the proposals for a wide range of changes would be put into effect following the Front Line First initiative last summer.

Depots involved are those at Gosport, Ernesettle, Beith and Coulport. The conventional ammunition task in the West of Scotland will be concentrated at the NATO Armament Depot at Glen Douglas.

KITE-DECK OPERATIONS



READY for launch... An almost unidentifiable flying object takes off from the flight deck of HMS Invincible during a kite-flying competition held on board. This effort by RO Robson was one of many entries in the event held when the aircraft carrier was at anchor for 24 hours during stand-off from Deny Flight operations in the Adriatic (see also page 17).

Joint effort in ocean research

THE MINISTRY of Defence and the Natural Environment Research Council are joining forces in a new ocean research initiative.

The two organisations have signed a memorandum of understanding, the Co-operative Arrangement for Research in Ocean Sciences (CAROS), which will strengthen existing partnerships between various government-funded oceanographic research programmes.

Substantial programmes are already carried out individually by NERC, the Defence Research Agency (DRA) and the Meteorological office — the latter two on behalf of the MOD.

Although their motivation differs, they have much in common including collection of oceanographic data by in-situ and remote sensing methods, and development of instrumentation and processing. Both organisations are also developing computer modelling techniques.

Satellites

The first project to benefit from the new co-operative arrangement is the NERC's Shelf Edge Studies programme, off the Hebrides. This looks at the way UK shelf waters interact with deep water, and involves specific studies into the nature of the seabed and the remote sensing of the ocean using satellites.

The DRA also has an interest in the data the SES programme will generate because of their relevance to research into acoustic anti submarine warfare in shelf, as opposed to more traditional deep water operations.

TWO OF A KIND

It was a proud, if somewhat tearful occasion when Mrs Joan Hitchcock waved goodbye to her twin boys Peter and Paul as they left to join the RN as Junior Seamen back in 1962.

Last month she was prouder still to see her boys — both now Warrant Officers — receive bars to their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals from the Flag Officer Surface Flotilla, Vice Admiral Sir Michael Boyce.

Daughters

The pair have served together only twice — in their first ship, the frigate HMS Diana and later in HMS Sirius. Both are now based ashore in Portsmouth, Paul on the staff of FOSF and Peter with Captain Weapon Trials at Whale Island.

The family, based at Marlborough, has strong maritime connections. The twins' father, the late Mr Ray Hitchcock, was a sergeant in the Royal Marines and Paul's two daughters Samantha and Jane are both married to sailors.

Battleaxe bumps sub

HMS Battleaxe was involved in a minor collision with the German submarine U14 during an anti-submarine exercise off Portland.

The submarine surfaced at once and both vessels reported limited damage before returning to port under their own power. There were no injuries.

Last transit takes the biscuit!



HMS Fearless makes a last transit of the narrows between the mainland and the Isle of Skye at Kyle of Lochalsh — work on the Skye Bridge is nearly complete and the assault ship will be too tall to pass beneath when it is.

At the end of exercise Greenwader she squeezed through the gap — the Skye part of the span is just out of shot — and continued on to Den Helder to drop off elements of the 1st Battalion RNLMC.

Inset: During the exercise off the west coast of Scotland Mr Boyd Tunnock, the owner of Tunnock's Biscuits, called on the ship with a plentiful supply of his old-established confectionery. Here he indulges a fellow Scot's sweet tooth — Fearless's commanding officer, Capt Sym Taylor — with the help of Wren Aircraft Handler Kerry Barnard.

Worn out trainer bows out

Five million miles in over 70,000 flying hours is quite a record — but the Mark 2 simulator at RN Air Station Culdrose hasn't moved an inch.

Thousands of aircrew from all over the world have used it as an essential part of their training since it was installed in 1971 — only now it has been rendered obsolete by the Mark 6 variant.

Special guests from its earliest years gathered for the decommissioning party, happy to learn that its days as an educational tool are still not yet over. It is to be moved to Culdrose's Engineering Training Section, where it will be used for teaching maintainers.

Grand prize for writer

The journalist who has made the best contribution to maritime affairs is to be honoured by a new award this autumn — in memory of former Daily Telegraph Naval Correspondent Desmond Wettern.

Winner of the Desmond Wettern Maritime Media Award — an engraved ship's decanter plus £1,000 — will be chosen by a committee appointed by the Maritime Foundation.

Plate reunion

Members of the River Plate Veterans Association held their annual reunion at Plymouth, with a service at St Nicholas Church, HMS Drake.

Lusty heads for the Adriatic

HMS Illustrious left Portsmouth last month to relieve HMS Invincible in the Adriatic on a six month deployment that is her first major tour of duty for five years.

The carrier came out of a 2½ year refit last April, following a period in reserve.

She will carry out exercises in Scotland before moving on to the Adriatic, continuing the role carried out by HMS Ark Royal and HMS Invincible over the past two years, supporting the UN operations in Bosnia.

Embarked in her will be 801 and 820 Naval Air Squadrons and B Flight of 849 Sqn.



Don't keep mum about your next of kin . . .

THE telephone rang and a man from the NSCCC wanted to talk to Jack. With his mind suddenly working overtime he dreamt that he had been selected to play for the Navy Social Companions Cricket Club.

This happy illusion was soon shattered by the voice at the other end informing him that the initials stood for Naval Service Casualty Co-ordinating Centre and that they were responsible for maintaining the Next of Kin (NOK) details of all personnel in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines; which includes all officers, ratings and other ranks.

The reason why he had been contacted was to tell him that the last time he completed a NOK card was in 1984. This was fine except that following his accident in the cricket nets last week, when a most unfriendly ball deprived him of his normal conscious state, the Captain tried to contact his nearest and dearest to let them know what had happened.

Problems

Going through Naval Personal and Family Services (NPFS) his NOK details were given . . . and then the problem started.

Listed as the NOK was his mum, with his girlfriend at that time being the second nominee. Mother had since been divorced, changed her name twice, remarried and emigrated to Australia to watch rugby league.

The girlfriend had run off with a soldier in 1985 and was now happily married in Catterick with six children. When NPFS finally found Jack's mum and told her of his accident she blamed the Navy, saying that it took far too long to



'He's sorting out the contacts they mustn't get in touch with!'

contact her — even though it was all his fault.

Incidentally, his current girlfriend wasn't too impressed that he had failed to put her name down.

Without further ado the very nice man from the NSCCC told Jack what he must do to ensure he got it right next time.

First he had to go to his

ship's Unit Personnel Office and complete a new NOK Form (S537). The latest version (April 94) is used by all the Armed Forces and gives many options on who should be informed and in what order.

Injured

Any difficulty in completing it was easily explained to Jack by his divisional officer and the UPO staff. The new form allowed him to amplify who should receive the information first, thereby preventing his now frail mum receiving yet another shock from a stranger. He was also reminded about making a will and where this information could be held if he so wished.

Jack eventually got selected for the cricket team but unfortunately that was not the end of it. During a tour he was injured in a road accident while travelling to the next game.

This time, however, the news of his accident was rapidly con-

veyed to his loved ones, in a correct manner saving them much additional distress at a very difficult time, and allowing his latest girlfriend to get to the hospital within a few hours.

The story illustrates one aspect of the NSCCC's work. However, in attempting to provide a service to all personnel and their families — especially at times of distress — it is vitally important that the information concerning NOK must be kept up to date. So if your circumstances change then a new

NOK card should be forwarded.

It is recommended that all details given should be reviewed at least annually, and if a card has not been sent within the last two years now is the time to do so.

All the information received is treated in the strictest confidence by a small staff of five in order to protect the individual's privacy. No other MOD department or Government Agency has access.

In time of hostilities the

NSCCC is permanently manned but in peacetime, apart from normal daily work, the NSCCC is also on permanent standby 24 hours a day and 365 days a year to react to a major disaster.

Emergencies could include terrorist attack, disaster at sea, a road traffic accident, or any other situation involving service personnel which could result in casualties.

Enquiry cell

It is the responsibility of the Service to inform the NOK as soon as possible of anything untoward that has happened to their loved ones and, whenever reasonable, by a personal visit. This requires the NSCCC and its sub-department, the Naval Enquiry Cell, to be constantly available at short notice.

The Enquiry Cell provides a vital telephone link between the Service and anxious family and friends. It is a central point of contact and avoids the need to telephone many different locations at a time of stress.

The phone number is, when necessary, released to the media immediately after a major incident, or sometimes used within organisations — such as family link — for smaller incidents.

Distress

Hopefully readers of this rather sombre message will not be put off by our attempt to shine some light on a little-known cell in the basement of Centurion that has at heart the interests of every person serving in the RN, QARNNS and RM.

Frequently it is only with the benefit of hindsight that those serving wished that they had kept the NOK information up to date to avoid additional and unnecessary distress to their loved ones.

So the moral of the story is check that card and complete a new one if necessary. The permanent staff of the NSCCC will be only too pleased to help or give you more information.

WHAT IF Life Seems Hopeless?

Look for this space next month



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Masters of the first degree

GREENWICH Royal Naval College has seen its first graduation ceremony for officers achieving their Masters degrees in conjunction with their staff course studies.

Twenty-five of the 45 successful Masters of Arts were able to return to the college to collect their certificates from the Admiral President, Rear Admiral John Brigstocke here entering the chapel escorted by the Rev. Graham Devonshire and Commodore Louis Armstrong, Commander of the college.

Last year 43 others took the degree course in defence studies, but their results will not be known until spring. It is also a time of some uncertainty for Greenwich itself — as a reported in last month's Navy News, a Government study has come out in favour of a Joint Service College to be located at the Army Staff College, Camberley.



NOT SUCH A ROUGH RIDE IN SHETLAND



FACTS & FIGURES

Pennant no: P298.
Launched: November 22, 1976. Commissioned: July 14, 1977. Displacement: 1,210 tons. Length: 59.5m. Beam: 10.9m. Draught: 5.4m. Masthead height: 25m. Ship's company: five officers; seven senior ratings; 31 junior ratings. Armament: 1 x Bofors 40/60 gun. Main machinery: Two Ruston diesel engines driving a single shaft and controllable pitch propeller. Speed: 16.5 knots. Range: 7,000 nautical miles at 12 knots.

MORE gutsy than its size would suggest and able to tolerate the worst of the weather, the Shetland pony is a fitting symbol on the badge of HMS Shetland, the first warship to bear the name.

During the past year this Royal Navy workhorse steamed more than 25,000 miles in waters from the Strait of Gibraltar to the northern North Sea. Her patrols covered every part of United Kingdom waters and her operations included maintaining the peace in the Bay of Biscay in the wake of the "Tuna War".

In between patrols HMS Shetland visited Gibraltar, Amsterdam and Aalborg in Denmark. The ship's company also enjoyed the annual stop in the vessel's affiliated town of Lerwick for the Up-Helly-A Viking festival.

Liberation

Another highlight was a visit to St Helier in early May to support Jersey's Liberation Day celebrations.

Built by Hall Russell and Co. in Aberdeen, HMS Shetland was the third of seven Island-class offshore patrol vessels supplied to the Royal Navy. Based on a civilian design, the hull shape was derived from that of the Jura-class deep sea support vessel, and is renowned for its first-rate seakeeping qualities.

Here again in Shetland's case a parallel may be drawn with her sure-footed equine namesake. The vessel's excellent seakeeping is a feature much appreciated by the ship's company during the average North Sea winter!

HMS Shetland and her sister vessels, HM ships Alderney, Anglesey, Orkney, Guernsey and Lindisfarne — HMS Jersey was sold to Bangladesh in 1993 — form the Royal Navy's Fishery Protection Squadron.

With its origins in the late 14th century, the "Fish Squadron" can claim to be the oldest in the Royal Navy. Today it would be hard to find many members of the Senior Service who had not at some stage in their careers been associated with fishery protection.

Community

Supplemented on a rolling basis by three Hunt-class mine countermeasures vessels, the Squadron's primary role is the enforcement of European Community and national fisheries legislation among UK and foreign fishing vessels within British Fishery Limits.

The Squadron is under contract to supply the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food — and, north of the border, the Scottish Fishery Protection Agency — with a certain number of patrol days per year.

To this end there are usually at least four of the Squadron on patrol somewhere in our fishing limits from north of the Shetlands to 200 miles south-west of the Scillies.

Sea states

Their task is to board fishing vessels to inspect their catch, gear, fishing licences and certificates. Inspections are performed by RN officers trained by MAFF as British Sea Fisheries Officers. For each inspection the officer is accompanied by another member of the ship's company, normally the coxswain.

HMS Shetland is well equipped for her role. Boarding operations are conducted using

her two 5.4 metre Searider Fast Rigid Inflatable Boats, which can be launched in quite high sea states.

The ship has a comprehensive communications fit with a wide range of both military and civilian voice and data net capabilities. Her 40/60 Bofors gun main armament is unique in the Squadron; her sister vessels having been fitted with a modern 30mm gun.

This 40/60 gun, which is ear-

marked for replacement by a new 20mm weapon during a major refit scheduled for later this year, is a genuine war veteran. Mounted on a trolley, it was used during the Western Desert campaign of the Second World War.

Endurance

HMS Shetland's pair of 2,000hp Ruston diesel engines give her a top speed of some 16.5 knots. More impressive,

however, is her endurance. The ship can steam about 7,000 nautical miles without refuelling.

In the months leading up to her refit HMS Shetland will continue her fishery patrols and port visits. She may also be called upon to act in her secondary, marine pollution control role, for which she is equipped with oil dispersal gear, or to take part in search and rescue operations.

POSTCARDS of Ships of the Royal Navy are obtainable at 50p each (minimum order £1.50) from Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 396. An order for 12 cards is priced at £7 and a standing order for the supply of each of 12 cards on publication can be arranged on receipt of £10.50/foreign £12. Prices include postage and packing, and postcards will be despatched on receipt of stamps, postal order or cheque. No postcards are stocked of ships which paid off before 1986.

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BY TUBS



Letters

All flared up over matters sartorial

I WAS interested in the photograph sent in by R. Brown of British Columbia of the sinking of HMS Swift. Our Landing Craft LCG (L)680 was very close to her at the time and can be seen in the picture in line with and behind her bridge.

At the time of impact I was standing on deck admiring her graceful lines as she made her way past us. We picked up a fair number of survivors but it soon became obvious that our SBA could not cope with the sudden intake of casualties.

Eventually we were directed to a merchant vessel. I believe the Cap Touraine, and she took them on board.

Many of our chaps gave items of their personal gear to survivors who had nothing but what they stood up in — and they were pretty choked afterwards to find they had to replace same at their own expense. Looking back, that was a small price to pay. — D. Parkinson, Lancing.

THE PLAN to do away with flared trousers recalls an embarrassing situation in 1939, before the war, when I was a Signal Boy in HMS Norfolk.

We formed part of the East Indies Squadron. In January that year 48 suitable junior rates were detailed to hand in a No 6 suit and we sailed for the Med in our resplendent livery of white hull and yellow funnels.

On arrival at Aden I was instructed to hand in the 48 tropical uniforms along with my own and demonstrate to the dhoby firm ashore how to get the concertina effect with the bell bottoms.

Moving on to Alexandria we embarked the Crown Prince of Iran and sailed for Abadan. The Egyptian royal yacht followed us and we were told that Princess Fawzia of Egypt and the Crown Prince were to be

married in Teheran.

The No 6 suits were collected en route and kept under wraps until the day of the wedding. Imagine our horror when we discovered at the last minute that the dhoby firm had put a razor sharp crease down the front of the heavily starched trousers.

The matelots lining the route looked foolish as a result — but nothing could be done. — R. W. Avery, Palmerstown, Dublin.

ONE cannot escape the conviction that those who now control our naval destiny seem to have embraced the perverse cause of political correctness to the point of utter absurdity.

Why fool about, for example, with the sailor's uniform? Sad it was to see the demise of bell bottoms — but they will not stop there and soon they will have our men wearing uniforms which are a cross between Boys Brigade and Salvation Army suits.

And we are now informed that in deference to our lady sailors wine — yes WINE! — is to be served at a matelot's mess table. Imagine the killick of the mess putting the question 'Is it red or white, dear?' Bah! — R. Bell, Ealing.

Marriage lines

MY name was once entered in your pen friends section — and because of you I am now happily engaged.

My fiancé Wesley Atkins is a cook in HMS Monmouth — we now live together, plan to wed and are trying for a baby.

So once again we'd both just like to say a BIG THANK YOU to Navy News as without

you none of this would have been possible.

When we get married I'll send you a photo. — B. Howard, Hayes, Middlesex.

Please do — and congratulations to you both.

If we have brought any other couples together in this way, we would like to hear from them, too. — Ed.

Divine wind and a wave

REGARDING the article on the first Kamikaze attack on HMS Formidable, (November issue) may I add some details of the second one?

I was a Signaller T/O on duty on the flagdeck at action stations when the second Jap plane flew across the flight deck just above my level — and as he passed he gave a wave of his hand before putting his plane in a near vertical climb.

We were all astonished at his check, but we were then aware he'd turned into a steep dive and we made a very quick dash for the signal caboose.

After a few moments there was a terrific explosion — he had dropped a bomb down the funnel which was just abaft the flagdeck, no more than 12ft

away.

Then came a second explosion, which was the Kamikaze hitting the flight deck on the port side.

When I looked around the caboose I saw all the shrapnel holes in the bulkhead. It had passed over our heads and as there were about six of us on top of each other in that small space, by the grace of God none of the signal staff were injured. — B. D. Allenby, Holton Le Clay, Lincs.

Cutting remark

IN the December issue R. J. McGarel-Groves said: "All the destroyers in the bombardment of Cherbourg were American."

Well, the Daily Express cutting I have mentions the destroyers Onslow, Offa and Melbreak — and certainly I remember being on board the Melbreak, taking part in this event. — G. W. Kitchin, Sheffield.

LETTERS to the Editor should always be accompanied by the correspondent's name and address, not necessarily for publication.

A tale too hard to swallow

WHOEVER presented the Haslar Museum with a model kayak and Eskimo along with its tale of associated cannibalism must have done so with his tongue firmly in his cheek.

The British Arctic Expedition, 1875-76 — of which Surgeon Copping was a member — lost only four men during the whole time in the Arctic. Gunner George Porter died on the attempt to reach the North Pole, Able Seamen James Hand and Charles Paul died in Polar Bear on the return journey from Sberard Osborn Fjord, and N. C. Petersen (a Danish interpreter) died on a sledge journey between the ships — HMS Alert and HMS Discovery.

All of them died of scurvy with their deaths being minutely examined by the Scurvy Committee on the expedition's return.

There was never an occasion when a shortage of food could have led to cannibalism. It was the wrong type of food that was the problem. — Lt E. C. Coleman, Careers Information Office, Lincoln.

AS THE former curator of the museum from 1963-85 I can vouch that the Eskimo kayak is made of sealskin and whalebone with the exception of the piece of leather attaching the harpoon to the kayak, which is ordinary everyday leather fitted by myself.

The kayak was made by Eskimos for Inspector General Copping. It was presented to the museum by the late Capt Copping, RN (of Invergordon mutiny fame), who told me the history of this and other Copping relics.

The hospital legend of cannibalism must be of recent origin — it is untrue, and appears to be confused with the story of cannibalism as experienced by Inspector General Sir John Richardson whilst leader of a sledging party as part of Franklin's first expedition in search of the North West Passage.

This is documented in The Life of Sir John Richardson by McGillveray, a copy of which is in the museum library. — G. T. Parsons, Market Drayton.

Pilgrimage to Italy

SURVIVORS of HMS Penelope, sunk on February 18, 1944, made a pilgrimage to Italy to visit her last resting place and the graves of those buried in Naples War Cemetery.

Our thanks to Vice Admiral Michael Moore and his wife Penelope who invited us to lunch at HQ in Naples and to all who made this trip possible. — H. Pugh, Sheffield.

Two lucky escapes

I WAS interested to read G. A. Goulet's comments on the torpedoing of Nabob and Bickerton (December issue). I was First Lieutenant of Kemphorne, seen closing Nabob. We took a lot of Bickerton's survivors on board, many gravely wounded, and Nabob transferred a lot of surplus personnel to us until it was almost a case of 'standing room only'.

One Canadian lieutenant amazed me by arriving in a whaler in his best uniform, clean shirt etc. He was very swarthy and had an enormous bump over one eye and I told him to get his head down in my cabin.

Imagine my horror on going into my cabin hours later to find that all my bedding was stained with oil. It seemed that this officer had been supervising getting up the rum when the torpedo struck nearby and he had a miraculous escape from drowning as the compartment flooded, being found floating unconscious in the hatchway two decks above as the hatch was about to be closed to prevent further flooding.

When told to put on some dry clothes, in his concussed state he put on his best gear!

It sounds wonderful that we escorts would deliberately sacrifice ourselves in the way Mr Goulet suggests — but we didn't! Three of our group were sweeping for the U-boat which had obviously left another Gnat torpedo circling above him as he dived — with fatal consequences for Bickerton. — Lt Cdr W. J. Mann, Lymington.

I WAS fascinated by Mr Goulet's letter about the loss of the Bickerton — because I should have been there.

I was a Midshipman RNVR in HMS Grindall. Before leaving Scapa, a wire fouled our port screw and we could not sail. Next day a diver removed the wire but the cover guard on the A bracket was distorted and we had to be docked to replace it. So we missed the convoy.

Our usual position in the screen was position 'S' at the rear of the convoy. Bickerton took our place and bought it. The officer killed was Sub Lt Ivor Jarman, RNVR — he was where I should have been if we had been in our proper place. — P. Sealey, Caversham.

Navy News

No. 487 41st year

Editorial and Business address: Leviathan Block, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 3HH

Editor: Jim Allaway

Deputy Editor: Anton Hanney

Assistant editors: Lindy Clegg, Ruth Vernon

Business Manager: Mrs. Anne Driver

TELEPHONES

Editorial: 0705-294228

0705-822351 (Portsmouth Naval Base)

extensions 24163 and 24194

Business (advertising, distribution and accounts):

0705-822351 ext. 24226

Additional direct line to all departments: 0705-826040

Fax: 0705-830149

Same time, same place...

MY wife and I recently had a coach trip to the Isle of Wight, staying in a hotel in Sandown. We became friendly with another couple in the party who (we did not know at the time) lived in the same town as ourselves.

Over a couple of jars one night I discovered he had been in the Royal Navy, had the same birthday as myself, was a Chatham rating and served at the same time as me in HMS Royal Sovereign in 1941-43. — K. Ruckman, Middleton, Manchester.

● HMS Royal Sovereign is seen here somewhat earlier — on exercises with the Grand Fleet in 1916.



There'll never be another like Bill!



CPOEMEM Bill Price, last of the Navy's "promised men", surrounded by mementos of his first ship — HMS King George V. Picture: LW(PHOT) Penny Taylor

WHEN CPO Bill Price leaves the Royal Navy on March 6, he will be the last of a breed of sailors who were promised a naval career until they reached the age of 65.

Chief Price, the oldest serving member of the RN, joined the Service in 1948 — the year that the British left Palestine, the battlecruiser HMS Renown was paid off, and flogging — suspended since 1897 — was finally removed from the list of naval punishments.

In 1970, after 22 years' service, he was permitted to stay on under the "promised men" regulation by which a relatively small number of senior rates were allowed to

remain in the Navy until the age of 65. The measure, designed to ease retention problems, was dropped later in the 1970s.

For the past 25 years Chief Price has served in RN Detention Quarters at Portsmouth from where he started his terminal leave at the end of January.

Sport

Tall and fit, he retains a sense of nostalgia for the Navy he joined as a 17-year-old junior stoker.

"My first ship was the battleship HMS King George V — at that time a training vessel for people like myself," he told Navy News. "I

got through that quite well because I enjoyed sport and physical exercise — and that was a time when PE was compulsory."

He became a keen oarsman at a time when most ships still had cutters — and raced them in inter-ship competitions. During the Fifties and Sixties he served in a variety of warships, including the carrier HMS Indomitable, and smaller vessels such as HMS Zulu.

During his service in the Mediterranean he was involved in the Suez campaign and later, in 1963, was introduced to the Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie, during a ship visit to Abyssinia.

LEGION LAUNCHES ITS NEW IMAGE

THE ROYAL British Legion has unveiled a new poppy and a new image to combat public misunderstanding that the organisation is no longer needed.

The new logo shown here was launched last month at the start of an advertising campaign designed to show that the Legion is not only still necessary, but that the calls on its charitable work are increasing.

National president, Vice Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, said the new image was the first step in a wider programme to present a more modern face.

Too few people knew how the £14 million raised through last year's Poppy Appeal was spent. For example, the RBL ran resettlement schemes and courses, and provided accommodation through a housing association that it had founded.

Admiral Dalton said the Legion handled more than 50,000 war pension applications last year, obtaining £14 million worth of benefits and compensation.

As part of its campaign, the RBL will be deploying hard-hitting slogans such as "The RBL is needed because not everyone who shares wars" and "... because today's Armed Forces are equipped for everything. Except tomorrow."

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Pots of gold for Drake's rainbow team

RAINBOW characters George, Zippy and Bungle, alias POWTR Dave Bailey, LWTR Matt Hayes and LWTR Sarah Thompson, toured HMS Drake, Captain Fleet Maintenance and all ships and submarines alongside in Devonport and collected £158.78 in aid of Children in Need.

After an exhausting few hours the team, all from Drake's Unit Personnel Office, finished up at the photographic section where they were joined for a commemorative shot by LA(PHOT) Mac Macdonald.



Chaplain revs up

WET weather failed to dampen the spirits of the Rev Richard Madders, Staff Chaplain to FOSF, when he visited the Navy News office at HMS Nelson as part of the Royal Navy Motorcycle Club's annual round-Britain tour in aid of Children in Need.

Pictured with Jane Perkins (left) and Pat McCarthy, Richard collected a tidy sum before he and the team departed for the rest of their five-day tour of over 20 RN and RM establishments.

On the evening of the appeal BBC TV presenter Sally Taylor was presented with a cheque for £8,000 by the club's patron, Rear Admiral Richard Irwin.

Clyde goes bananas!

A BANANA, a green fairy, an ape and Al Capone led the fund-raising activities at the Clyde Submarine Base on Children in Need day.

The fancy dress team, led by Lt Sheena Thomson and CC Brian Malcomson, armed themselves with collection buckets and raised £775 during their tour of the base.

CPOPT Brian Richardson broke the pain barrier by having his legs waxed and raised over £90 while Sea Cadet Sarah Kaja was sponsored to the tune of £100 to be an officer for a day on board the submarine

HMS Renown.

The registry to the First Submarine Squadron auctioned off their boss for the day resulting in £40 while Naafi sold Children in Need merchandise, ran a raffle and collected cash, raising a grand total of £585.

On the Churchill Estate the Drumfolk disco dancers also did their bit in aid of the appeal and performed many of their routines at the UCI cinema, Clydebank, raising £310.24.



Estate officer waxes lyrical

PUTTING a brave face on it is Hulse Estate Community Officer Dave Goodwin who needed the support of community worker Kevin Robbins (right) when beautician Sue Allan waxed his legs in aid of Children in Need.

Dave's hair-raising experience was one of a series of events organised by Help and Information Volunteer Exchanges (HIVEs) in the Portsmouth area which included collections outside the dockyard and in estate coffee shops, a raffle and a sponsored "dance-athon."

Thanks to the combined efforts of HIVE, the Cutting Shed, Hulse Naval Community Centre, Eastney, Drayton, Emsworth, Pembroke Park, Paulsgrove and HMS Dryad

wives' groups, £757 was raised for the appeal.

Wash and go

STAFF from RN air station Yeovilton's communication centre and telephone exchange raised over £400 for the BBC Appeal by washing a variety of vehicles at the base's fire station.

-Flying for Pudsey-

TWO teams from 849 Naval Air Squadron, based at RN air station Cudmore, took part in a sponsored go-kart event at Camborne Karting and managed to raise £395 towards the total figure of £2,000 donated as a result of the event.

The 705 Gazelle display pair, also from Cudmore, donated £1,009.11 towards the Children in Need Appeal, money raised during the summer season from the sale of squadron and team memorabilia at air displays throughout the country.

Pudsey says Hi-de-Hi

"CAMPING" it up at HMS Collingwood are a motley crew of blue coats who turned the establishment into a holiday camp during the Pudsey Hi-de-Hi Day.

System Engineering and Management Course 45 organised a 180ft abseil from the Pall Europe building in Portsmouth and the 11-man team raised £583.99.

Fund-raising for Children in Need extended into the community with a group of trainees from the communications school joining forces with Asda, at Fareham, washing cars and packing shopping in aid of Pudsey bear.

Windscreen-washing, a games night, a fancy dress stand-easy by the executive department, and a coffee morning held by the wives' club helped bring Collingwood's final total to £4,000.

Naval Customs & Practices

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West Indies guards link arms

HMS Broadsword hands over her duties as West Indies Guard Ship to the Type 23 frigate HMS Monmouth this month, returning to the UK early in March after a seven-month deployment.

She has lately been developing the Royal Navy's links with several of the Caribbean islands' Coast Guards, including those of Anguilla, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago.

They were keen to receive small arms instruction from Broadsword's experts.

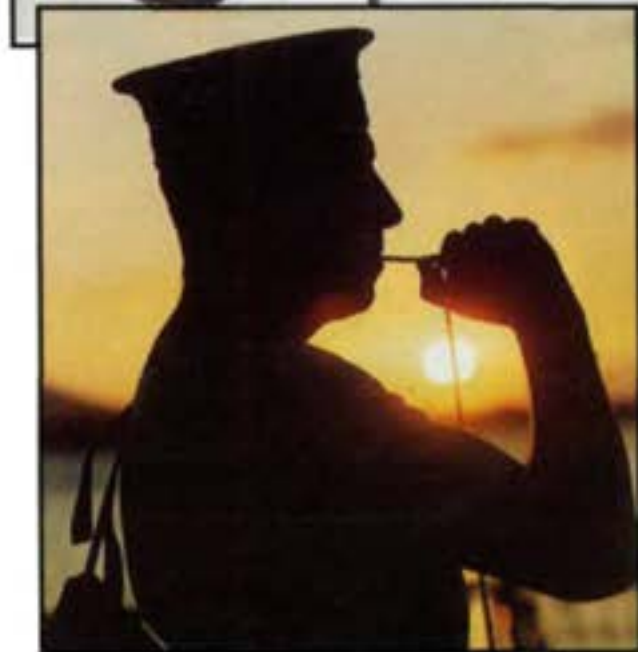
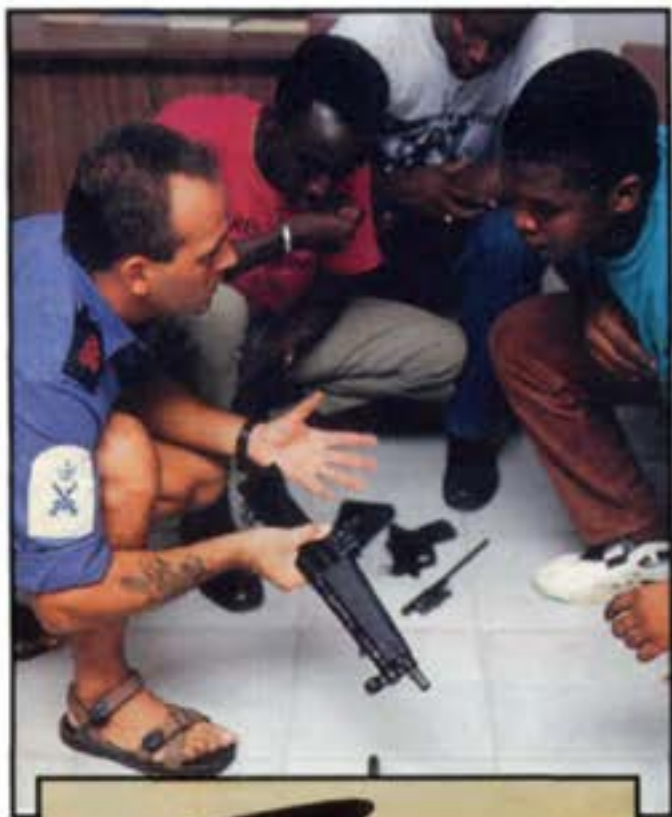
While on passage to Tobago the Type 22 frigate hosted the British High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, Mr Rabindranath Permanand, who was able to watch a replenishment at sea with RFA Brambleleaf and a man overboard exercise.

After completing her latest Antilles Patrol Broadsword sailed north to spend Christmas and the New Year at Tampa, Florida — where many of her ship's company met up with their families for the first time since leaving Devonport last July.

● Top right: HMS Broadsword alongside in Tobago.

● Below: PO(M) Brown gives some hints on small arms maintenance to members of the Anguilla Coast Guard.

● Bottom: Sunset at Tobago.



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Spouse nous

HUSBAND and wife David and Una Fyffe have passed out from HMS Daedalus after successfully completing their trade training.

LAEM Una Fyffe has been drafted to HMS Illustrious. Her leisure interests include playing in the volunteer band and sport, particularly squash, golf and judo.

AEA David Fyffe is continu-

ing his career at HMS Seahawk, where he is helping to maintain the airframes and engines of Sea King helicopters. His hobbies include triathlon and cycling.

Picture: LA(PHOT) Richard Thompson

SILVER STRUCK

A CREW from 771 Search and Rescue Squadron, RN air station Culdrose, finished second of seven teams in an international helicopter navigation and winning competition held in Holland.

Led by squadron training officer Lt Cdr Paul Davis, the other silver medallists were Lt Cdr Chris Bone, Lt Russ Spedden and Bruce Morrison, POAEM Lee Godwin, POAEA Del Stanton, PO Peter Broomhall, LACMN John Pickering and AEM Fergus Campbell.



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People in the News



Compliments to the chef

A HERBERT Lott award for CPOCK Vince Cottam highlighted his consistent hard work on board HMS Campbelltown during Armilla Patrol duties.

In the citation Commander UK Task Group, Rear Admiral Mike Gretton, wrote, "Your professional skill and unstinting hard work helped in no small way to create a good impression of HMS Campbelltown and the Royal Navy".

Vince, who is now serving in the wardroom galley at HMS Nelson, received his award from the base supply officer, Cdr William Pennefather, and the pair sealed the occasion with a toast (right).

UNOFFICIAL ambassador for Coventry on board the city's namesake frigate is LNO Chris Jones, who went to school in the city, still lives there when ashore and is a great fan of Coventry RFC.

Chris now has another claim to fame — he was clear winner of the ship's beard-growing competition, the proceeds of which — entry fees not whiskers — will be donated to adopted charities in Coventry.



Picture: LA(PHOT) Craig Leask



Michael Aspel (right) refers to his red book.

Life story

Picture: CPO(PHOT) Steve Newbury



CPO Dave Wallace.

MILLIONS tuned in to see CPOACMN(D) Dave Wallace receive the famous "This is Your Life" red book from Michael Aspel.

The surprise was sprung in one of 771 NAS's Sea King helicopters and the programme recorded at RN air station Culdrose.

Decorated

A veteran of over 350 rescues — during which he has saved the lives of more than 230 people, 12 cows, five sheep and a dog — Dave is one of the Service's most decorated divers.

His wife Carol, an ex-Wren, and the couple's children, Natalie and Douglas, were on hand to share the celebration.

Flown in from Pakistan to add their tribute were the Master and First Mate of the MV Murree — the ship from which Dave helped to rescue 40 men, women and children, earning the George Medal in the process. Other guests included naval colleagues, two of whom have won a red book of their own.

WELCOME CUDDLE FOR A BOSNIAN KIDDIE

THE AID is welcome but so is a cuddle. LWREN Audrey Stevenson, of HMS Invincible, took a little time to get to know one of the younger recipients.

Audrey was among the Royal Navy and Army (1st Battalion The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment) personnel helping to distribute much-needed aid in Glavice, a village near Bugojno in central Bosnia.

Picture: LCpl Matt Woodhouse





Cooks named by the batch

SHOUT "Dave!" in a galley on board HMS Invincible and you're sure to get a response.

Believe it or not every man-jack of the catering department goes by the moniker Dave.

Standing left to right are Daves Murkin, Loader and Eves, all petty officer cooks, LCKs Dave Hughes and Dave Everson and CKs Dave Bevington and Dave Hardy. Same ship different department boasts two RPOs Stan Matthews (left). It might cause a little difficulty, but correspondents can always use the chaps' real first names — Andy (seated) and Eon. They're the only two RPOs Stan Matthews in the Reggy branch.



CDR Timothy Russell has been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineers

QUORN RATES GIVE CHASE

FOUR ratings from HMS Quorn began their night out in Edinburgh by pursuing a thief over a mile and a half...



AB Ray Thompson, MEM Stephen Thompson, CK Martin Sheppard (standing left to right) and LS Craig Campbell spotted the fleeing thief as they were parking their car. They joined the chase and retrieved a stolen briefcase, although the thief eluded them. The case was later returned to its rightful owner.

WEM Damien Jones, who has been awarded a Good Citizenship Certificate by the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall.

Damien sprang into action after the three occupants of a stolen car fled from a road accident at the Drake Circus roundabout in Plymouth. He caught one of the offenders and detained him until the police arrived.

● A pat on the back, too, for

Presentation to former RNXS unit head

FOR HIS exceptional service former Auxiliary Officer Albert Davies has been awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate from the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Col. Alan Waterworth.

Second World War veteran Albert served in both the Royal and Merchant Navies and survived two sinkings. He went back into uniform in 1959 when he joined the Royal Naval Minewatching Service, later the RN Auxiliary Service.

Albert qualified as an instructor and became unit head, remaining with the RNXS until it was disbanded.

Hobby pays off

A PETTY officer who began computing as a hobby has been awarded £7,500 by the Royal Navy for his navigation simulator.

PO(TSSM) Richard Davies' program is currently in use at HMS Dolphin in the training of future submarine commanders and in training centres around the country.

Richard, who has been in the Senior Service for 17 years, is now refining the original software.



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It's all Greek to me!

TEN countries took part in the third International Nautical Competition hosted by BRNC Dartmouth — climaxing in a relay race and joint first place to the RN and Norwegian Navy teams.

'Forgotten Fleet' at Portsmouth

Anyone who served in the British Pacific and East Indies Fleets who has not yet applied for tickets or security passes for the 50th anniversary commemoration at Portsmouth on 2-3 September should contact Lyn Burke on 071 417 8400.

The full programme of events is as follows:

Saturday, 2 Sept
11.00 DPM/RAF Fleet Air Arm Service of Remembrance, H.M.S. Daedalus, Lee on the Solent
16.30 Splice the Mainbrace Guildhall Square, by courtesy of Woods "100 years Navy Flotilla"
18.00 Sea Retreat Guildhall Square — The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines
18.30 Civic Reception, Guildhall
Sunday, 3 Sept
09.30 Veterans assemble Castle Field, Southsea
10.40 Veterans step off Castle Field, Southsea
11.00 Drumhead Service, War Memorial, Southsea Common
11.40 Fly-past War Memorial, Southsea Common
12.00 Veterans step off for march past, War Memorial, Southsea Common
12.30 Veterans fall out, Castle Field, Southsea
13.00 Supreme Beer issue, Castle Field, Southsea by courtesy of George Gale & Co Ltd
15.00 Service of Dedication for Stained glass window & brass plaque, Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral
19.30 VE & VJ Musical Finale by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Royal Marines Museum Eastney
21.00 Conclusion

A veterans' centre will be open in the Guildhall from the evening of Friday 1st September until the evening of Sunday 3rd September. All veterans and their families will be welcome.

From April 1st, an information centre will open which can be contacted on the following numbers: 01705 834925/834927/834928/834929/834930. Fax 01705 834926.

This may be able to assist in reuniting long lost friends and colleagues.

China sailer

A model of a ship used by the 'Columbus of China', Admiral Zhang He during his 15th century voyages to East Africa will be on display in the China: Cradle of Knowledge exhibition at the Gas Hall, Birmingham from 25 February-4 June.

Teams of eight cadets all studying at their respective naval academies competed in 11 events ranging from yachting and whaler rowing to simulated damage control and orienteering.

They best enjoyed being tested in the college's computerised navigation trainer, making simulated sea passages and avoiding collision with other ships while being marked on their interpretation of the International Rules of the Sea.

Aim of the competition, hosted by a different country each year, is to foster friendship between the young officers and allow them to experience the different approaches of foreign navies.

Those of the USA, Great Britain, Spain, Germany, Greece, Norway, Finland, Sweden, France and the Netherlands were represented in a four-day programme that ended with a dinner at which the guest of honour was Admiral Sir Jock Slater, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff and soon to be First Sea Lord (see back page).

● The Greek team deep in thought on an orienteering exercise in the Devon countryside.



Royal route finder

The Princess Royal presented CPO Gordon Trimby of RN Air Station Culdrose with a navigational sextant when she visited the Boat Show at Earl's Court.

It was the prize for his entry in the Royal Institute of Navigation 'Yachtmaster Ocean Award 1994' competition — navigational notes and sightings taken on a 19-day passage from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Plymouth on board the Service yacht *Sarie Marie*.

Keen offshore sailor Gordon, who works at Culdrose's training flight deck, hopes to skipper the air station's own yacht, *Cornish Air*, around the coast of Spain this year.

Scenes of courage shot in Plymouth

HMS Plymouth, the Historic Falklands Warship at Birkenhead, is to play host to part of a BBC series on "selfless acts of great courage".

It will form the backdrop to the story of WO John Philips, one of a two-man bomb disposal team assigned to the Falklands Task force in 1982.

He successfully defused a bomb in HMS *Argonaut* and two of three in HMS *Antelope* — but the third exploded, blowing off Philips' left arm and killing his partner, Staff Sgt Jim Prescott. Amazingly, Philips was back at his old job only three months later.

For the story, HMS Plymouth has been partially rebuilt and will double for several of the Task

Force ships, including *Argonaut*, *Antelope* and the cruise liner *Canberra*.

Early this month, volunteer staff of the Historic Warships and members of the RNR at HMS *Eagle* in Liverpool will act as members of the ships' companies for the filming of the series, to be screened in June.

● HMS *Argonaut* was towed out of Portsmouth last month, on her way to a Spanish scrapyard. HMS Plymouth towed her to safety after she was damaged by bombs in the Falklands War.



VESTED INTEREST

Vesting day — no pun intended — at the new Defence Clothing and Textiles Agency was attended by Defence Procurement Minister Roger Freeman.

He is seen being shown some of the agency's products at DCTA Didoct by Mr Victor Ruddick from the Science and Technology Division at Colchester.

With headquarters at Andover and 450 staff in 9 locations throughout the UK, the DCTA provides the Armed Forces with all its clothing and textiles — from cook's whites through tentage to chemical warfare suits.

Current major project is to provide the Royal Marines, Army and RAF Regiment with the next generation of combat clothing, Combat Soldier 95, as it is called, will use the latest water and windproof technology to give the British serviceman a performance edge in adverse conditions.

This year DCTA will order and process £110m worth of clothing for all three services — including disrupted pattern camouflage and infra red resistant combat gear.

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IT'S ALL GO FOR CADETS

ONE hundred cadets and officers from Combined Cadet Force units around the country were embarked in mine countermeasures vessels for a day to give them a taste of life in the Royal Navy.

The ships sailed from Rosyth and some of the cadets had travelled from as far as Somerset for the exercise.

Each cadet and officer was assigned a specific ship and all vessels were under the command of Cdr James Humphrys, Commander of the Third Mine Countermeasures Squadron.

The force consisted of two Sandown-class minehunters (HM ships Sandown and Cromer) and four Hunt-class minehunters/sweepers (HM ships Berkeley, Brocklesby, Chiddingfold and Dulverton).

Having left Rosyth the force made for Kirkcaldy Bay, where co-ordinated manoeuvres and underway transfers were carried out. Primary aim of the day was to give the cadets as much "hands on" experience and as broad an insight into the Navy as possible in the limited time.

The programme included minehunting demonstrations, man overboard exercises, ship handling, fire-fighting and damage control. It ensured the cadets were fully involved in ships' routines.

And busy as it was, it is hoped the cadets also had some fun!

CHILE SOURCE OF ENTERTAINMENT



As she navigated the beautiful canals and channels of Tierra Del Fuego, HMS Dumbarton Castle was accompanied by penguins, seals and dolphins. Her CO, Lt Cdr Martin Flanagan, chose these glacial waters for a spot of waterskiing and although Castle-class ships are not noted particularly for their acceleration the feat was eventually accomplished. Could this be the furthest south anyone has waterskied from the back of a warship?

A TWO-WEEK visit to Chile saw HMS Dumbarton Castle calling in to Punta Arenas, hosting a party for orphans, sailing through the channels of Tierra Del Fuego and being given the warmest of welcomes in the world's most southerly town.

The strong links already existing between the Royal and Chilean Navies were reinforced during the visit and the ship's company was almost overwhelmed

by the warmth of the hospitality from both the naval and civilian population. The party on board the offshore patrol vessel for 20 Chilean orphans was a way of saying thanks.

Spectacular

Four members of the ship's company had a chance to explore a little further inland when they visited the spectacular Torres Del Paine national park.

After Punta Arenas the ship sailed through the channels of Tierra Del Fuego, passing close to Argentinian territory before stopping at Puerto Williams, the southernmost town in the world, where a cheering Chilean welcome was waiting.

After being escorted by the Chilean Navy, Dumbarton Castle set off to sail around Cape Horn, thus empowering the ship's company to spin authentic salty dits for the rest of their lives!

A pleasant — if windy — festive season

was spent in Mare Harbour, while New Year celebrations were shared in Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands.

The future looks busy, too, for Dumbarton Castle. After visiting South Georgia and participating in a joint-service exercise, she will head north for Brazil and the Canary Islands before returning to Rosyth after four years' toil.

Following a much-needed refit she will return to duties as a fishery protection vessel at the end of the year.

CITADEL



AWARDS

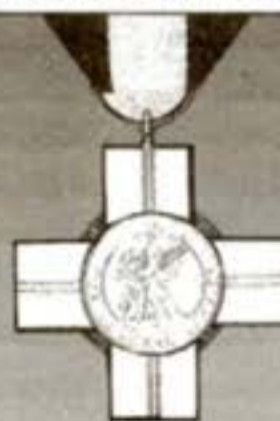
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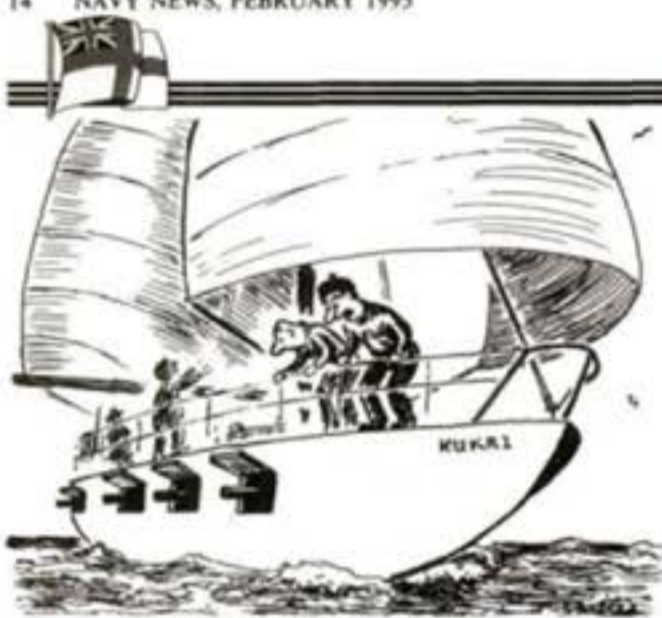
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Sails set for the Adriatic



"Must expect trouble in the Adriatic!"

A JOINT Service yacht is being deployed to the Adriatic to provide adventurous sail training for members of the Armed Forces engaged in operations in the former Yugoslavia.

HMSTC Kukri, a 12-berth Nicholson 55, will leave the Joint Service Adventurous Sail Training Centre at Gosport on February 27, completing the first leg of "Exercise Spotted Dog" at Gibraltar on March 13. From there the craft will sail for Cagliari and Split, which it is due to reach on April 17.

A further 19 legs will be completed in theatre, before the last three homeward legs bring Kukri back to Gosport on October 23.

Volunteers will be selected to crew the

craft for particular legs of the exercise. The skipper and first and second mates must be properly qualified, while the nine other crew for each leg will have various levels of experience, and will include novices.

Applications to join Exercise Spotted Dog must be made to the project officer, Flt Lt A. J. Maguire, JSASTC, Gosport, Hants. PO12 2AQ (tel. 01705 524115 or Worthy Down Mill ext 2361).

Forms should be forwarded through commanding officers and should be accompanied by a £50 deposit, payable by cheque to Ex Spotted Dog, to cover insurance, cost of T-shirt and contribution to berthing fees. An additional contribution may be needed later.

Meanwhile, applications are invited from all Service people for SCOTSAIL 95 — the annual adventurous sail training expedition to Skye and the Western Isles.

Sponsored by HMS Neptune, the expedition starts at the JSASTC on May 15 and finishes there on July 20 after completing eight legs, each about a week long.

Previous sailing experience is not required, but participants should have a spirit of adventure and be prepared to live and work in harmony with ten others in conditions which can be arduous and uncomfortable.

Bids should be made to Neptune Sailing Club, HMS Neptune, Helensburgh G84 8HL (tel. 0436 674321) by February 21.

DCI RN 89 90/94

Let-out offer on MQ resales

SERVICE personnel who have been made redundant under Options for Change since buying a Married Quarter at a discount price, can now apply to escape from the five-year resale rule.

Surplus MQs have, for the past 11 years, been offered for sale to members of the Regular Forces at a 30 per cent reduction. However, in line with parallel arrangements for council houses, any discount purchaser who sells the property within five years is liable to pay the Ministry of Defence the amount by which the selling price exceeds what was originally paid.

To have the rule waived on grounds of redundancy, an application must be made to MOD through the chain of command. Each case will be judged on its merits, but purchasers should be aware that if their application is accepted they might still be liable to make some tax payment on resale.

DCI JS 95

Ease-up in RN eyesight rules

A REVIEW OF EYESIGHT regulations for the Royal Navy has resulted in the relaxation of uncorrected standards for several groups, including Seamen specialists and bridge watchkeepers.

The new standards will almost certainly mean that spectacles and contact lenses will be more prevalent on the bridge and in other areas of warships.

Among the reasons for the review was the need to include a better basis for recruitment and retention against the background of improvements in aids to vision.

Seamen officers whose eyesight is known to be below the old standard will be contacted by the Naval Secretary. Submission to a Medical Board of Survey will probably be necessary only for those who fall below the revised standards which are listed in the DCI.

Eye tests

Officers with bridge watchkeeping responsibilities will, however, continue to be tested annually to ensure the required standard is maintained.

There is, in general, no restriction on the wearing of spectacles or contact lenses provided the required corrected standards of vision are met.

Defence spectacles, but not contact lenses, are provided from public funds, and those who wear contact lenses must

have a pair of Defence spectacles to wear as an alternative. Contact lenses must not be worn in submarines, under anti-gas respirators or by aircrew.

Aircrew who are found for the first time to require lenses are to be examined and referred to the Central Air Medical Board for assessment of their flying medical category.

Personnel are being alerted to the fact that if they receive laser treatment to correct vision it could have an adverse effect on their future service.

It is stressed that personnel who think they may be affected by the new regulations should read the DCI in full.

DCI RN 220/94

Institute offer

SPECIAL membership terms are offered to certain RN personnel by the Institute of Administrative Management. Direct entry to full membership is available to all lieutenant commanders (GL) or lieutenants (SD) of over six years seniority, all WO's, SD lieutenants and sub lieutenants, and CPO's of Writer, Stores, Regulating and Communications sub-branches.

In recognition of Supply Branch training, direct entry as associate members of the IAM is available to students of the Junior Supply Officer Course and PO(WTR) Qualifying Course.

Applicants should write to the IAM at 40 Chatsworth Parade, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent BR5 1RW (tel. 01689 875555).

In addition the RN has a close relationship with the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators which op-



"Just keep them off my bridge, Commander!"

erates an open entry policy.

The ICSA grants exemptions for certain RN officers. Further information is available from The Education Help Desk, The ICSA, 16 Park Crescent, London Q1N 4AH (tel. 0171 580 4741).

DCI RN 221 and 223/94

Civilian schemes

DETAILS have been given about civilian qualifications which may be gained by members of the Writer Branch in the course of their Service training.

Among the qualifications involved are the Royal Society of Arts Processing Certificate Stage 1, the City and Guilds 4396 Administration NVQ Level 1, and the National Examining Board for Supervisory

management Certificate in office management.

Details are also given of an additional scheme run by the Institute of Financial Accountants and its second-tier body, the international Association of Book-Keepers.

DCI RN 214/94

Retired pay change

OFFICERS who have retired from the Regular Forces will now receive retired pay if they are called out to serve full-time as members of a Volunteer Reserve Force.

However, when an officer of the Volunteer Reserve is called out as a result of his obligation as a former Regular, retired pay will be suspended as normal.

DCI JS 91/94

Restriction removed

AN OFFICIAL publication dealing with the Gulf War is no longer classified as Restricted. "Operation Granby — an account of the Gulf Crisis 1990-91 and the British Army's Contribution to the Liberation of Kuwait" is now unclassified.

DCI JS 92/94

To be a pilgrim

THE 37th International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place on the weekend of May 19-22.

Details are available from local Roman Catholic chaplains or from PRCC(A), Room 13, MOD Chaplains (Army), Bagshot Park, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5PL.

DCI JS 86/94

AIM of this regular feature is to give a general impression of new Defence Council Instructions affecting conditions of service. In the event of action being taken the full original text should be studied.



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Ski trip to France

A SKI mountaineering expedition to the Parc National de la Vanoise in France is being organised by the RN Winter Sports Association and the RN and RM Mountaineering Club from March 31 to April 15.

Participants must be strong skiers able to cope with all consistencies of up-pisted snow while carrying a heavy rucksack. Winter mountaineering experience would be an advantage, but not essential.

Applications should be made in writing to Cdr J.W.R. Grant OBE RN, Directorate of Naval Manning, Room 122, Victory Building, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LR, giving details of skiing and mountaineering experience and ability.

DCI RN 216/94

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Council worker

WO Gordon Hawkins is the new man representing the lower deck of the Navy on the Council of King George's Fund for Sailors.

Gordon has served in the Navy for 25 years, mostly as a Polaris submariner. His last sea appointment was in HMS Revenge before moving to the staff of Flag Officer Submarines at HMS Warrior, Northwood — where he is seen (above) at his desk.

He volunteered for the appointment and took up his place on the Council last October.

"Having taken on this responsibility, I intend to promote all the good work that King George's Fund for Sailors does for ratings in the Navy," he said. "The initials KGFS should be as well known as the RNBT to them all."

KING George's Fund for Sailors had another record year in 1994, making grants totalling £2½m to over 80 nautical charities.

Most of this money will be paid out by the charities direct to seafarers and their dependants who are in need.

Over £1m will go to Royal Naval and Royal Marine charities — notably the RN and RM Children's Trust (£275,000) and the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (£256,000).

The Children's Trust, based in HMS Nelson, helps maintain the children of any member of the RN or RM who is serving or has served and has not held higher rank than that of lieutenant or warrant officer, in suitable schools and homes. At present it looks after 153 — and the number is sadly growing.

Umbrella

The RNBT cares for ratings or other ranks and their dependants, last year with over 6,500 grants totalling £1.5m. It also maintains Pembroke House, Gillingham, which provides a home for 38 ex-naval men — with £26,000 provided by KGFS.

Scottish nautical charities benefited to the tune of just under £200,000 and in Liverpool singer David Essex took a break from starring in Robinson Crusoe at the Empire to present a total of £165,000 to four Merseyside charities — including 'Indefatigable,' the National Sea Training School for Boys which has been supported by KGFS since the fund was founded in 1917.

KGFS is the fund for all sailors — whether RN, RM, WRNS, Merchant Navy or part of the nation's fishing fleets, regardless of rank or status.



There are no less than 166 nautical charities under its umbrella. Each year the amount of cash it doles out increases — and each year more and more seafarers and their dependants have to return to charities to maintain a standard of life or help with an unforeseen crisis.

"KGFS exists to sustain all seafarers and needs your support more now than it has ever done before," Captain Martin Appleton, its Director General,

told Navy News.

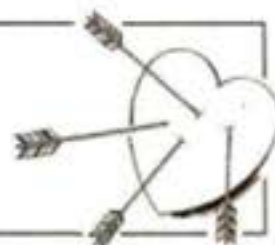
"Support from serving seafarers in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines is essential — after all, they stand to benefit most!"

The fund has committees scattered throughout the country with seven area organisers co-ordinating fund-raising activities — such as street collections, concerts, receptions,

golf days and art shows. All offers of help gratefully received — contact Capt Appleton on 0171 932 0000 for further details.

David Essex presents KGFS's cheque for £50,000 to James Bradshaw from 'Indefatigable' National Sea Training School for Boys.

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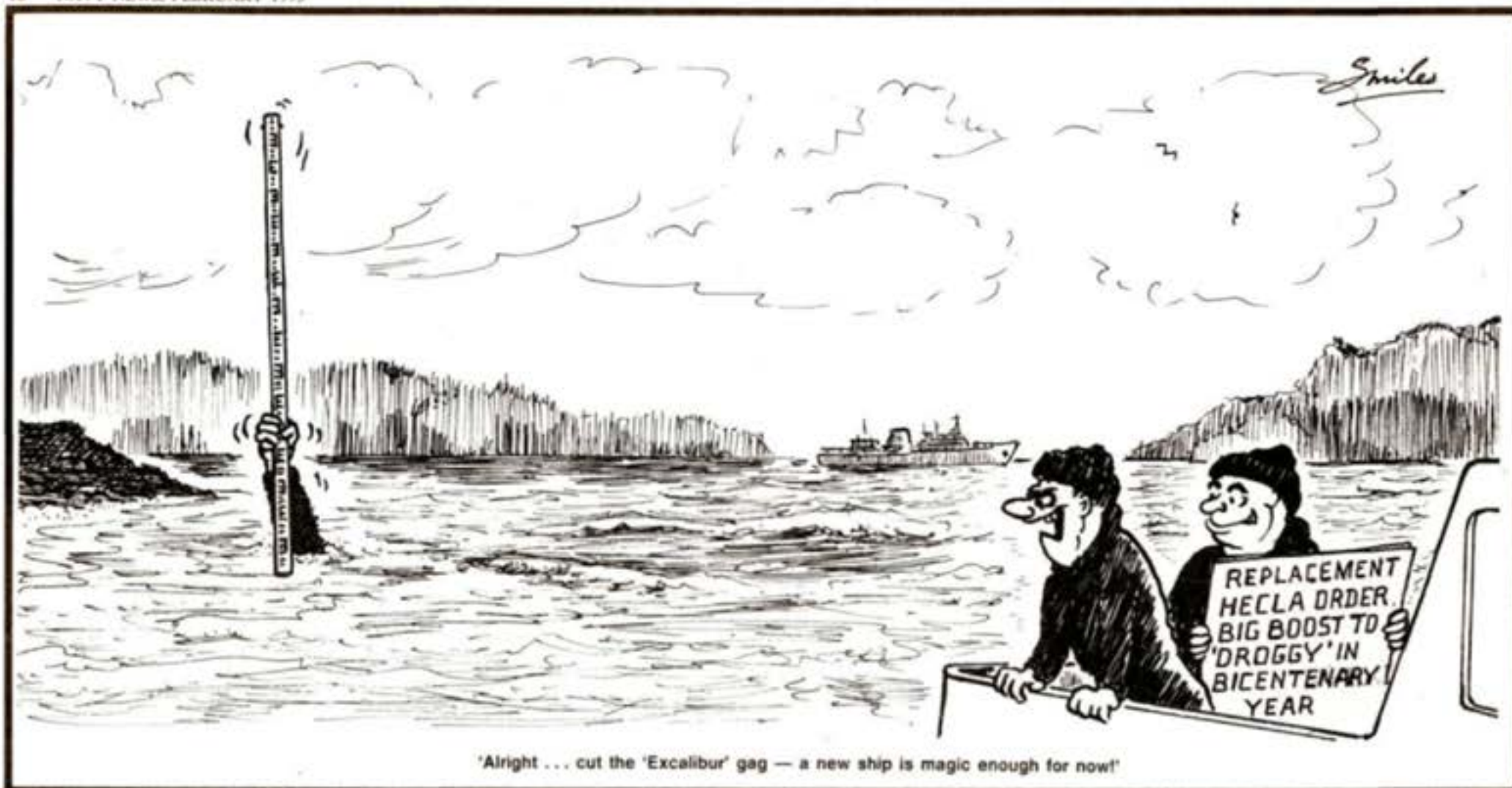
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'Alright ... cut the 'Excalibur' gag — a new ship is magic enough for now!'

NEWSVIEW

Digital rules — so don't point the finger

COMING as it does in the 200th anniversary of the Hydrographic Office, the order for the Royal Navy's biggest ever survey ship is a much needed boost to the morale of its Surveying Squadron (itself not founded until 1817).

In recent years its very existence as part of the Navy it has served so long and with such distinction has been under threat.

Defence Procurement Minister Roger Freeman said the order "recognised the importance to the Royal Navy of a continuing hydrographic capability". Well, that capability has long been pretty important to the rest of the world's navies, too — to all seafarers, in fact, ever since the Admiralty chart gained a name for accuracy and a lead in world sales in the first half of the 19th century that has been maintained to this day.

The point was made by Rear Admiral Steve Ritchie in his introduction to The Admiralty Chart, first published in 1967.

"The twentieth century," he wrote then, "has seen an intensification of the exploration of the seas which is giving the naval surveyor a unique opportunity to add to the knowledge of the world's oceans."

"When the history of the Royal Navy Surveying Service in the twentieth century comes to be written I sincerely hope it will be seen that this opportunity was not cast away."

The new vessel — as yet unnamed — will incorporate the very latest developments in our ability to extend that knowledge. Meanwhile the Hydrographic Office, in common with many other establishments throughout the Navy, has lately had to tackle a raft of problems in funding and setting priorities for its work.

Yet last year it not only met most of its targets but in some instances exceeded them — an achievement its astoundingly industrious 19th century counterpart would heartily applaud.

The HO has hardly been simply marking time, though. Even in a period of uncertainty and financial constraint it has made significant advances, becoming the first national hydrographic authority to provide a complete digital nautical chart service — as comprehensive, accurate, reliable and readily available as its paper chart series.

If ever Admiral Ritchie's historic opportunity is lost, the Navy's chart makers won't find the finger of accusation pointed at them.

● The Admiralty Chart — British Naval Hydrography in the Nineteenth Century, now revised and updated, is published by The Pentland Press at £19.50.

FUNDS PAY OUT FOR SPORTS AND LEISURE

From surfboards to sunbeds

Grants approved by the Sailors Fund, Fleet Amenities Fund and Fleet Recreational Fund:

Half yearly grant to HM Ships — £43,995 (SF).

Half yearly grant to RM Commando units — £8,354 (SF).

Annual grant to Captain of the Fleet's Fund — £1,500 (FAF).

Annual grant for TVs in HM Ships — £3,000 (FAF).

Commando Brigade Consolidated Fund for annual grant — £200 (FAF).

Annual subvention to RN and RM Sports Control Board — £47,000 (FAF).

Half yearly grant to Regular Forces Employment Association — £7,479 each from SF and FAF.

Ships serving in South Atlantic, Gulf and Adriatic — £7,500 (SF) and £2,500 (FAF).

Tri-service Discount Brochure Lunch — £300 (SF) and £100 (FAF).

Naval Air command bicycle expedition — £1,000 (FAF).

RN Squash Rackets Association Hong Kong tour — £750 (SF) and £250 (FAF).

RN Hockey Association Combined Services team visit to Australia — £1,200 (SF) and £400 (FAF).

HMS Manchester Wardroom ante room refurbishment — £1,300 (FRF).

HMS Sultan RN Motorcycle Club — £1,200 (SF) and £400 (FAF).

RN/RM Sail Training Centre Lymington for surfboards — £1,650 (SF), £550 (FAF) and £294 (Sports Lottery).

HMS Brazen towards costs of telephone calls home after grounding — £500 (FAF).

CTCRM towards cost of Icelandic 500 expedition — £2,250 (SF) and £750 (FAF).

HMS Osprey for sunbeds — £1,875 (SF) and £625 (FAF).

RN Youth Football Association Dallas Cup Competition — £1,500 (SF), £500 (FAF) £1,000 (Sports Lottery) plus £50 (SF) to purchase strip.

HMS Cochrane Wives Information Service for employment and education — £2,700 (SF), £852 (FAF).

RN/RM Endurance Triathlon Sports Tour to Arrifree — £3,000

(SF), £976 (FAF).

HMS Dryad Junior Rates Social Club — £3,375 (SF), £1,125 (FAF).

Neptune Sub Aqua Club for diving suits and equipment — £2,707 (SF), £900 (FAF) £1,500 (Sports Lottery).

RNAS Yeovilton HMS Heron Coarse Angling Association for restocking of Birds Quarry — £4,200 (SF), £1,354 (FAF).

FONA Naval Air Command Riding Centre for purchase of horses and tack — £4,500 (SF), £1,500 (FAF).

CHOSC RAAF Bardufoss Norway for refurbishment of gym — £3,315 (SF), £1,105 (FAF), £2,000 (Sports Lottery).

RN Volunteer Band Association — £6,900 (FAF).

FOSE for assistance with Radphone calls on Christmas Day — £7,000 (FAF).

RN Rugby Union 1st XV and Youth XV tour to France — £2,512.50 (SF), £837.50 (FAF), £3,750 (Sports Lottery).

Hire of Cottages in France and Devon — £6,000 (SF), £2,250 (FRF).

RN Winter Sports Association for grant towards competition and inter-Service championships costs — £6,750 (SF), £2,250 (FRF).

Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust — £6,000 (SF), £2,000 (FAF).

Joint Services Expedition to Bolivia — £6,000 (SF), £2,000 (FAF), £2,000 (Sports Lottery).

HMS Forest Moor fitness equipment and fitness suite refurbishment — £6,166.50 (SF), £2,055.50 (FAF), £2,000 (Sports Lottery).

RNH Haslar for renewal of sound and lighting for Junior Rates Social Club — £8,300 (SF), £2,783 (FAF).

HMS Rooke towards replacement yacht — £7,500 (SF), £7,500 (FAF).

FONA Naval Air Command Rifle Association towards new target rifles — £11,199 (SF), £1,857 (FAF) £2,000 (Sports

Lottery).

HMS Dolphin for refurbishment of Junior Rates Dining Room — £15,240 (SF) £5,080 (FAF).

CTCRM towards purchase of narrow boat — £3,462 (FAF) plus £8,000 (SF) and £2,000 (FAF) in interest free loans.

HMS Collingwood for refurbishment of all rates Tavern Bar — £15,000 (SF).

HMS Sultan for refurbishment of Junior Rates Dining Hall — £25,000 (SF), £8,302 (FAF).

HMS Excellent repairs and

equipment for weight training and cardio-vascular fitness centre — £12,750 (SF), £4,250 (FAF), £3,000 (Sports Lottery).

RN and RM Sports Parachutes Association to replace Islander aircraft Lycoming engine — £12,853.50 (SF) £4,284.50 (FAF), £2,000 (Sports Lottery).

Naval Air Command towards replacement of establishment yacht Merlin of Lee — £39,845 (SF). This project was selected to receive the Pusser's Rum

dination.

Image makers



Second Sea Lord Admiral Sir Michael Layard has his video image and signature processed by LWTR David Jones after opening the new Naval identity card production centre at HMS Centurion.

Blood group details displayed on a few of the new cards may be incorrect — if in doubt recipients are advised to check and report to their sickbay or medical authority.

Invincible teams work deep inside Bosnia

Sailors brave shells to aid ruined school

TEAMS of officers and men from HMS Invincible are continuing work to restore a wrecked school near the front line in Bosnia.

Task groups from the aircraft carrier, on patrol in the Adriatic, have been making the difficult and hazardous journey to the town of Bugojno in central Bosnia to join with British soldiers of the UN force in the reconstruction project.

Working weeks at a time under the threat of shellfire, Royal Navy men and women of all ranks have succeeded in bringing the school near to a reopening date.

Flown ashore to Split in Croatia, the six-strong teams are equipped with body armour, helmets and weapons for self-protection before making their way inland.

Convoys

Some have been able to hitch rides in the Sea King helicopters of 845 Naval Air Squadron, but most have had to undertake long, uncomfortable and sometimes dangerous journeys with UN road convoys snaking over the rugged mountain routes.

When shellfire has forced a halt to work in Bugojno, the task groups have turned their attention to smaller schools in nearby villages.

Redundant tables and chairs at HMS Daedalus at Lee-on-Solent were shipped out to the classrooms at Bugojno. They provided a partial solution to the equipment problem until Invincible's Christmas visit to Malta provided a complete answer...

By happy coincidence, a British Army surgeon working in Bugojno, Major David Vas-



sallo, is a native of Malta and had written a moving account for the Maltese press of the death through shelling of a group of children from the school.

He asked the Maltese people to donate school equipment in memory of the young lives, and on Invincible's arrival in

Valletta everything that was needed was provided — as well as a £2,000 cash donation.

The Navy work teams are continuing with the project until Invincible leaves the region this month near the end of her seven-month deployment. She is due to arrive in Portsmouth at the end of February.



HMS INVINCIBLE enters Valletta harbour for her Christmas stand-down and maintenance period in Malta. Hundreds of family members flew out to the island to join their loved ones. Meanwhile, the ship received a warm welcome from the Maltese, 8,000 touring the aircraft carrier on the two days she was open to the public. Picture: LAPHOTI Dave Coombs

Picture: LAPHOTI Dave Coombs

CAMPBELTOWN GOES DUTCH

HMS CAMPBELTOWN has 'gone Dutch' in the Adriatic. She has become the flagship of Commodore Van-Der-Lugt of the Royal Netherlands Navy, current commander of Standing Naval Force Mediterranean.

The commodore is accompanied on board by a multinational NATO staff comprising personnel from the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Greece and Britain.

The Type 22 frigate has been on patrol as part of Operation Sharp Guard to enforce UN sanctions against the warring factions in former Yugoslavia. Christmas was spent at Brindisi, and new year visits have been made to Catania in Sicily and Piraeus, Greece.

In Brindisi, OM Robert Savage won a raffle for a flight home over the holiday period, and the POs Mess ran a suc-

cessful horse-race meeting on the flight deck to raise more than £700 for the ship's welfare fund.

Brothers

This month some families were flying out to visit Campbeltown during her maintenance period at Naples.

Earlier in her deployment, there was an impromptu family reunion when Lt Adam Parnell met his brother, POWEA Daniel Parnell. The meeting took place at Gibraltar when Cornwall was returning from the Gulf and Campbeltown was on her way to the Adriatic.



Minus 20 — but 845 keep going

THIS scene illustrates with icy clarity the conditions faced by 845 Naval Air Squadron in Bosnia — in this case during an engine change deep in the mountains near Gornji Vakuf.

In blizzards and temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees C, the squadron continues to provide a 24-hour casualty evacuation service for UN troops in former Yugoslavia. And as the picture by CAEM(L) Ian Keers shows, maintainers often have to work in the open.

Since arriving in theatre in November 1992, 845 has flown 5,000 hours in support of United Nations operations and has saved at least 12 soldiers and civilians.

Squadron detachment commander Lt Cdr David Key said: "We have always believed that our training in the Arctic provides excellent value. If you can operate there, you can operate anywhere."

HELPERS FIND A SAFE HAVEN

BRITISH aid workers en-route to Bosnia found a homely welcome on board HMS Cumberland, alongside at Trieste for the holiday.

Graham Ennis, a former member of the Royal Navy, and volunteer driver Stefan Reed set out from Sheffield on December 22 with Samuel Mitchell of the Humanitarian Relief Foundation.

Supplies low

They were bound for Bihac, but they had suffered problems with their Land Rover, loaded with 1,000 kg of medical supplies, and by the time they got to Trieste their own supplies were running low.

Seeing the White Ensign in Trieste harbour, they headed for Cumberland to take a break on board — and a cuppa and meal rustled up by the ship's cooks.

They also had the chance to shower, stock up on provisions for the journey and took away small gifts from the ship's company for children at the hospital for which they were heading.

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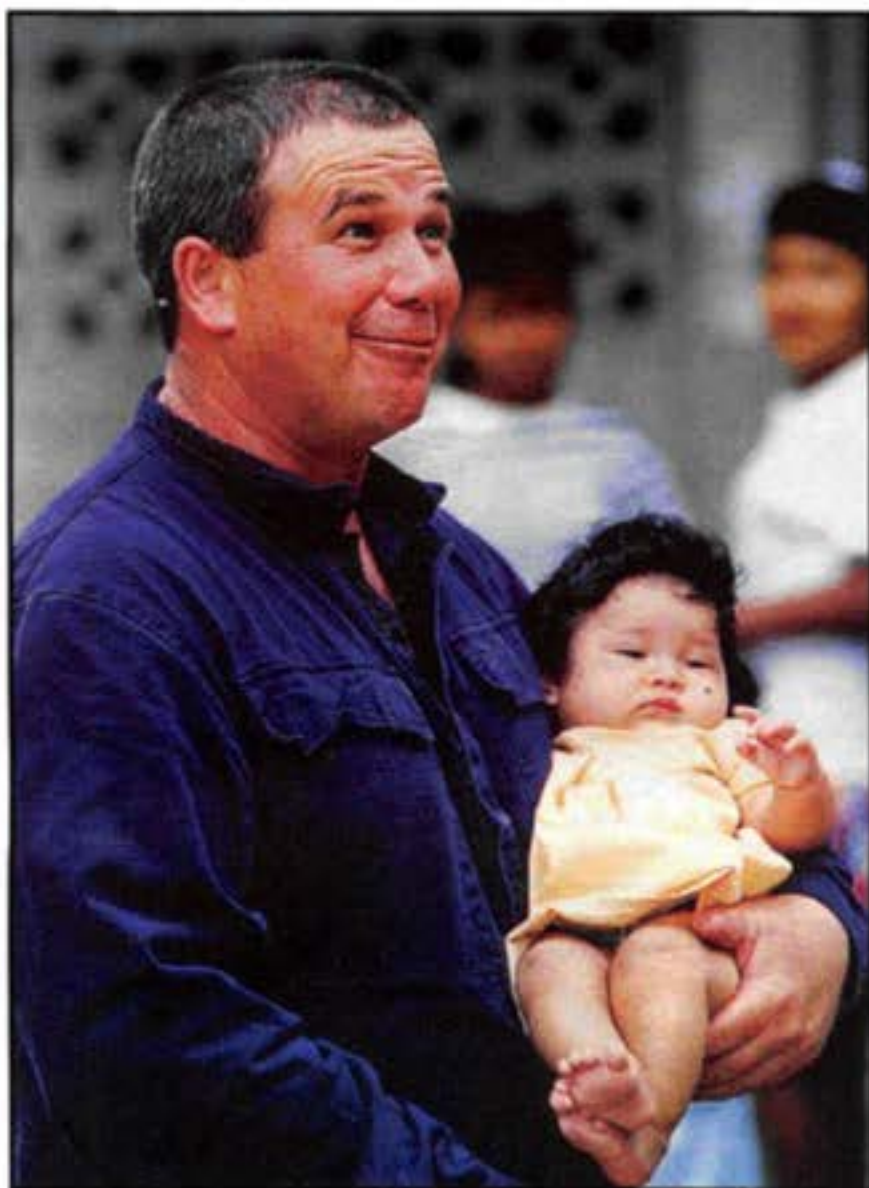
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PAUL ROBERTS

THE SHOTS



"Daddy" was the title of this shot which won the Navy News trophy for PO(PHOT) Dizzy de Silva. "Daddy" in this case is CPO Tim Blogg of HMS Fearless. BELOW: LA(PHOT) Adrian Hughes's study of HMS Vanguard won the Maritime Books Trophy.



HIGH STANDARDS characterised this year's RN Peregrine Trophy photographic competition in which Navy News made its debut as a prize-giver.

PO(PHOT) Dizzy de Silva scooped our trophy and cash prize of £100 with the best photograph judged from among all those which appeared in Navy News during 1994. It was one of a number of pictures he had submitted in coverage of HMS Fearless's aid "blitz" in Guyana, and which appeared on the front page of our August edition.

The Peregrine Trophy itself was awarded to HMS Neptune Photographic Section for an impressive portfolio of pictures reflecting life and work in Faslane and in the submarines based there.

LA(PHOT) Mac Macdonald of HMS Drake scored a double with a shot taken in HMS Coventry's Ops Room at the height of an exercise. It won for him first prize for the best colour picture and first for the best picture in the Personnel at Work category.

Winners were picked from more than 300 entries. Judges were the Executive Editor of the Press Association, and the chairmen of the British Institute of Professional Photography and the Master Photographers Association.

Here is the full list of awards:

Peregrine Trophy — HMS Neptune; highly commended — DFR(N).

RM Portfolio — DFR(N); highly commended — 45 Commando and HQRM.

Personnel at Work — LA(PHOT) Mac Macdonald, HMS Drake; highly commended — PO(PHOT) Dizzy de Silva, DFR(N).

Maritime Books Trophy — LA(PHOT) Adrian Hughes, highly commended — LA(PHOT) Ritchie Harvey, HMS Neptune.

Navy News Trophy — PO(PHOT) de Silva, DFR(N).

Best colour picture — 1. LA(PHOT) Macdonald, HMS Drake; 2. PO(PHOT) de Silva, DFR(N); 3. PO(PHOT) Tim Harvey, HMS Neptune.

Best black and white — PO(PHOT) Shiner Wright, HMS Ark Royal; highly commended — two photographs by PO(PHOT) Wayne Humphreys, RM Poole.

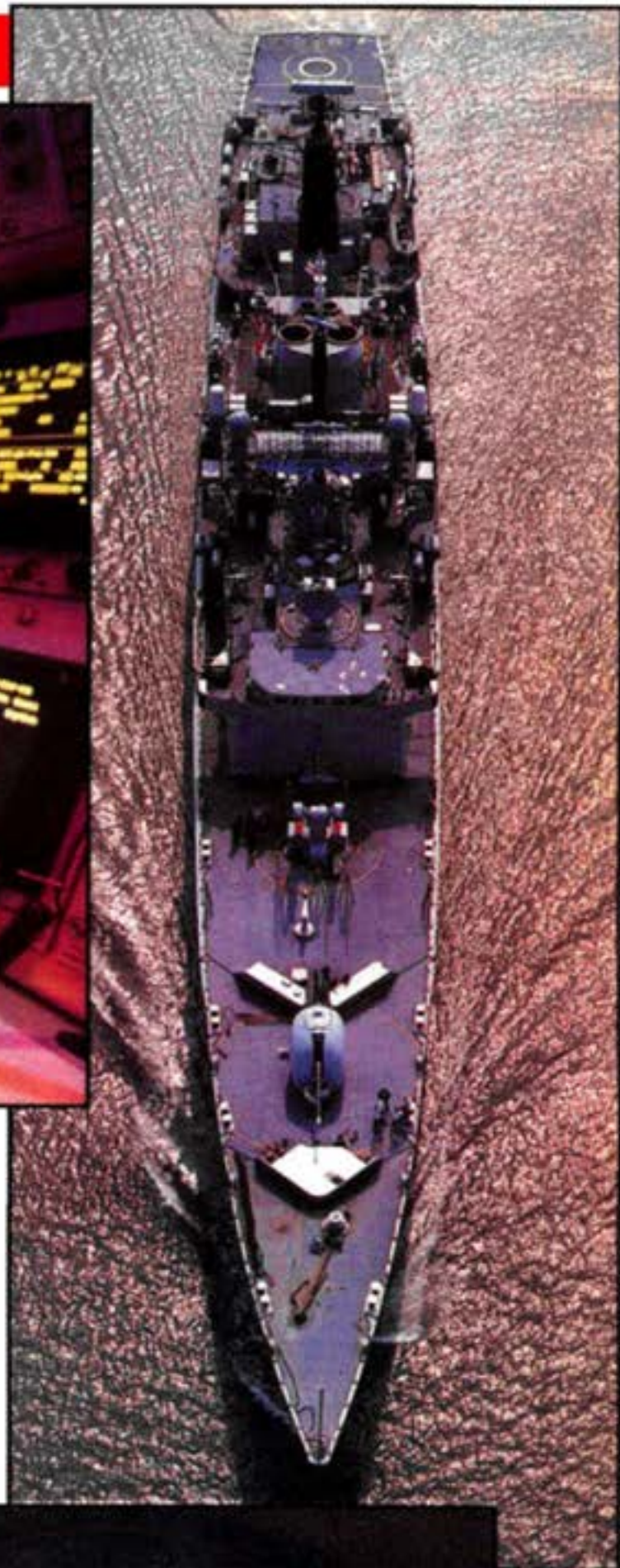
Judges' commendations — WO(PHOT) Paul Wellings and CPO(PHOT) Stuart Antrabus, DFR(N); PO(PHOT) Dave McCormack, CTORM; PO(PHOT) Joe Mercer and LA(PHOT) Colin Burden, HMS Invincible, MCM; Mick Storey, HMS Heron; LA(PHOT) Fritz Glazer, RM Poole; PO(PHOT) Tim Hall and PO(PHOT) Harvey, HMS Neptune; PO(PHOT) Mizz Chetty (3 Cds Bde); PO(PHOT) Paul McCabe, HMS Guesard; LW(PHOT) Serena Davies, HMS Osprey; PO(PHOT) Wright and LA(PHOT) Steve Sawyer, HMS Ark Royal.

Prize debut for Navy News



"Both Sides of the Coin" ... was included in HQRM's portfolio which commended. Photographer — LA(PHOT) Steve Lewis.

PEREGRINE TROPHY WINNERS



ABOVE: LA(PHOT) Mac Macdonald's "Incoming" won double acclaim by taking the prize for best individual colour shot and for the best entry in the Personnel at Work category.

RIGHT: One of the few surface-ship studies to be singled out, WO(PHOT) Paul Wellings' aerial shot of HMS Manchester won a judges' commendation.

BELOW: This shot of a submarine control room by PO(PHOT) Tim Harvey was one of the pictures in the HMS Neptune portfolio which won the Peregrine Trophy.



Best black and white shot was taken from the deck of HMS Ark Royal by PO(PHOT) Shiner Wright. Title: "Strike a Pose".



Final word in plot lines

ASPIRING scriptwriters might learn a thing or three from this month's trio of releases, all of which tackle what must have looked at the word processor stage like major headaches.

What to do, asks *The Client*, when your plotline is outright preposterous? Be brazen, comes the answer. And cast an actor with a strongly down-to-earth presence. Susan Sarandon is a player who's glamorous enough, no doubt, but in no way exotic. We might stand next to her at the checkout. We believe what she tells us, a quality particularly necessary in this context.

Hit-men

The "client" of the title is an 11-year-old boy of the sort known only to American movies, possessed of such common sense and savoir faire as the rest of us fail to attain until about the age of 85. He's witnessed the suicide and heard the last words of a Mafia lawyer, and swarms of hit-men, shady Feds and the like buzz around his head.

It's up to Sarandon, playing an alcoholic lawyer, to take control of both kid and movie and steer them into safe water — which, of course, she does, admirably as usual. Incident-packed, thoroughly professional, shamelessly manipulative, this is nevertheless perhaps best watched as a vehicle for the sublime Susan.

The next problem is more technical. How do you arrange matters, enquires *Clear and Present Danger*, when your hero just doesn't have a lot to do with the story? Be brazen, is the reply. And cast an actor with a strongly commanding



Susan Sarandon is attorney Reggie Love in Warner Brothers' thriller *The Client*, based on the best-selling novel by John Grisham and also starring Tommy Lee Jones.

Screen Scene

presence. The film has two separate, converging plotlines: political manoeuvrings within the CIA and a power struggle inside a Latin American drugs cartel.

A hero — Harrison Ford — is eventually required to sort out all this chicanery, but the half of the picture is basically a matter of putting all the bricks in place, and you can't keep said hero waiting in the wings for that length of time.

Narrative

So you have to insert him into scenes where his presence is strictly unnecessary, and gamble that any scene containing H. Ford automatically comes to be about H. Ford. Regardless of this narrative awkwardness it's an engrossing yarn with a tremendous sense of reality in its deployment of technology.

Perhaps the most exciting scene, among all the ambushes and explosions, is a computer

duel with Ford trying to access files which someone else is simultaneously deleting.

How to go about allaying fears, wonders *Forrest Gump*, that audiences are going to find your main character a little... irritating? Why, be brazen, of course. And cast an actor with a strongly sympathetic presence. This movie was the surprise hit of 1994, a quirky, rambling tale of a simple-minded fellow wandering in and out of the big moments of history over the last thirty years.

Gump is a character who sounds and behaves like the village idiot, and at the same time is possessed of a folksy wisdom and an innocence not available to the rest of us since we were out of nappies: a seriously annoying proposition, in theory.

But Tom Hanks is the very essence of likeability, and he just about succeeds in holding together this stylish, ambitious epic which, incidentally, contains the best-directed feather in the history of the movies.

— Bob Baker



Versatile and attractive as the best maids are!

IF THE Battle of the Atlantic was "the dominating factor all through the war," as Winston Churchill wrote, then the Short Sunderland may be best remembered for its role in that theatre.

After the fall of France provided Discay ports for U-boats and bases for enemy fighters, the Bay became "Tiger Country" for lone Sunderland crews to battle against the cannon of both.

By June 1944 some Sunderlands were armed with no fewer than 18 guns, justifying the Luftwaffe's nickname for them as "Flying Porcupines" — yet the odds against them remained no less high.

Remarkable

In *Short Sunderland in World War II* (Airfile £18.95) Andrew Hendrie fills in the rest of the story of this remarkably versatile and at-

tractive flying boat, with its "maid of all work" role in the eastern Mediterranean being covered in some detail.

Missions

Here are included accounts of reconnaissance missions for the Royal Navy, evacuations from Yugoslavia, Greece and Crete as well as attacks on enemy submarines.

Canadian, Australian and Norwegian squadrons' operations within RAF Coastal Command are included plus those of the South Africa and New Zealand Air Forces — and post-war operations including the Berlin airlift.

— JFA

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THE Adventures of John Wetherill, edited by C.S. Forester, has been re-issued in paperback by Michael Joseph at

In Brief

£11.99. This lively diary of a British seaman who was impressed into the Royal Navy at the beginning of the 19th century is a rare first-hand account of the sailor's life in the age of Nelson.

Another gem from the same period is a series of letters written by George Price, a butcher pressed into the Navy from the East Indiaman *Walmer Castle* at Deptford in 1803.

Philosophically, George at least hoped for some prize money — and when he eventually got it managed to make his escape.

It wasn't too difficult — he had taken the precaution of giving a false name when arriving on board the sloop *HMS Speedy*.

Pressgangs is available from Ellison's Editions, 41 High Street, Orwell, Royston, Herts at £7.45 post free.

Seapower: Theory and Practice (Frank Case £14) studies the effect of the situation at sea on operations ashore in wartime and on the success and prosperity of nations in peacetime. Contributions from a number of international scholars are edited by Geoffrey Till, Head of the Department of History and International Affairs at RNC Greenwich.

JAMES Henderson's classic account of the lighter warships of the Napoleonic Wars, The Frigate, first published in 1970, has been re-issued by Leo Cooper at £12.50.

The Last Trip. David Holmes' story of the destroyer HMS Kingston's role in the Battle of Crete and her subsequent destruction by bombing while in dry dock in Malta, is published by Merlin Books Ltd at £4.50.

SNAP
FIRST prize of £250 in the VSEL amateur photographic competition has been won by Lt Rodger Colquhoun RN of RAF Valley. Second prize of £150 went to POAEM(WL) Geoffrey Critchley of HMS Osprey, while LSA Steven Prior of HMS Fearless came third to win £100.

The chartist movement

WHEN Francis Beaufort became Hydrographer of the Navy in 1829 he was 55 — the age at which his present-day successors retire.

Yet he remained in office for 26 years and the number of new charts published rose from 19 in his first year of office to 130 in his last.

That was in 1854. In March he had written: "... being 80 years old, as deaf as a post, with failing eyes and shaking hands, and above all, with memory clean gone, it would be too silly to remain here till some broad hint reached me from higher quarters."

But in that same month the Crimean War broke out and their Lordships would not let him go for a further nine months.

The Navy was notoriously

crowded with aged senior — and junior — officers in this period, but Beaufort's industry still takes the breath away.

Remembered

Best remembered for the scale for measuring the force of wind by eye that bears his name and is still in world-wide use, Beaufort also instituted the Notices to Mariners, published daily as a correction to existing charts and now averaging 4,000 a year.

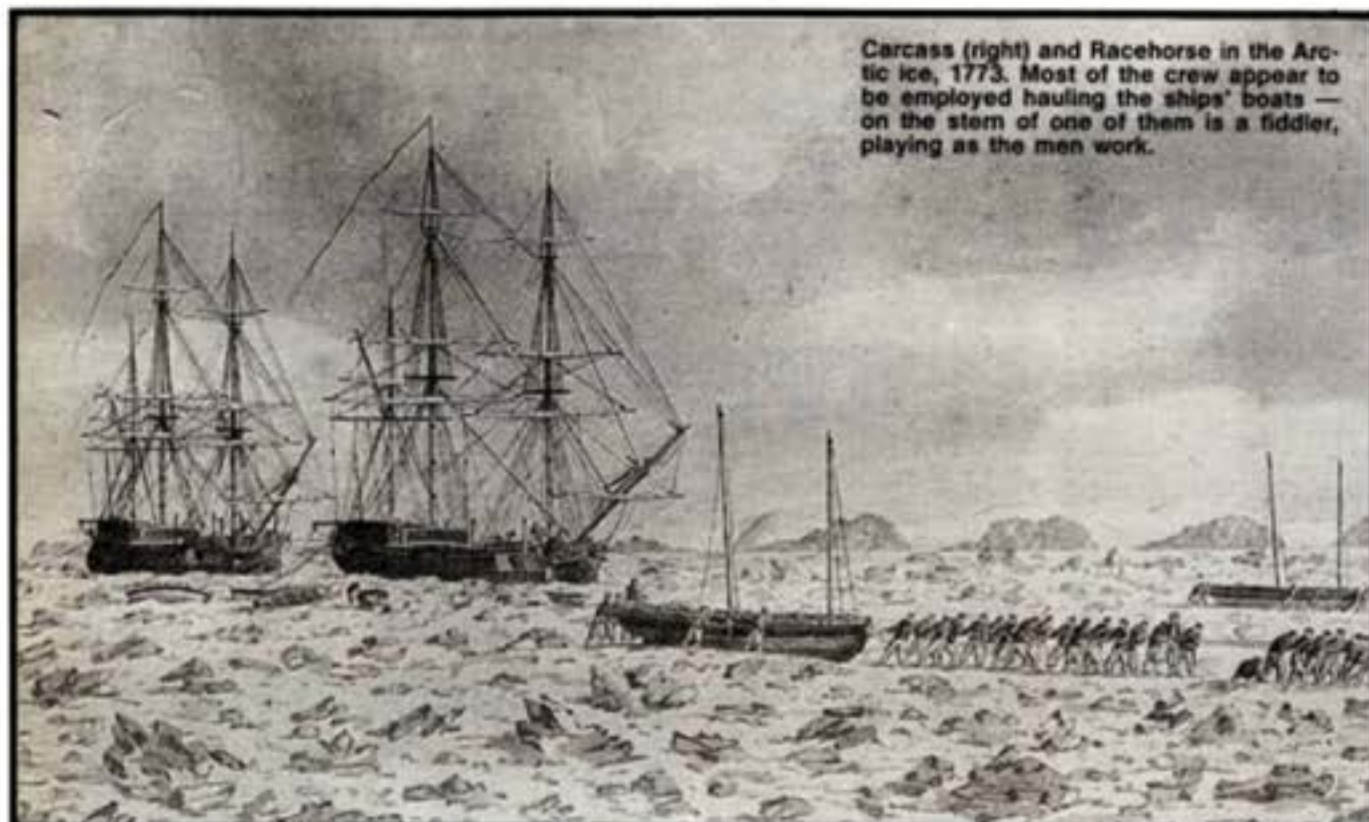
Before Beaufort there had been no system for correcting charts once sold, short of printing new ones.

In 1854 he left surveyors working in every ocean — and a series of 2,000 charts covering every sea, 14,000 copies of which were printed in his last year alone.

In a timely revised and updated edition of *The Admiralty Chart* (Pentland Press £19.50), marking the 200th anniversary of the Hydrographic Office, Rear Admiral Steve Ritchie shows how Beaufort set the pattern for the 19th-century "high noon" of hydrography that has been followed for 150 years, maintaining the Royal Navy's position in the very forefront of the world's chartmakers.

— JFA

At Your Leisure



Carcass (right) and Racehorse in the Arctic ice, 1773. Most of the crew appear to be employed hauling the ships' boats — on the stern of one of them is a fiddler, playing as the men work.

BOMBS AWAY

BOMB vessels lasted not much more than 130 years as a warship type in the British service — they were actually a French innovation — the first being the prototype Salamander, ordered in the reign of James II.

They were unique as sailing warships in that they were designed not to fight others, but to bombard shore targets, in line with the contemporaneous development of the mortar.

The bomb was thus a

floating siege engine, with a requirement for deliberate, aimed fire as against rapid, short-range broadsides.

Resurgence

It was a utility vessel, regarded as expendable — but in *The Bomb Vessel* (Conway Maritime £25) Chris Ware details how by the Napoleonic Wars it was to undergo a massive resurgence in its use and development.

This was because, while the traditional policy of subsidising allies while attacking French colonies was maintained for a while, political necessity often required diversions on the continent; the threat of invasion also led to bombardments of concentrations of shipping in the Channel ports.

The bomb was particularly well suited to Arctic voyages. The squarish midship section, bluff bow and strong construction of the hull (to withstand the firing of the mortars) meant that it had the right combination of strength and internal capacity, if the mortar beds were removed, to withstand the rigours of the weather peculiar to that region, and in particular, the ice.

Conversion

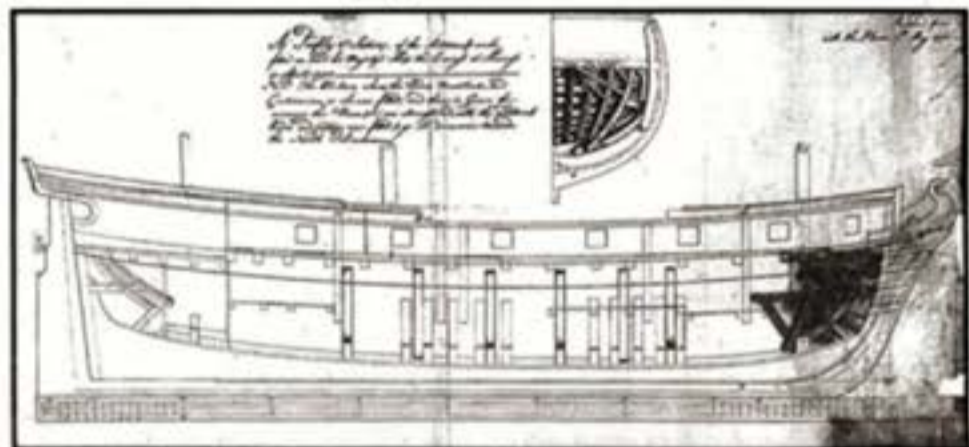
Thus the most famous of them all, Erebus and Terror, are remembered for their fatal voyage with Franklin in search of the North West Passage in 1845. The fact that neither of them survived it had nothing to do with the quality of their conversion

for the job and everything to do with the provisions they carried — and not so much with the provisions per se as with the soldering on the tin cans that contained them, which it is now believed induced lead poisoning in their crews.

Equivalent

Mortars would be fitted into converted screw frigates, the immediate descendants of the sailing bomb. Longer term, the First World War monitor was an exact equivalent — and appropriately two of the most characteristic bomb names, Erebus and Terror, were revived for a single class that saw active service in the bomb vessel's original role to the last stages of World War II.

— JFA



The bomb vessel HMS Carcass — profile and section as fitted for Arctic service in 1773, showing the reinforced bows.

Expanding knowledge of boats and inflatables

DAG PIKE is best known as the navigator of Virgin Atlantic Challenger's successful Atlantic record attempt — but over 40 years at sea have given him experience in craft of all types.

He was responsible for the RNLB's fleet of over 100 inflatable boats and was involved in developing the world's first rigid inflatable — and it is this area of his career that has prompted him to produce *Inflatables* (Adlard Coles £13.99), a handy guide that military, commercial and leisure users alike will find worth having.

Covering construction, handling, launch, recovery, naviga-

tion and equipment, with sections on safety, repairs and maintenance, it is full of practical tips on how to get the best from these boats, now among the most versatile afloat yet with a history that goes back little more than 60 years.

Also from Adlard Coles is the third edition of the *Boat Data Book* (£14.99), with more tables of lengths, widths, weights and strengths as well as new

data on the latest high-tech developments — from anchors to masts, propellers to gas cylinders, cleat sizes to winch bases, and hatches to bolts, bearings, cabling and piping.

If you need to know the breaking strength of stainless steel rigging wire or the recommended size for seacocks, this is another prime source.

— JFA

Reinforcing 'Fortress Britain' . . .

IT IS A sign of the times that the maintenance of the nuclear deterrent now receives no more than a cursory glance from the media, writes Mike Critchley in his introduction to the 1995 *British Warships and Auxiliaries* (Maritime Books £5.99) — published as the Trident submarine HMS Vanguard begins her first patrol.

"To many, the introduction of Trident is now something of a side issue," he reflects — but while there was no immediate threat to the security of the nation, with continuing instability in parts of Asia and North Africa, allied to the sustained proliferation of ballistic missile technology, "it would be foolish to believe that this will always be the case."

Vulnerable

He cites the recent analysis published by the Centre for Defence and International Security Studies at Lancaster University, "Ballistic Missiles — The Approaching Threat", which warned that a growing number of potentially hostile governments were acquiring missiles with increased ranges: "Such missiles can already hit areas of interest to Britain, including the oil producing regions in the Middle East. In a few years, such ballistic missiles may be able to hit targets in Britain itself, most importantly, and vul-

nerable, London."

Critchley also notes that in late 1993 an industrial consortium led by British Aerospace was awarded funds to conduct an 18-month pre-feasibility study into various forms of ballistic missile defence (BMD) for both the UK mainland and for British forces deployed overseas.

"While it is too early to predict the outcome of these early studies, it should be readily apparent that the RN has a major role to play in the BMD role . . . In the nearer term, plans to field the Tomahawk land attack cruise missile on board Trafalgar-class submarines are now being developed with some speed following analyses of US successes with the weapon during the Gulf War.

"A Ministerial decision on proceeding with a procurement is due in mid-1995: the current signs are extremely positive. Such a weapon would add considerably to the power projection capability of the submarine flotilla."

— JFA

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At Your Service

Reunions

Calling Old Shipmates

HMS Osbourne: Errol Nelson-Ward (nee Best) and Edna Foxon (nee Doodly) hope to organise a reunion of ex-wards who served at Fort Barnbridge, Culver Cliff and Seaview from 1912-18.

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HMS Aelaide, Stokers' Mess, (1981-82): Gene Lake (tel. 0533 506978) and Sean Linnell (tel. 0533 781331) would like to hear from old shipmates.

HMS Garuda, 1980: Jan Bunch (tel. 0254 350540) and Harry Ryanca (051 4751798) would like to hear from Paddy Quigley.

HMS Vendictive, decommissioned RN, Northumbland, 1945: Barry (Big Mac) McKay (tel. 0423 870118) would like to hear from Eric Newham of Scarborough.

HMS Abilou, Cape Town, late 1950s: E A Lyster, 9 14th Ave, De Game Park, Simon's Town, 7995. South Africa would like to hear from PO Electrician Ken Stockings who suffered a major head injury while on shore in Cape Town. He was last known to be serving in Plymouth and living at St Budeaux, Mt Lawler and his wife, are visiting the UK for the VE Day celebrations and would like to meet up with Ken and his family once again.

HMS Ruwena (1944-45): Former AB John Newton, the sole New Zealander in ship's company, will be in the UK for the Aegleion Association reunion at Scarborough on May 12-14 and would like to meet up with old shipmates and friends. Contact him at 92 Smeaswell Rd, Pudsey, Leeds LS28 5JH.

HMS Norfolk Boys, East Indies, (1948-49): John Dunstan, 47 Atterbury Rd, Newton Abbott, Devon TQ12 2WS (tel. 03526 54294) would like to hear from old shipmates.

Cdr (E) F A Green, apprentice class, RN 1931: Mr F Peters, 8 Clement St, Rusty Hill, New South Wales, Australia would like to hear from Cdr Green.

HMS Loch Quoch (1944-54): Former officers who served onboard are invited to contact A S Powell, 162 Darnmouth Rd, Paignton, St Devon TQ4 9NP (tel. 0832 842584) with a view to attending a reunion at Seabrook in March.

Eighth Destroyer Asan, China Station (1945-49): Shipmates who served in HM ships Coccaik, Constance, Consort, Conest, Cockade, Comus, Comet, Concord, Charity, Chevrot, Cavalier, Caprice, Caesar, Cambrian, Cassandra, Carysfort, Carron and Cavendish and who wish to meet up should contact Eric Mulliner, The Bungalow, Seithorn, Buntingford Rd, Lower Beeding, Northham 19113 SFR (tel. 01403 891595).

HM Norwegian ship M 3 Acaftus (1942-43): Michael D Arca, 2 Bainesford Rd, Hull, North H 1925 SEW would like to hear from his former messmate Sig B Smeaton from the Doncaster area.

14th Flotilla, HMMS 265, Coastal Forces, Rangoon, Burma, 1944: Eddie (Scouse) Perry, 29 Rowan Dr, Kirkby, Liverpool L32 0SF (tel. 051 348 3817) would like to hear from old shipmates.

HMS Khedive, 1945: Peter Embleton (tel. 01924 400208) would like to hear from AB Harold Catow, LAM John Stirrup and NA George Farrer.

HM ships Ganges, Warspite and Alderney (1935-48): Bert McColin, 29 Amethyst Rd, Bilton Garage, Hull, Humberside HU9 4JE (tel. 0482 74513) would like to hear from PO James Dwyer, last known address 25 Gladstone St, Elephant and Castle.

HM submarine Turpin (1937-40): Steve Harris, 10 Sandringham Dr, Rotuna Waters, Queensland, Australia 4226 would like to hear from old shipmates in particular F Monk, B Powell, G Barker and Bury William.

HMS Caprice, Communications Department (1967-69): Phil Evans (tel. 0181 681 9044) and Phil Rowe (tel. 0181 747 7325) would like to hear from old shipmates in particular Woods, Douglas, Windsor, Bird, Harrison, Cahill, Matthews, Dow, Roberts, Jennings, Smith, Davis, Farmer, Youde and Faith.

St Crispin's School, Wokingham: Jim Cook (see Mur) (tel. 01734 620665) would like to hear from Peter Harrison, Ron Kirby and Eric Wadman who joined the RN in 1956/57 with a view to a reunion in spring.

H Boat Asan: At the AGM held at Plymouth in Sept the association was expanded to encompass all past and present RN survey ships and re-titled The Survey Ship Association. For information about membership send a s.a.s. to the Secretary, The Survey Ship Association, The Elms Guest House, 48 Victoria Road South, Southsea, Hants PO5 2BT (tel. 01705 823924).

HMS Perseus (1945-46): Mr R Daley, 36 Merganser, Winchester, Tarnworth, Staffs BT7 5NN would like to hear from old shipmates in particular Sir Claus and Ken Swetzler (both Air Mech Asst).

HMS Speaker: Robin Campbell, 203 Bilton Rd, Whangamata, New Zealand will be visiting the UK late this year for the SPV/BSF reunion at Portsmouth and would like to get in contact and meet AB Joe Stanton, last known address 62 Edon St, Barmaley.

HM ships Frobiisher (1925-37), Woolwich (1938-42) and Resource (1942-43): N Day, 29 Northwest Place, Swatham, Norfolk PE23 7YH (tel. 0760 72813) would like to hear from the ships' former cooks.

HMS Jackdaw: Don Field, 11475 267A St, maple Ridge, Vancouver, BC V2X 0C7, Canada would like to hear from anyone who knows the whereabouts of John E Saville.

Portsmouth Field Gun Crew, 1951: Mrs S Burton (tel. 0909 733837) would like to hear from gun crew members who served with her father N Bowdell with a view to celebrating his 65th birthday.

HMS Jaguar, PoW, Bessie rugby team (1971-72): Ken Hutchinson, 79 Fiddrough Close, Brighthelm, Hull HU7 4RN would like to hear from members of the rugby team.

HMS Blackcap, 776 Sqn (1943-44), HMS Chaser, 899 Sqn, Nabthorpe, NSW, Australia (1944-45): Eric Woodhead, 16 The Grove, Lea, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5EP would like to hear from old shipmates.

Submarine ASDIC/SONAR Maintainers, whether serving or not, are invited to give their views re the formation of an association. Contact Chris Perry, 7 Nursery Field, Les, Hants or Harry Notley, 6 Lakeside Rd, Callington, Cornwall.

HMS Applion (1968-69): R Head, 3 Rouncles Lane, Carlton Colville, Lowestoft NR33 6AJ (tel. 0502 517825) would like to hear from old shipmates in particular POME Jan Nash.

Petrol Service Ratings (1942-45): Richard Townsend, Glamaig Cottage, Grass, Portree, Isle of Skye, Scotland IV51 9LL (tel. 0478 890 226) would like to hear from petrol service ratings who were engaged in secret operations from bases in Cornwall, carrying agents and stores to and from the Bay of Biscay in French fishing boats, with a view to attending the official opening of an exhibition illustrating these activities due to be opened in Heston, Cornwall in May.

HMS Concord (1949-52): Edward Thomas, c/o Douce Lenton, HMS Concord Association, 15 Dawson Rd, Perth, Scotland, W15 5NP (tel. 01793 723967) would like to hear from PO Eddie Savage (later CPO GIG, last heard of at RNVR Bristol area, 30 years ago).

HMS Whitty (1962-64): Alister Lockett McDonald (tel. 01236 824168) would like to hear from old shipmates in particular Dave Hunt, G A R (Yogi) Johnson Guy Waring and Adolf Efford.

HMS Hunter: Doug Barnett, 63 Klondyke Ave, Lydney, Glos GL15 5PN (tel. 0594 841628) would like to hear from old shipmates in particular any POWs.

HMS Coventry (1982): Ex-RN Sam MacFarlane, 50 King George Rd, Waddesley, Chatham, Kent ME5 0TX (tel. 0634 664817) would like to hear from members of the communications branch with a view to a reunion later this year.

Captain or Commander's cap: Ms Gill Poulter, Industrial Heritage Officer, Dundee Heritage Trust Limited, Maritime House, 26 East Dock Street, Dundee DD1 9YH (tel. 0382 25282) would like to hear from anyone willing to donate a captain's or commander's cap for the warwork figure of Capt Scott which is exhibited at the heritage centre.

HMS Hawkins (1942-43): Mr R. Cockin, 20 Milbank Court, Otford-on-Tees, Cleveland TS15 1PH (tel. 0642 878012) would like to hear from old shipmates, in particular members of the Torpedomen's Mess.

HM ships Redoubt and Verulam: Ex-AB T.M. Hill, 8 Magellan Rd, Hedge End, Southampton, Hants SO40 9GL would like to hear from the above-mentioned ships.

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Malta go-ahead for memorial to Royal Navy

PROPOSALS by the Royal Naval Association in Malta for the island's first memorial to the Royal Navy have been accepted by the Malta government.

The George Cross island already has two war memorials to the British Army and one to the RAF. Site of

the new structure will be a well-kept garden at a yachting marina which was formerly occupied by the RN

torpedo depot.

Malta branch of the RNA are appealing for donations to help meet the £6,000 cost of the project. Contributions should be sent to Shipmate L Camilleri, The Royal Naval Association (Malta GC), c/o The Royal British Legion, 111 Melita Street, Valletta, Malta GC.

Australia

Meanwhile, an impressive Royal Navy memorial now stands on a commanding site in Fremantle, Western Australia — thanks to the generosity of RNA branches worldwide, and to private donations.

It is believed to be the first



Heyday of the Royal Navy in Malta... British battleships, dressed overall, fire their saluting guns in Valletta harbour.

Picture: Imperial War Museum

Choice for top job

CAPT Robert McQueen, a former naval aviator, is to be the RNA's new General Secretary. He takes up his duties on March 20 and formally succeeds Capt Jim Rayner on June 30.

Shipmate Charles H. Thompson has been appointed the Association's ceremonial officer, and Shipmate Doug Carter takes over from Shipmate Ken Wright as No. 5 Area National Council member until next year's elections.

major monument erected Down Under in honour of the RN, and commemorating those who died in the defence of Australia during World War II.

The plinth is topped by an anchor from HMAS Stirling, and buried within the structure are a 4in naval cartridge and other memorabilia of the RN,

RNA and city of Fremantle.

In Canada a new memorial is planned to members of the RCN and Canadian Merchant Navy who died in World War II. The monument is expected to be unveiled this year in Spencer-Smith Park, Burlington, facing Lake Ontario.

Funds to pay for the project

are being sought from former Canadian naval personnel, Merchant Navy veterans, and shipmates of the RNA who have had close links with the RCNVR. Donations should be sent to Mr Alex Bramson RCNVR, 760 Brant Street, Suite 417, Burlington, Ontario L7R 4B8.

Sad casualty remembered

THE 50th anniversary of the loss of HMS Aldenham, the last British destroyer to be sunk in World War II, has been marked by the unveiling of a stained-glass window memorial in Aldenham parish church of St John the Baptist.

It was a proud occasion for members of Aldenham branch, former members of the ship's company and local friends, all of whom contributed towards the cost of the window. But it was also an event tinged with sadness, as the names were recalled of the 126 officers and men who were lost when the Aldenham was mined in the Adriatic on December 14, 1944.

The Rev George Bolt, branch chaplain, conducted the service of dedication and the window was unveiled by shipmates Martin and Maurais, survivors of the Aldenham.

The lesson was read by Major Farrant, son of the ship's commanding officer, Capt Farrant, who was not well enough

to attend. Twenty-five standards, including No 6 Area standard, were displayed during the service.

HMS Aldenham, a Hunt-class vessel, was commissioned

Branch News

in 1942 and took part in 14 Malta convoys. She supported the Eighth Army in North Africa and the invasion of Sicily and Italy. She met her end while bombarding the Yugoslav coast in support of Royal Marines Commandos.

Headingley

After a parade through the city to exercise their right as Freemen, the commanding officer of HMS Ark Royal and members of the ship's company, were entertained by Leeds No 1 Headingley branch.

Hospitality was returned by the WOs and CPOs Mess when a party of shipmates visited the carrier at Tyneside.

Kingston upon Thames

The tenth birthday of the branch was celebrated by 123 members and guests at a dinner dance. To mark the occasion, founder members Shipmates Bob Criddle and Gordon Tucker, were honoured with life membership and had their certificates presented by Rear Admiral Bill Cook, branch president.

There were awards also for Rose Sherwood and Vic Pearson, who were voted Shipmates of the year.

Cleethorpes

The 40th anniversary of the branch was celebrated in style with an impressive parade and service in St Peter's Church, attended by Lt Cdr Paris Anderson, a vice-president of the Association, and his wife, Dorothy. The service was conducted by Fr Terry Atkinson.

The parade which followed was impressive and brought Sunday traffic to a halt.

Members also turned out in strength for the annual service and parade on Remembrance Day.

Launceston

Members of Redruth and Camborne, with representatives of branches throughout No 4 Area, filled St Mary Magdalene Church to capacity for the dedication of Launceston standard.

Rear Admiral Alan West, Naval Secretary, and his wife Rosemary were guests of honour. The service was conducted by the Rev T. Newcombe assisted by the Rev D. Dixon.

At the march-past which followed, 36 standards were paraded to music by the Royal Blue Jacket Volunteer band. The salute was taken by Admiral West.

Portsmouth

As Portsmouth is to play a key role in ceremonies to mark VE Day and VJ Day, the branch looks forward to an influx of visitors, and extends a warm welcome to all. It would help, however, if branches planning to attend the ceremonies give advance notice of their arrival by telephoning 01705 820397.

City of Edinburgh

The standard of the former City of Edinburgh branch, disbanded years ago, is in the safe custody of the Scottish Area Committee for the use of any shipmate interested in reforming the branch.

Bournemouth

There was a fine turn-out of shipmates and standards for the branch remembrance service and parade. The parade was led by the Salvation Army band, which has provided the music on this occasion for over 30 years.

Cheshunt

At the fifth annual dinner dance the 150 shipmates and guests including Lt Cdr Paul Wooley RNR and his wife, Jackie.

Chairman, Shipmate Ron Joy, thanked members for a great effort in the past year which raised more than £900

MEDALS FOUND

MEDALS awarded to Leading Seaman C. David, for service in the Falklands and Northern Ireland, and which may have been lost or stolen are now in safe possession. Mr David should ring 0171 782 400 for further details.

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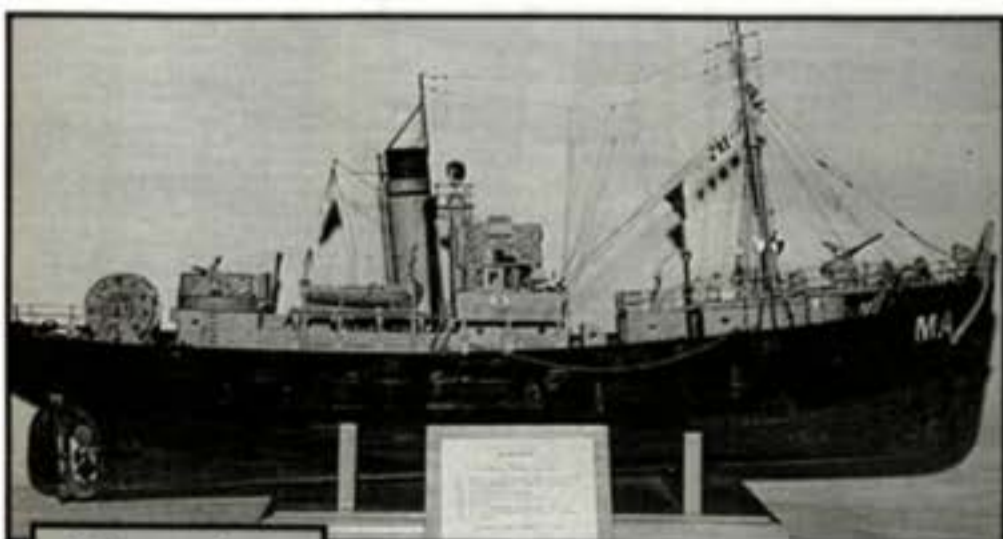
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Ron's model craft

THIS magnificently detailed model of the wartime minesweeper HMT Malacolite has been painstakingly crafted by one of her former ship's company — Shipmate Ron Brewis of Sidcup branch.

Ron served in Malacolite for three years and had often thought of modelling the little

vessel. After a long search he found the ship's plans in a museum in Hull close to the shipyard where she was built for the Admiralty in 1917.

As a result he was able to put together a full history of Malacolite up to the time she was scrapped in the mid-1950s.

Dulverton are signal winners

SIGNAL success by HMS Dulverton has won them the Minor War Vessels Communications Trophy — the Redifon Salver.

During the Hunt-class mine ship's deployment with Standing Naval Force Channel, her comms team consistently operated to the highest professional standards.

Not only did they deal with their own equipment and manpower limitations in an effective manner, but assisted other ships of the NATO force which were experiencing difficulties.

Before the presentation of the trophy, the Rosyth-based ship was visited by members of the Algerines Association — founded in 1985 for men who had served in Algerine-class minesweepers.



Capt Chris Morrison, Chief of Staff to Commodore Minor War Vessels, presents the Redifon Salver to the commanding officer of HMS Dulverton, Lt Cdr Peter Morgan. Standing (l-r) are CWEA Al Dobell, RO Ged Edwards, LRO Roy Meikle, RO Michael Finney and Lt Steven Goodrich, navigating officer.

Princess Marconi returns to scene of father's triumph

Elettra-fying visit lights up Culdrose

PRINCESS Elettra Marconi, daughter of the radio pioneer, has visited RN air station Culdrose which is near the site from where Guglielmo Marconi succeeded in transmitting a signal across the Atlantic in 1901.

Her historic visit to Cornwall

was made in the centennial anniversary year of her father's first radio transmission. She was accompanied by her son, Prince Grghelmo Marconi, and five other Italians from the family's home town of Sasso Marconi near Florence.

Accompanied by the Mayor of Helston, Mrs Brenda Banfield, and three local councillors, the Marconis were given a station presentation by Cdr Colin Sharp, watched a fire-fighting demonstration, and later, from Hazelphron cliffs, witnessed a search and rescue display by an aircraft from 771 Naval Air Squadron.

'Honoured'

Princess Marconi said of her father: "He loved Cornwall very much... I know that he would have been as proud and honoured as I am to be a guest at Europe's largest helicopter base."

The Marconis spent five days in Cornwall as guests of the people of Helston, which is twinned with Sasso Marconi.



With obvious enjoyment, Princess Marconi deals with an exercise blaze at the Fire School at Culdrose. Picture: LA/PHOT Taff Richards.

Rescue squadron flies record hours

SEARCH and rescue crews from 771 Naval Air Squadron at RN air station Culdrose flew a record number of hours last year.

In the course of 229 call-outs 152 people were rescued, compared with 124 in 1993. Flying time rose from 258 hours to 340. In 1993 there were 221 call-outs.

Last year's incidents included 27 cliff rescues, 21 rescues of swimmers or surfers and 11 of windsurfers. There were 22 hospital transfer flights, ten of them involving the transfer from the Isles of Scilly to Treliske Hospital.

A boy suffering from liver failure was transferred from Treliske to Kings College Hospital in London, and two heart patients were flown from Treliske to John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

50th anniversary celebrations by 706 NAS will culminate at Culdrose on March 7 with a short air display followed by a formal parade in the squadron hangar attended by Flag Officer Naval Aviation, Rear Admiral Ian Garnett.

Formed in Australia, 706 now trains all Fleet Air Arm anti-submarine warfare crews using Sea King Mk 5 helicopters.

VICTORY EVENTS • From front page (see also Portsmouth events — page 12)

nate with a concert mounted by the Royal British Legion and Choirs International.

On May 7 the park events will be mainly for young people and the international community, with veterans being given privileged access. A ceremony of reconciliation, involving the

Heads of State, will take place around a 70ft-high globe with a floral surface and surmounted by the figure of a white dove.

Major singing stars are expected to take part with a choir of 1,000 and the EC Youth Orchestra.

Families Day will provide

the emphasis on May 8, with a programme of continuous entertainment. In mid-afternoon there will be a mass gathering outside Buckingham Palace involving veterans, 300 military musicians, a fly-past by World War II aircraft, and a large-scale daylight firework display.

In the evening the Queen will be in the park to light the central beacon of The RBL's chain of beacons throughout the country. Events will end with a concert arranged by the Prince's Trust and involving international stars.

Procession

Heads of State will also attend a banquet in The Guildhall on May 6 as well as a service of thanksgiving and reconciliation at St Paul's Cathedral involving 2,500 people on May 7.

Main feature of August 19 will be a procession in central London by 104 charitable organisations forming the Tribute and Promise Group. That will be followed by an open-air service and parade by military and civilian veterans.

Church services, heralded by peals of bells, will be held throughout the country on August 20.

Events notified so far include:

MARCH

12th — Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of Admiral Ramsay at St Germain en Laye, France. 19th — Commemoration of bombing by Allied forces at Muhlort am Inn, Germany (continues until April 20).

APRIL

19th until May 9 — Commemoration of end of war in Italy — Bologna. 25-30th — Azalea Festival 95 at Norfolk, Virginia. 26th until May 10 — Austrian liberation commemoration at Lotbinitz. 28th until May 9 — Norwegian liberation celebrations, Oslo. 28th — VJP function at Chatham. 29th — Best Retreat at Chatham. American/British Forces Dinner and Ball, Manchester. Service of remembrance, reception, Bourne-mouth. 30th until May 5 — Dutch celebrations at Heerdewijk.

MAY

1-31st — Celebrations at Klagenfurt, Austria. 2nd — Dutch celebrations at Voorhuizen. 3rd — Peace in Our Time Concert, St Clement Danes, London.

Sponsors may pay veterans' fares

HIGH travel costs faced by Scottish veterans keen to attend the VJ parade in London may be met by sponsorship.

It is hoped that hundreds of Scots who may not be able to afford the fares will be funded by such benefactors as the P&O chairman Lord Sterling, who is reported to be arranging sponsorship with the Royal British Legion in Scotland.

The RBL are seeking at least £150,000 to charter aircraft for their Scottish members. Lord Sterling, an honorary captain in the RNR, helped veterans to attend events during the D-Day commemoration last year.

4-6th — Sunset Ceremony in Cadogan Square, London.

5th — 11.00, Joint Session of Houses of Parliament.

6th — Hyde Park events all day. PM — Prime Minister's reception and Corporation of London banquet for heads of state at Guildhall. RBL and youth concert in Hyde Park.

6-8th — Grantham, Home Bay, Holyhead and Colchester commemorations.

6-9th — Commemorations in Belgium and Luxembourg.

7th — Hyde Park events all day. AM — Services of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, Llandaff Cathedral (Cardiff) and St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. PM — Luncheon at Buckingham Palace for Heads of State; luncheon at Whitehall for VIPs. Heads of State ceremony in Hyde Park. VE Day Concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham. Commemoration of the liberation of Mauthausen concentration camp, Austria; rededication service at Church of St Congall, Bangor, Northern Ireland. Chestnut Sunday Parade, Bushy Park, London; services, ceremonies and parades at Portsmouth, Plymouth, Weston-super-Mare, Leamington Spa, Bury St Edmunds, Richmond (N. Yorks), Liverpool, Blackpool, Carlisle, Bangor (N. Ireland), Easing, Norwich, Chester, Ash/Ashvale and Marlborough; unveiling of monument at Narvik, Norway.

7-8th — Church service and public events at Plymouth; Weymouth events; Portpool parade.

7-9th — Liberation Day at Kristiansand, Norway.

7-10th — Norway liberation commemoration, Oslo.

7-11th — Guernsey and Jersey liberation events.

8th — Hyde Park events all day. AM — Service of thanksgiving at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh. PM — Buckingham Palace band concert and flypast. VE Night concert in Hyde Park. Session, lighting throughout UK. Andover parade, Paris disco and march-past; concert at St David's Hall, Cardiff; parade and drumhead service at Curmick; Crowborough flypast; Bradford events; Edinburgh church service; Best Retreat, march-past and flypast at Rochester; Gosport celebrations; Blackpool parade; Basingstoke celebrations; Chatham events; Newhaven Fort 'Memories of VE Day'; Paginton party; Hampshire commemoration; Glapwell and Ault Hucknall open-air service and other events; Bangor (N. Ireland) air-sea displays, ground displays, concert and Best Retreat; Harlow Town Park events; Folkestone Mansfield and West Bromwich celebrations. Bow and Southport parades; Silvernagale Celebrations and East Dundee Memorial Parade; Norway events — statue unveiling at Bergen, and liberation ceremonies at Alstund and Haugesund; events in St Petersburg, Prague, Rio de Janeiro, Paris and Rheims.

8-11th — Millford Haven commemoration.

12th — Service of Reconciliation at sea in Lough Foyle/Lunenburg (N. Ireland); North Walshford Fleet 55; unveiling of Atlantic memorial in Londonderry.

19th — Southport (Merseyside) veterans concert.

20th-21st — Castle Donington event.

21st — Eglinton (N. Ireland) air show; Perthshire commemoration.

27th — Freedom of Belfast.

JUNE

9-15th — SSAFA Tri-Service Best Retreat at Horse Guards. 16-20th — 50th anniversary of RN withdrawal from Iceland. 16-17th — Military Tattoo at Sheffield Arena. 17th — Golden Victory Day at Brighton. 18th — RAF Colford open day. 20th — Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in Trafalgar Square. 22nd — Service for Merchant Seafarers on Tower Hill, London. 24th — Best Retreat at Salisbury Cathedral; Victory Ball, London. 25th — Anniversary of British Forces Network, Hamburg. 26th — San Francisco commemorations.

JULY

2nd-16th — Dortmund and Herford 50 years of peace celebration. 4th — Liberation of the Philippines; concert, King's Dock, Liverpool. 8th — Tri-Service Victory Ball, Liverpool. 9th — Basset service and parade. 15th — Chester celebrations. 22nd — Dorchester commemoration and Thanksgiving. 22nd-23rd — RAF Victory airshow at Farnford. 23rd — W. Yorks. commemorations.

AUGUST

1-21st — Edinburgh Tattoo.

11-13th — Southport celebrations.

12th — Weston-super-Mare service at war memorial, Eastleigh tattoo.

12-13th — Liverpool Best Retreat, concert, service and parade.

12-14th — Puffin commemorations.

12th — Plymouth Hoe commemorations; Liverpool Cathedral service and parade; 3 Special Services/Colo Brigade reunion at Southsea.

14th — Bude celebrations.

15th — Australia victory parade; Stoke-on-Trent memorial concert; Portsmouth massed bands extravaganza, reception and concert; Cambridge concert.

18th — Portsmouth parade and drumhead service and Southsea military tournament.

17th-21st — Torbay, Cardiff, Belfast, London and Leith commemorations.

18th-21st — Swansea commemoration.

18th-22nd — Avonmouth and Bristol commemoration.

19th — 1200, open-air service at Buckingham Palace; 1300, Tribute and Promise procession in central London; 1500, Commonwealth Defence Chiefs' lunch at Lancaster House; PM, veterans march past the Cenotaph; 2115, fireworks along the Thames. Carlisle Best Retreat and concert.

19-20th — Bridlington tall, parade and civic reception; Millford Haven celebrations.

20th — National church services at St Giles Cathedral (Edinburgh), Llandaff Cathedral (Cardiff) and St Anne's Cathedral (Belfast); veterans' parades in Cardiff and Belfast; Best Retreat and Sunset ceremonies in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast; Bury St Edmunds parade; commemorations at Brentwood, Paignton, West Bromwich and Penrance Castle; church services in N. Yorks and at Melrose Abbey; York church service and parade (am) and Best Retreat (pm); services and parades at Carlisle and Manchester. Gosport peace candle service; Liverpool Tribute and Promise service; Plymouth church service, march-past and Sunset ceremony; drumhead service at Bathin; Easter parade, cathedral service and reception. Crews combined drumhead and thanksgiving service and reunion.

20th — SSAFA air display at Church Ferry, Elvington.

25-27th — Carlisle weekend of commemoration (open-air concert on 26th).

28th — Hong Kong liberation parade, service of remembrance and wreath-laying.

SEPTEMBER

1st — Portsmouth commemorations and ships/squadrons reunion.

1st-3rd — Vienna celebrations.

2nd-3rd — Southsea open-air concert.

3rd — Southsea Common drumhead service; Portsmouth Cathedral plaque and stained glass window dedication; Portsmouth farewell concert; Gosport air show and ex-service parade.

5th — Singapore celebrations.

8-10th — Prague celebrations and international festival of military bands.

10th — Duxford air show; Colchester commemorative service; Worcester county rally.

OCTOBER

18th — New York international ceremony.

NOVEMBER

6-7th Colchester Freedom of Borough and church service. 11th — Washington DC parades and TV spectacular.

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OPEN BOX

CONVENIENCE shopping is the name of the game at the Naafi Families shop on the married quarters estate near Clyde Submarine Base.

Newsbox incorporates a post office, paper shop, video hire, off-licence, grocery and frozen food store under one roof. It was taken over by Naafi, refurbished and doubled in size in less than three months.

The opening was performed by Mrs Liz Somerville, wife of Commodore Ian Somerville (Director of Naval Recruiting), formerly CO of HMS Neptune.

Holiday savers for MOD

BRITISH Airways is pleased to announce the arrival of new holiday savings for MOD staff and their families.

The BA MOD Leisure Flights Hotline offers savings on all BA fares to 160 destinations worldwide. Hotel accommodation, car rental and "stop-over" packages to link with flights can also be booked.

For details and news of special offers call 0141 226 4321, or Lisburn Military 41161 for callers in Northern Ireland.

The new BA MOD Holiday Hotline has exclusive offers with over 30 major tour oper-

ators, including Thomson, Kuoni, Bales, BA Holidays, Jet-save and Superbreaks. Discounts are linked to the cost of the holiday.

Tailored

The Holiday Hotline can also organise tailor-made holidays, adventure training and other group bookings. Call 0171 730 1673 or Lisburn Military 41161.

● These fares are available to members of the Armed Forces,

full and part-time MOD civilian employees, SSAFA, retired and ex-Service personnel. The facilities can also be used by spouses and unmarried children (up to the age of 25), as well as parents of serving personnel. Service numbers should be quoted when telephoning.

Both hotlines operate in conjunction with the MOD's Joint Service Travel Centre.

A pealing tribute to Topsy

A SHIP's bell at the Joint School of Photography, RAF Cosford, has been dedicated to the memory of WO(PhoT) Topsy Turner, who last served there.

WO Turner's widow, Elizabeth, and the couple's two children, Julia and Stephen,



unveiled the bell. There to watch were Gp Capt Michael Gilding, Cosford Station Commander, Sqn Ldr Victor Kinnin, OC School of Photography, instructors and members of the photographers' branch.

Popular Topsy died last

year after a short illness. Alongside the main memorial plaque is a second one reading "He who rings this bell will Splice the Mainbrace as well".

Young Stephen was privileged to ring it first, but was excused the round of rum!

LITTLE CHEFS



TODDLERS at the RN air station Culdrose Childcare Centre — better known as Helitots — refused to be beaten by a bit of baking. Both they and their cakes rose to the occasion.

Ingredients of this happy mixture are (l-r) Ben Powell, Abigail Pipkin, Mrs Marion Fish, wife of Culdrose CO Capt Peter Fish, Connor Ryan, Nick Sydenham and Harry Hourigan.

Later the Helitots had another VIP visitor.

Second Sea Lord Admiral Sir Michael Layard, a former Captain of Culdrose, spent a day at the air station and called on its creche.

Meanwhile, the Culdrose Wives Club held a raffle in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind. Nearly 90 prizes, mostly donated by local traders, were up for grabs.

Organised by Mrs Morag Sharp, wife of Cdr Colin Sharp, and Mrs Linda Ellis, wife of PO Billy Ellis, the raffle raised £1,000.

FAMILY CENTRE 'REFIT'

A £100,000 improvement project, part funded by the Sailors' Fund and Fleet Amenities Fund (£35,000) and the Nuffield Fund (£15,000) has been completed at Plymouth's Crownhill Family Centre.

The floor area has been increased by 25 per cent and a catering-standard kitchen installed. A cafe atmosphere is being encouraged and families are invited to drop in for coffee and sticky buns.

There are now 22 daytime activities at Crownhill, plus a thriving thrift shop. A bar with snooker, pool and darts and regular family discos are also on offer.

Enquiries about Crownhill's RN pre-school playgroup should be directed to co-ordinator Patricia Whiteley on 01752 764114. General queries about the centre should go to Naval Area Community Officer Nick Bennett on 01752 770860.

● Devonport Services RFC has incorporated a youth section for the first time in its 90 year history. Over 120 eight to 15-year-olds, many from Service families, have signed up.

Anyone willing to sponsor a team is asked to contact Youth Co-ordinator Steve Hewson on 01752 775069.



Flying visits

PO(R) BAGSIE Baker looks on proudly as his five-year-old son Darren shows early promise as a helo pilot.

Darren was one of 150 visitors enjoying HMS Exeter's pre-Gulf deployment families day. Flying displays by the regular aircrew were a highlight, as was live firing against a towed target by two GR16 ground-attack Tornados.

At Christmas some families and friends took advantage of the Type 42 destroyer's port visit to Mombasa to fly out for a reunion with loved ones and enjoy a little winter sunshine.

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All offers within the advertisement are available on selected properties only. Subject to status, contract, availability and normal Barratt Home Exchange conditions.

NEXT year the Royal Naval Birdwatching Society, formed to encourage the study of birds at sea, will be 50 years old.

Today the RNBWS has just under 300 members, including many from the merchant navies of several countries — and Chairman Cdr Michael Barritt says although both the RN and the British Merchant Marine have declined in size dramatically since 1946, they still make an important contribution to the monitoring of our feathered friends of the ocean.

"A notable example has been the extensive study of birds around the Falkland Islands and Dependencies and in the sub-Antarctic since the campaign of 1982," he told Navy News.

"Records kept by our members have provided substantial cover of the southern winter and spring — seasons for which there was little previous data.

"We identified an influx of many species to Falklands waters during the hard winter of 1984, and this heightened concern over the massive increase in fishing in the area."

Records from remote islands and ports can provide invaluable indicators of the impact of man on the environment. In 1982-83 LMA Martin Howells' observations on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia provided an encouraging comparison with those made in 1971, during the first phase of construction of the airfield and military base there.



A Lanner falcon alights on HMS Ark Royal in the central Red Sea — photograph by Capt Mike Harris.

Close encounters of the bird kind

In 1990 he was in the field again, this time as a member of the third expedition mounted by the Army and RAF birdwatching societies to monitor the status of breeding populations on Ascension Island.

Meanwhile, during the UN peacekeeping operations in Cambodia Sgt Pete Carr, RM, an experienced bird observer and ringer, was doubling in another field of international co-operation.

With a small team of intrepid ornithologists, he started updating the records in this poorly researched — and latterly highly dangerous — corner of the world.

For four months he was stationed on Tonle Sap Lake in the centre of the country — a mecca for birds. His daily log of sightings proved to be of international importance — and their publication led to a return visit, this time employed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature to carry out surveys throughout the country.

Not all RNBWS activities are conducted on the high seas or in foreign countries. Sgt Carr has lately been involved with the newly reformed conservation group at RNAD Gosport, piloting a scheme to erect nesting boxes made out of old ammunition cases throughout the depot woods.

Reports are regularly received from ocean weatherships and oil rigs — and yachtsmen and passengers in cruise liners are among the RNBWS's associate members.

Naval operations

RNBWS guidance is included in Fleet Operating Orders for passage observations and standardised recording forms are supplied for sightings and for measurements of birds examined in the hand.

Each year a prize is offered for the best photograph of a seabird and an annual journal, *Sea Swallow*, provides a forum for exchange of information.

After analysis, all records are sent to the library of the British Museum (Natural History) at Tring, where the contributions of people for whom birdwatching is chiefly a hobby form a data bank for the professional ornithologist and conservationist.

"Whether you are a shore-based bird-spotter or someone who would like to know more about the seabirds you encounter during your sea time, then the RNBWS has something to offer you," says Cdr Barritt.

"Your interest could provide vital information both on the environmental features affecting naval operations and on the health of the planet."



Weary spring and autumn migrants often take a breather in HM ships — this Black and White Warbler joined Capt R. L. Westwater, MN on the bridge of his ship in the Gulf of Mexico. The North American species winters in the West Indies and in the mountains of Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador.

"The annual bird count in Naval establishments was well supported this year, with 127 different species recorded. This year's count will be made between May 20-28 and anyone is welcome to take part."

● The RNBWS organises field trips in the UK and currently has plans for an overseas expedition. For further details contact the Secretary, Col Peter Smith, RM, at 19 Downlands Way, South Wonston, Winchester, Hants SO21 3HS.

MITSUBISHI MT-8

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Digital mobile phones which may be used in many countries in Europe and places such as Hong Kong, Australia and South Africa are also available. Tick box for more information



● HMS Datchet, one of two purpose-built Talisman T47 diving boats operated by Portsmouth Clearance Diving Unit.

Clearing the way ahead

AS PART of the establishment in April of the Plymouth-based post of Flag Officer South, Plymouth Clearance Diving Unit is set to join with Portsmouth Area Clearance Diving Unit to form the Southern Diving Group later this year.

PCDU, a front-line unit under the operational command of C-in-C Fleet, provides a 24-hour, 365-day-a-year response for diving and bomb disposal tasks within Plymouth land and sea areas. Last year, despite a reduction in area, the explosive ordnance team were the busiest with 269 tasks to their credit.

The units responsibilities are many and varied and involve:

- Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and diving tasks from the River Dee to Swanage on the South Coast, including the Scilly Isles and the Channel Islands;

- Underwater engineering in support of Plymouth-based RN ships and submarines;

- Recompression treatment of military and civilian divers suffering from decompression illness (the bends);

- General diving duties, including underwater searches, demolitions, hull surveys and emergency tasks;

- First-reaction assistance

in the event of a sunken submarine (SUBSUNK) incident.

In addition, the PCDU is on call to take part in anti-terrorist bomb disposal across the South West in support of the civil authorities.

The RN has always maintained a proud history of involvement in mine clearance operations and PCDU divers are trained in the demanding discipline of mine counter-measures (MCM) diving. Even in this age of major technological advances the need for divers to conduct "hands on" MCM/EOD remains undiminished.

Live ordnance

Each year the unit deals with approximately 200 requests to dispose of all old and new unexploded ordnance found around the UK coastline below the high-water mark. A large number of mines and other explosives laid by both sides during both World Wars remain unaccounted for and this, with disposal of marine flares and pyrotechnics washed up as flotsam or handed in for safe-

keeping, and periodic clearances of disused MOD ranges, ensures that the services of the PCDU remain in constant demand.

Engineering

Similarly, underwater engineering work in support of ships and submarines of the Fleet provides plenty of opportunities for practising the techniques and procedures required for battle damage assessment and repair in any potential conflict.

The PCDU operates two boats within the Devonport area, the purpose-built diving boats Miner III and Datchet, which support surface-supplied air diving and provide the unit with waterborne mobility. Miner III was accepted into service during 1993 while Datchet joined the unit in September last year.

While the PCDU and Plymouth Area CDU will amalgamate both units will remain located in their original base ports. They will retain their separate identities but will benefit from increased resources and flexibility.



● AB(D) Buffs Buffery, LS(D) Dave Croall and AB(D) Kev Amara prepare unexploded ordnance for disposal.



● Above right: Ships' diver continuation training ("monthly dippers") is carried out at PCDU.



● Right: AB(D)s Sid Lawrence, Jim Dimond and Billy Barfoot tend to a diving casualty in the compression chamber. A new chamber was installed late last year.

Pictures: LA(PHOT) Mac MacDonald.

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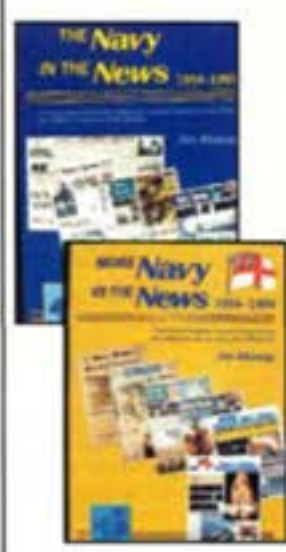
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WORK is under way at West Buckland School to reconstruct a large area of the original buildings.

The £600,000 development will create a performing arts centre, which will include a drama studio seating more than 100, a music studio with recording facilities, classrooms for English, speech and drama and music, and individual practice rooms and study areas. Work will be completed for the start of the new school year in September.

The space became available as the result of a major building programme started five years ago

to replace or modernise the school's boarding accommodation.

This included building two new houses, one for boys and one for girls, and the conversion of other areas into single-study bedrooms for sixth formers.

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boarding schools in the south west. It has for a long time been a popular choice for the education of children of members of the Royal Navy.

The Chairman of Governors, himself an "old boy", is Vice Admiral Sir Anthony Tippet, who became General Manager of Great Ormond Street Hospital on his retirement from the Navy. The headmaster sits regularly on the Admiralty Interview Board.

The school's long-standing reputation in the world of sport has been enhanced recently by the selection for the England XV of Victor Ubogu and Stephen Ojomoh, who were introduced to rugby

at West Buckland. Academic standards are equally strong, with A-level and GCSE pass-rates consistently in the high 80s.

Cadet Force HQ

Work is also due to start in February on a new headquarters buildings for the Combined Cadet Force. The OC, Lt. Cdr. Deborah Sharman, runs a tri-Service contingent of over 200.

The school has two ranges, 22 and full-bore, and it makes good use of the surrounding countryside for adventure training and Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions.

Airmen outplay rest at Osprey

SIX men's teams and three ladies' teams took part in the second Naval Air Command/Wessex Water Polo Competition, held at the Boscowen Centre, RN air station Portland, writes **CPO Tony Atkinson**.

A much-depleted NAC took to the water with only seven players, the minimum required, to win five hard-fought games against Frome, Wessex, Weston-Super-Mare, Tisbury and a team from the Dutch Navy.

This excellent performance in the face of some awesome power — one of the Dutch players scored several goals from well within his own half — earned NAC a place in the final. In a rerun of last year they played Weston.

Four goals up after the first quarter, NAC were clearly frustrating the seiders, but in the third quarter one of their players was excluded for the rest of the game.

The whole team worked tremendously hard and continued to attack Weston's goal, scoring a number of times and taking the match 8-5.

In the ladies' final Tisbury were beaten by the far superior Port of Plymouth side, which included GB internationals.

Any players, novice or experienced, who would like to know more about Navy water polo should contact CPO Tony Atkinson (Daedalus ext. 4245) or POPT Phil Boswell (Temeraire ext. 25912).



BADMINTON BOTH HARD AND CLOSE

IN WHAT proved the closest finish for some time, the Royal Marines won the Inter-Command Badminton Championships for the third time in 28 years. Their last victory was a decade ago.

With a number of regulars missing from each team it was good to see their places filled by newcomers. The first day proved the event was to be close.

This continued on the second, with RM and Portsmouth exchanging the lead on a number of occasions, right up to the final round of games. It was then that the RM moved into the two-point lead they sustained until the finish.

Notable performances in this tough tournament included Mariell/Hill (Air), with 12 wins from 12 matches, Rowlands/

McGilveray (Portsmouth) 11 from 12; Somerville (Portsmouth) eight from eight; and O'Connor (RM) seven from eight.

Trophies were presented by the tournament's hosting CO, the Captain of HMS Sultan, Capt John Covell. As well as those for winners and runners-up, three awards were made to players who had contributed the most. The recipients were Whalley and Noble (RM) and McGilveray (Portsmouth).

Final result: RM 41 wins, Portsmouth 39 and Air 31.

Sussex Royals make turkeys of sailors

LATEST matches have seen the RN volleyball team take six points from a possible eight, but not without a fight and a definite Christmas "stuffing" along the way.

Their match against Priory went to five sets. In the thrilling finale Lt Les Crawford fired in some firm serves and the RN pressed home their advantage to take the set 15-13 and the match 3-2.

A comprehensive 3-0 defeat in just 50 minutes followed at the hands of Sussex Royals, but the Navy rallied in the triangular fixture that followed. They beat Weymouth 3-1 and took an easy 3-0 victory over bottom of the league Varsovia.

Next RN home match will take place at HMS Collingwood on February 19, starting at 1130.

Sport

Open boxing cancelled for want of competitors

FOR the first time the Royal Navy Open Boxing Championships have failed to produce a single contest, but coach C/Sgt Leo Toms refused to permit "walkover champions."

With only six competitors of suitable standard available, he had no option but to cancel the competition.

Five finals were filled for the RN Intermediate Championships, but four civilians boxers had to be drafted in to make up a nine-bout programme.

Despite these difficulties the evening produced some exciting boxing. Notable was MEM Mark Patterson (Air) at light-welterweight. The referee stopped his onslaught against AB Stuart Haslock (Portsmouth) after 52 seconds.

Entertaining

Another entertaining contest was the light-heavyweight clash in which AEM Nick Mabbutt (Air) took a majority points victory over the Royal Marines' Dillon Jones.

In a special light-middleweight contest against civilian Michael Voysey, of Cowes Medina Club, Mne Steve Whyte's classy boxing earned him a unanimous points decision and the Best Boxer award.

There was a unanimous decision, too, in favour of Mne Lee Kerry in his super-heavyweight bout against civilian boxer Jeff Smith, of Poole.

The Marines won the Inter-

Command team trophy with six titles and Naval Air Command were runners-up with three.

Other results were — feather: Mne Stuart Donley (RM) w/over; light: Mne Mick Cowley (RM) bt Mne Darren Gould (RM) pts(u); welter: Mne Jamie Smith (RM) w/over; light-middle: Mne John Sharp (RM) w/over; middle: Mne Paul Davies (RM) bt Mne Mike Hardy (RM) pts(u); heavy: Mne Chris Walker (RM) bt Mne Andy Lane (RM) pts(u); super-heavy: AEM Edward Fitzsimmons (Air) w/over. Specials — welter: Mne Jamie Smith (Navy) bt Alan Mullins (Poole) RSC1; super-heavy: AEM Edward Fitzsimmons (Navy) bt Dave French (Gosport) RSC 1 (cut eye); super-heavy: Mne Lee Kerry (Navy) bt Jeff Smith (Poole) pts(u).

● HMS Nelson gymnasium will be the venue for the Navy v Army boxing match on Thursday, February 2, commencing 1930. Tickets costing £4 are on sale at the Main Gate. Nelson will also host the ABA semi-finals on Tuesday, March 28, commencing at 1930. Tickets at £5 and £7.50 ringside will be on sale at the Main Gate nearer to the date of the event.



Mne Steve Whyte



AEM Nick Mabbutt



Mne Paul Davies



Picture: (A/PHOT) Paul Smith

Anglers' line-up

ANNUAL trophy presentation of the RNAS Culdrose Sea Angling Club took place at the air station's sports pavilion and the executive officer, Cdr Colin Sharp, did the honours.

Thirty-four trophies were awarded in all. The club's membership includes Royal Navy personnel and civilian staff from Culdrose. There is also a junior section, with members as young as five.

This year's overall champion was PO Paul Richards, pictured receiving his trophy from Cdr Sharp. Mr Tony Trolley won the boat championship, Mr Andy Williams the shore trophy and Kevin Pennell the junior trophy.

DUCKINGS AT DRAKE

A WATER olympiad was held to mark the re-opening of HMS Drake's swimming pool after £150,000 worth of work and events ranged from the deep-end egg-and-spoon to silly stroke racing.

Overall winners of the competition, which was organised by LWPT Janine Burns, assisted by AB(S) Brian Davies and MEM Kent Tanner, were the ships' husbandry team. Prizes were presented by Capt Simon Goodall, Capt Base Personnel.

Anyone wanting to know about the activities on offer at the pool should speak to POPT Bob Pully on Drake ext 65257.

An It's A Knockout contest is planned to mark completion of the refurbishment of HMS Drake's gymnasium. The bill for the new roof, floor, windows, and heating system, plus the changing room and office refurbishment topped £7m.

Still at Devonport, work is scheduled to begin in April on a top-line Physical and Recreational Training Centre. The completion date is August '96.



Picture: (A/PHOT) Mac MacDonald

GASH BOUQUET

THE inaugural Cambridge House Five-a-Side Football League competition came to a close, with "The Gash Hands" narrowly seeing off the challenge of FUBS and the Seadart Allstars.

In the hard-fought final fixture the Hands were beaten 7-2 by Seawolfers, but had already done enough to secure the championship.

Capt Peter Pacey presented the Cambridge House Shield to be held for a year and keepsakes for the winners and runners-up.

IN BRIEF

RN Regulating branch Golf Championship 1995 is to be held at Southwick Park on Thursday, June 29. The tournament will be played over 36 holes and all serving and retired members of the branch are invited to take part.

Full details and an application form are available from the event organiser WO(MAA) John Parker, Regulating Staff Officer, HMS Dryad, tel. Dryad ext 4345 or 4612. The field is limited to 40 so it is advisable to apply early.

RAIN forced the cancellation of the Navy's football match against the Civil Service. The Combined Services played a Football Association XI at Nantwich and lost 2-0.

Navy fixtures for February begin with a game against English Universities at Burnaby Road on February 14, kick-off 1430. A week later on February 21 the team travel to Cowes to play the Isle of Wight, kick-off 1930.

A PARTY of 30 from HMS Fearless visited the ship's adopted town of Scarborough and took part in a full sports programme, including five-a-side versus the local firemen and police and golf.

A football match against a Scarborough district select XI was lost 7-5, but it was the ship's best showing in three attempts. CWEA Keith Smeeth skippered the ship side.

Sport

Firemen dish out dousing



Mr John Loaring, managing director of NAAFI Financial Services, official kit sponsor for RN representative rugby, hands over a token shirt to Lt Iain Dixon RM. Commodore Doug Lewis (RNRU), on the left, looks somewhat overwhelmed.

AFTER playing so well against the Australian Combined Services, the Navy senior XV started 1995 in very disappointing fashion by losing 36-5 against the very strong British Fire Service — a team containing six full and youth internationals — at the Rectory, writes the *Leprechaun*.

Despite winning 60% of the ball from scrum and line out, the experimental RN XV three-quarters missed too many tackles and could not cope with the fast-running firemen.

With plenty more warm up games before playing the Army on April 1, Navy selector Jeff Blackett was not too disheartened by this "minor setback."

□ □ □
Tries from AEA Dow and Mne Griffiths gave RN Youth a 10-3 lead over Bracknell at half time, but Bracknell increased the pressure in the second half and won the game 18-10.

□ □ □
As recorded briefly last month, the Combined Services beat the nearly all-conquering Australian Combined Services 12-9. The Aussies had previously beaten the three single Service teams and only been beaten on the tour by Somerset.

The Rectory match saw the Australians playing their normal expansive game, but the fierce

tackling of the Combined Services backs and determined rucking and scavenging by the back row of Armstrong, Williams and Dixon frustrated them.

Although neither team scored a try, the Combined Services on several occasions were beleaguered on their own line but always managed to escape. All points came from kicks: three penalties each from Steve Worrell (RAF) — Tri-Service's most capped player — for CS and stand-off Holden for Australia.

With time running out and the Aussies very much in the ascendency a quick break into the visitors' half allowed stand-off Ed Raynor to slot over a beautifully-taken drop goal from the back of a Bob Armstrong-inspired winning ruck.

Finally, now is the time to be arranging those coaches and cars full of supporters for the Navy-Army game at Twickenham.

Other diary dates to note are: Feb 1 RN v Civil Service at Burnaby Road, 1400; Feb 8 RN v Cambridge University at Burnaby Rd, 1800; Feb 15 RN v Surrey at London Irish, 1930; Feb 18 RNU21 v Havant at Havant, 1400; Feb 28 RN v Bath at Bath, 1915.

Naval Reservists train their sights on the TA



TWO teams of officers and men from HMS King Alfred, the Portsmouth RNR unit based at Whale Island, took on colleagues from the Territorial Army at their own game in the annual March and Shoot competition for Hampshire Reservists.

The King Alfred men did not let the Senior Service down; the A team finished second overall and the B team third. The event, which was won by 560 (Hants) HQ Sqn RE, comprised a five-mile cross-country run in military fighting order followed by range firing.

Ivan Kay, team captain, LRO Ad Ware and PMSA Colin Adams. Lt Cdr John Hughes holds the ensign.

Permanent

In previous years the RNR squad had been let down on marksmanship, but coaching this year by the unit's permanent staff instructor, CPO(OPS)(M) Stan Matthews, helped the team to such an extent that they were only two points adrift from winning the shooting.

The A team, pictured above, includes (standing l-r) Cdr Dave Sutton, on one of his final duties before leaving the Service, Scaman Wayne Stallard, hoping to become a Fleet Air Arm pilot on leaving college, Lt



Trophy winners and runners up: (back l-r) Vice Admiral Boyce, Lt Cdr Benson, POPT Binks, Capt Pelly and WO Webb. Front: AEA Armstrong, AEA Draper, Lt Young, PO Kearney and LS Owen.

Young squash winner

LT Robin Young (Phoenix) and POPT Ian Binks (RNSLAM) contested the final of the open section of the Royal Navy Individual Squash Rackets Championships at HMS Temeraire.

Young won the match 9-2, 9-2, 9-2. The Under 25 title was settled on a walkover; it went to AEA David Arm-

strong (Culdrose). In the veterans event WOPT Tim Webb (SRO Portsmouth) overcame the

spirited challenge of new RNSRA chairman Capt. Richard Pelly to win the final 3-9, 9-7, 9-4, 7-9, 9-7.

Winner of the vintage title was Lt Cdr Mike Benson RN (ret'd). He beat the new RNSRA president, Vice Admiral Sir Michael Boyce 9-1, 9-5, 9-2.

Plates

The open plate was won by PO Joe Kearney (Neptune) and the classic plate by LS Andy Owen (Gunwharf).

Admiral Boyce presented the trophies. He also presented mementoes to long-serving player/officials Maj Gen Andy Keeling (president 93/94), Cdr David Dawson-Taylor (membership secretary for more than a decade) and Lt Cdr Alex Johnstone (stalwart of the game).



MOTO X-ER COOK

DESPITE missing half his first season due to naval commitments, CK Robert Smith, of HMS Marlborough, still managed to come away with third place in the South West Devon Moto-X Club Christmas presentation.



Abseil feat clinches Kurdistan hospital plan

THIS colourful abseil down the tallest building in London — the 425ft-high Forum Hotel — was organised by a Joint Services team from the Royal Naval Staff College at Greenwich. Object of the exercise: to raise £10,000 to enable the opening of a small cottage hospital in Kani Masi in Kurdistan.

Mountain leaders from the Commando Training Centre at Lympstone and the Royal Marines Brigade Patrol Troop helped 38 participants to complete the sponsored descent, including past and present members of the RM and Army.

Servicemen who served in northern Iraq during Operation Safe Haven in 1991 had

established strong links with care workers there and are aware of the need for a hospital at Kani Masi to treat victims of landmines.

Dr Marigold Curling, who is working in the region, has so far raised £140,000 towards the £245,000 cost of the 12-bed hospital. The abseil donation will enable building work to start.

Top job for Sir Jock

ADMIRAL Sir Jock Slater is to take up appointment as First Sea Lord in July. He will succeed Admiral Sir Benjamin Bathurst.

The Second Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Michael Layard, is to be succeeded in May by Vice Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, who will be promoted to the rank of Admiral.

Admiral Slater joined the Royal Navy in 1956 and since reaching flag rank in 1985 has held successive appointments as Assistant Chief of Defence Staff, Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, Chief of Fleet Support, C-in-C Fleet, and is currently Vice Chief of the Defence Staff.

Admiral Boyce is a former Flag Officer Sea Training and is currently Flag Officer Surface Flotilla. It has already been announced that Rear Admiral John Brigstocke will replace Admiral Boyce as FOSF.

Wilkinson Sword award for HMS London Albania aid task

Albania aid task wins peace prize

HMS LONDON has won the Navy's Wilkinson Sword of Peace for her "outstanding" community work during a visit to Albania.

While the Type 22 frigate was alongside Durres for five days in November 1993, the ship's company worked closely with voluntary and charity organisations to put into operation a short but intensive programme of aid in the underdeveloped country.

Essential goods were flown by the ship's helicopter to remote mountain villages before

winter closed in fully. Sailors worked alongside the Feed the Children organisation to help refurbish an orphanage, while other task groups from the ship cleaned and painted a hospital, worked in kitchens there, and visited patients.

Plasma Bag

Although often toiling in particularly unpleasant conditions, they remained cheerful and built up good relations with the community and with aid organisations.

One artificer, CPO Tugg Wilson, was able to make an individual contribution by designing and producing a special device to control the flow of plasma from bags used by the

Albanian Blood Transfusion Service.

In announcing the award, a Joint Services Defence Council Instruction concludes:

"The success of the ship's charitable activities, combined with a variety of official events, is testimony to the outstanding contribution made by the ship's company towards fostering friendly relations with the people in and around Durres."

The award will be presented to HMS London by the sponsors, Wilkinson Sword Ltd, at Devonport on March 24. Other

recipients this year are the Army's 21 Engineer Regiment for their humanitarian work in Bosnia, and RAF Kinloss for the station's community work.

Dismissed Wren is to return

FORMER Wren steward Donna Ward is to become the first woman to be reinstated as a member of the Royal Navy after being dismissed because she became pregnant.

Mrs Ward, whose husband Alan is an LMEM, was forced to resign in 1986. However, she has turned down the chance to claim £70,000 compensation and instead has opted to get her job back.

She has accepted £2,000 compensation and will return to the Royal Navy subject to her passing a medical test.

SURVEY GIANT

An artist's impression of the new survey ship due to enter service in 1997.



Victorious enters the slips

HMS VICTORIOUS, second of the Royal Navy's Trident submarines, has been commissioned at VSEL's shipyard at Barrow-in-Furness.

Guest of honour at the ceremony was Lady Newman, wife of Flag Officer Plymouth, Vice Admiral Sir Roy Newman. She named the boat in 1993.

The submarine's port and starboard crews — totalling 260 officers and men — were on parade led by their commanding officers, Cdr Huntly Gordon and Jonathan Powis.

Trials

Other guests included Lord Younger who — as Defence Secretary — laid the vessel's keel in 1987; families of the crews and members of the HMS Victorious (1941-45) Reunion Association.

The commissioning cake was cut by Mrs Feather Gordon and Mrs Margaret Powis, wives of the COs, assisted by OMs Russell Cowley and Jimmy Rimmer, the crews' youngest ratings.

Victorious has completed contractor's sea trials and is undertaking further training and trials before entering operational service.

From front page

-tish Aerospace and the Sema Group — are the design authority through their Yard Company.

They will take responsibility for the ship's performance through initial design, for ap-

proval of drawings, supervision of construction, and trials and acceptance.

Although such nations as the USA and Russia operate large ocean survey vessels, this is the first purpose-built ship of the kind to be built for and operated by the Royal Navy.



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