



ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION (NZ)

JUNE/JULY 2009

LOCAL PATRON: HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE SIR ANAND SATYANAND, GNZM, QSO, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF N.Z.

Presidents comments.....

Our newsletter continues to go from strength to strength and many thanks once again to Colleen for her sterling efforts. Going forward it is intended to include our bi-monthly Globe & Laurel submissions in our newsletters. There will therefore be some duplication between my opening page introduction and the content of that submission.

Current plans for our next AGM set the date provisionally as April 2010. We will be looking to set the date and advertise it well in advance and send out forms for nominees for office and agenda items to be completed and with the Secretary 30 days before the meeting. The agenda needs to be available prior to the meeting and any propositions for discussion and voting should be submitted in advance. There was a suggestion from Jock Munro that we run the AGM and Corps Birthday concurrently over the same weekend. I would welcome any feedback on this suggestion and also on the scope for alternating it out of Auckland. Consideration of this is for 2010 and onwards.

Members will be aware of the recent passing of one of our stalwarts, Eddie Edwardson (PO/X 1787) who died from pneumonia on the 23rd of June. His funeral was held at the Faithful Funeral Parlour on Red Beach Road in Auckland on the 29th of June. Eddie had scripted many of the military funeral type arrangements. It was attended by a good number of our members and choreographed very well by Ticker Ayling. The Standard was paraded and the Regimental March was played; Bob Reay presented the eulogy and the Corps Prayer was recited. John Glaze will be writing an obituary for publication in the Globe & Laurel. God Bless and Rest in Peace Eddie.

We have had reports that Eddie Slater has suffered a stroke; his daughter advises that his memory is not good but physically he is not too bad. Stay strong Eddie.

The value of our newly created web site became apparent when we were contacted by Frank Atkins from the UK to inform us that Charles (Jock) Fraser (RM13849) had been admitted to Auckland hospital with a primary cancer and a secondary melanoma. Jock served in the Corps from 1954 to 1963 before transferring to the NZ Royal Signals Regiment where he met Frank. Jock is currently in the Domain Lodge facility just outside of Auckland hospital. Unfortunately he was advised on the 30th of June that it is untreatable and, in reality, it is just a matter of time. Stay strong Jock.

Jock Munro is making some provisional enquiries with a view to holding a weekend gathering in Taupo over the weekend of either the 26th of February (favourite) or the 5th of March 2010. It is likely to take a very similar format to the weekend that Jock organized 2 or 3 years ago i.e. Friday evening informal drinks in the Taupo RSA, Saturday morning bus ride to the Army Museum at Waiouru followed by lunch in the WO & Sgts' Mess. Saturday evening dinner in the Taupo RSA. Sunday morning parade at the cenotaph followed by a church service and brunch at the Marae. Confirmed details and costs will be sent out once finalized. It is very likely that the Association will subsidize some of the costs. Any further suggestions would be most welcome.

I would like to conclude by encouraging communication on the part of us all. Please do not hesitate to call me or e-mail me at any time either to inform me of information of interest or value, to offer up suggestions or simply for a chat. I know the same applies to the other committee members and hopefully all of our membership. Peter Collins.

PRESIDENT:

Peter Collins,
634 Papakura
Clevedon Rd,
Ardmore
09 296 7648
petercollins@xtra.co.nz

**VICE
PRESIDENT &
WEBMASTER:**

Philip Ayling,
19 Miramar Pl,
Pakuranga, Ak
09 576 4869
ticker2000@xtra.co.nz

**SECRETARY &
NEWSLETTER:**

Colleen Ellis
3/136 Trafalgar
St, Onehunga, Ak
09 622 1733
royalmarines@vodafone.co.nz

**TREASURER &
SUBS:**

Noel Harker
18a Acacia Cres,
Glenview,
Hamilton, 3206.
07 843 6471
Nobar@xtra.co.nz

We welcomed, Philip Ayling to the position of Vice President at the AGM. Philip was asked to submit his Royal Marine connection for the newsletter.

Philip says...

I suppose being born in the Corps is as close as you can get without actually serving. My Grandfather served for 28 years, and was Sgt major on the Birmingham and was one of the corps great athletes in his time. He retired and then ran the laundry service in the drill shed at Pompey for many years. I can remember visiting him on many occasions and playing in the drill shed. It was on one of these occasions that the RM Band were practicing under the baton of Sir Vivian Dunn; apparently he picked me up and placed me on his dais, gave me his baton, and let me conduct the band. My father was also born in the Corps and he also served for 28 years.

As a young boy I used to feel so proud when my Grandfather, father and myself walked into the barracks at Pompey and were referred to as The three Tickers Old, Young and little Ticker. I was born in The Naval hospital at M'Tarfa Malta and christened in the ships bell at the Naval chapel. Mum used to joke and say that's why my head was shaped the way it is," I think she was joking". We returned to the UK for a couple of years and then the family went with Dad when he was stationed at Cuxhaven in Northern Germany. I remember that it was extremely cold there, but I did return to England speaking Plat German, which in those days wasn't the best language in the world to speak. Dad was also posted to Singapore and Aden. As a teenager I spent most of my time at Exmouth in Devon where Dad was stationed as an instructor at the Commando Training Centre. Myself and other guys of my age from Marine families were allowed at times on the commando course and I went on many training exercises on Woodbury common and Dartmoor. In fact, because of my knowledge of Dartmoor I captained my school team on the Ten Tors Dartmoor Challenge 50, 60 and 80 miles distance for three years running. Dad (Ticker), Sticks Annis and myself formed the RMA Corps of Drums in the early 1970's in NZ. We participated in parades all over NZ and also represented the RNZ Navy for parades throughout their 50th Anniversary celebrations. We were adopted by the RNZNR and were based at HMNZN Ngapona and for over 20 years the Corps of Drums took part in many parades and practiced every Tuesday night. Some of our more memorable parades were the Navy's Freedom of the City in Whangarei, and the return parade of the Americas Cup with Peter Blake. We also paraded and beat retreat at all RMA functions and Divisions at Ngapona Reserve base.

It has always been my pleasure and an honor to support the Association over the years with helping to organize celebrations for the Association. I always provided support to Ticker, during his Presidency and his various other positions in the RMA Committee, and also in many of his great projects in the days when we had joint services Balls in Auckland and many other memorable occasions. I also met Her Majesty on three occasions and those were times to cherish. I feel privileged to have been associated with the Corps for my entire life I have met some of the finest guys anyone would want to be associated with.

General Housekeeping Notices.....

This section, although new, will be a double up for some who attend the meetings and or read the minutes on line but to ensure all members are up to date some items need to be inserted in the newsletter.

As Philip is running our website, he is in need of photos to make our website really interesting. Please either email or post them to him a.s.a.p. On this note, Philip has very generously, on behalf of the NZ RMA, donated a book to the Australian Webmaster Tony Smith who provides this voluntary service in a tireless manner, while also working full time. He set up, maintains and constantly updates the Australian and NZ websites. A Sterling chap who is doing a sterling job. Thanks Tony and Philip.

The RSA Review will place our new, "recruiting" ad at the beginning of the Reunion Diary at no cost to the Association.

Our Welfare Visitor, Dennis (Ticker) Ayling would like to hear from anyone in Auckland who's unwell and in need of a visitor. Please contact Ticker or Colleen.

The Corps Birthday, 1st of November 2009,

With regard to the guests of honour, Peter has received a letter from the outgoing C.O. of the NZ SAS, Lt Col James Blackwell. He has passed the invitation on to his successor and indicated that they generally like to support this type of event. More to follow. Peter advised he had a letter from Cpl Willy Apiata VC's C.O. advising he was unavailable for our Corps luncheon but would pass this on. We will see what eventuates.

Bob Reay advised that the Manager of the Birkenhead RSA is the son of one of our members. They are always so generous by allowing us to use their rooms for our functions at no charge. Bob advised all is well with our booking with the same conditions of payment, menu and cost as last year, namely \$20.00 per person. Bob also spoke to Padre James Withers who has again agreed to officiate for us.

Philip Ayling will produce the laminated Placemats and Order of Service for the Birthday, as he always does, most generously, at no cost to the Association. Raffle prizes and numbers are now sought with an rsvp date to be confirmed at the next bi monthly meeting on August 8th.

Buster Brown from the Queensland RMA sent a letter of thanks to Dennis(Ticker) Ayling for travelling to their "neck of the woods" and training the lads for Anzac Day again. Well done Ticker.

Our Entertainment Officer, Brendan Johnson is overseas for approximately 6 months but we will be looking to the summer for some outdoor events e.g. BBQ's.

Suggestions please?

Peter has been visiting Jock, who although is not a member of our Association, is an ex Royal. Please visit him if you can. Phone first though as at some point he may be sent back to his home town of Whangarei. "Once a Marine Always a Marine" Our member Bill Houston advised us he had a close association with Prince Charles and served as his nursery footman for a while; Bill sent an email to Clarence House advising them of the situation which was most appreciated.

I am always looking for articles for the newsletter, send me some stories.

One of our members has kindly offered

This is a BBC/ITV series of 8 programmes on 2 DVDs, showing the training and subsequent arrival in Afghanistan to fight the Taliban, with the Royal Marine Commandos Their would be a very small cost for the DVD's, the cases and postage of \$20 . Very reasonable and really interesting. He does not want to make money from this.... just a friendly service to our members. Please contact Colleen for more information.

This is an extract from the minutes of the last meeting

Peter Collins suggested that the Royal Marines cabinet of memorabilia at the Pt Chevalier RSA be enhanced or perhaps we should get a new one which would be more of a centerpiece. Peter will approach the President/Committee as ask is the cabinet/contents are insured. Philip Ayling offered to help store the memorabilia at his home and was appointed Project Manager to look into the Associations valuables and see what there is and how to store it. Philip agreed to get the paperwork onto DVD if it does get stored at his home.


(see photo on next page)



(Above – the cabinet at the Pt Chevalier RSA)

This is a reminder that membership of the UK RMA is free to those over 80, yes even to NZ as confirmed by the Chief Executive, Charlie Hobson. For the over 80's the application process can be much easier, feel free to ask me. The cost to others is on their website, and is cheap as chips for the wealth of information that would be sent to you. I have the application form that Charlie sent through the email or you can visit the UK RMA website and process it from there. If you contact me, I can post it if there's no access to email. Colleen 09 622 1733 or send me a letter.

.....
 Have you applied for yours ?????

HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge  Service Personnel & Veterans Agency
 An Executive Agency of the Ministry of Defence

Men and women who served in HM Armed Forces are entitled to a Veterans Badge.

The Veterans Badge can only be issued posthumously to Widows and Widowers receiving **either**;

- War Widows or Widowers pension from Service Personnel and Veterans Agency or
- Survivors Guaranteed Income Payment under the Armed Forces Compensation scheme.

From an ex Royal in Ontario, Canada. Peter Keeble, RM 131879.
 "I am looking to find anyone with me at Lymptone, as National Servicemen, Squad.883 September 1955. Went to Eastney for sea service training, then onto Chatham to join HMS "Superb". Suez, Persian Gulf, Ceylon and East Africa, South Africa etc etc. "Demobed" September 1957." Please contact Colleen for Peter's details.

There is an RM Band Service Reunion on 10th and 11th October 2009, commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Blue Band magazine. It's at Portsmouth which may interest some of our members. www.exroyalmarinesbandsmen.net A site worth looking at... maybe locate some old buddies or even make some new ones. Contact Colleen if you require more details.

Kevin Hall is trying to trace military details of his Bandmaster father, Derek Hall. He was stationed in Deal in the late 1950's and early 1960's and was then seconded to the Ethiopian Navy as Bandmaster from 1964 to 1967. He then emigrated to Australia in 1969.

From the Royal Navy Newsletter – June 2009

While conducting counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden the Royal Navy frigate [HMS Portland](#) detected, intercepted and boarded two suspicious skiffs preventing a possible pirate attack yesterday, Tuesday 2 June 2009. In co-ordination with a Spanish maritime patrol aircraft, HMS Portland's crew identified, pursued and subsequently conducted a boarding of the suspicious vessels. They found articles that indicated the skiffs had been involved in or were about to conduct an act of piracy, and were clearly not those of innocent fishing vessels. HMS Portland, a Type 23 frigate, is in the area as part of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) Task Force 151. Commodore Tim Lowe, Deputy Commander, Combined Maritime Forces, said: *"This is an excellent example of international co-ordination. This international collaboration cannot be understated and, as more countries join the fight, we will continue to work together to help deter, disrupt and thwart criminal acts of piracy in the maritime environment."* The skiffs, with ten people aboard, were equipped with extra barrels of fuel, grappling hooks and a cache of weapons that included rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns and ammunition. Portland's boarding team, consisting of Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel, conducted the boarding. The ship's embarked Lynx helicopter, equipped with a machine gun and snipers, provided cover throughout the operation, while the boarding team was inserted using the ship's armed rigid inflatable boats. Due to insufficient evidence to directly link the group to a specific attack, the suspected pirates were disarmed and released. Having prevented this group of pirates from reaching their merchant traffic prey, Portland destroyed one of the skiffs and confiscated all their weapons. Commander Tim Henry, Portland's Commanding Officer, said: *"HMS Portland has once again demonstrated the Coalition and Royal Navy's commitment to keeping the sea lanes open and making this key waterway safe for international trade."* Under the command of CMF, Combined Task Force 151 is a multi-national task force, consisting of naval forces from Turkey, the UK, the US, South Korea, Singapore, Denmark and Japan, established to conduct counter-piracy operations under a mission-based mandate throughout the CMF area of responsibility to actively deter, disrupt and suppress piracy in order to protect global maritime security and secure freedom of navigation for the benefit of all nations.

Gurkhas' settlement rights

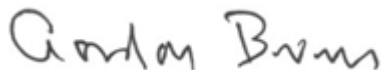
For many years, the Brigade of Gurkhas have shown bravery, commitment and dedication in serving this country, and continue to do so on operations today.

This Government has done more for Gurkhas than any other. It was the first Government to grant settlement to Gurkhas and the first to equalise pay and pensions, with over 6,000 former Gurkhas and their families already given the right to live in the UK. In April we took steps to increase the number of Gurkhas eligible to come to this country by 4,000 or, including families, 10,000 people. The House of Commons has now expressed a clear view that all Gurkhas should be entitled to settle in the United Kingdom if that is what they wish.

This Government respects the will of the House of Commons and recognises the strong feeling and public support for this cause. Consequently, we have announced today that all former Gurkhas who served for longer than four years will be eligible to apply for settlement in the United Kingdom. They will also be entitled to bring their spouses and dependent minor children. There will be no time limit on applications.

This scheme recognizes the unique nature of the service given to the UK by the Brigade of Gurkhas and is offered to them on an exceptional basis.

We believe that in announcing the new policy today, we have met their concerns and those of Parliament.



Gordon Brown

THE OBAMA/CHATHAM CONNECTION

The Historic Dockyard Chatham in Kent can now boast two more special connections to the new president of the United States.

Queen Victoria presented "The Resolute Desk" to President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1880. This splendid item of furniture sits in the Oval Office and has been used by all but three American presidents.

HMS "Resolute" was part of a four-ship British squadron under Edward Belcher sent in the early 1850s to search for the missing explorer Sir John Franklin. "Resolute" and one of her sister ships became lodged in the ice. When she finally broke loose after several seasons she was found by an American fishing vessel and towed into port. Congress purchased the vessel and refitted her, then presented her to Queen Victoria in 1856; "Resolute" served the Royal Navy for a further 23 years. When the ship was decommissioned in 1879 a desk was made from her timbers by William Evenden, a skilled joiner at Chatham.

Now, 130 years later, a pen holder made from an off-cut of timber taken from the sloop HMS "Gannet" during her restoration has been given pride of place on the Resolute desk by President Obama. The holder was made by ship keepers David Appleton and Chris Jones. HMS "Gannet" entered naval service the same year that "Resolute" was being broken up. Prime Minister Gordon Brown presented the pen holder, along with a framed commission of HMS "Resolute" earlier in the year.

HMS "Gannet" is now preserved for posterity at the Historic Dockyard Chatham.

http://www.chdt.org.uk/Historic_Warships/HMS_Gannet/hms_gannet.html

A replica of the Resolute desk can be viewed at the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum in Atlanta, Georgia.

<<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/tour/ovaloffice/popup/desk.html>>

This was taken from the Bosuns Chronicle, May issue.

This is the article, Peter Collins had published in the May/ June(latest) Globe and Laurel.....

Our AGM was held on the afternoon of Saturday the 18th of April in the Point Chevalier Returned Services Association Club in Auckland and was very well attended. It was good to see 2 new joiners in Peter Walton and Ralph Donnison. Bob Reay had stated that he was not seeking re-election as President. He produced an excellent summary of the year's events and valedictory report. All members showed their sincere appreciation to Bob for his 3 years tenure and his considerable contribution in ensuring that the branch is very much on the up. Bob vacated the President's chair and handed over to the newly elected Peter Collins. Philip Ayling was elected as the Vice President. Philip's enthusiasm and work ethos on behalf of the Association will be invaluable and his creation and development of our web site is already serving to raise our profile to a much higher status. Our web site address is

www.royalmarinesassociation.org/nz/rma_nz_home.html

Colleen Ellis and Noel Harker were re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Brendon Johnson was elected to the newly created position of Entertainments Rep. On completion of the meeting members enjoyed a finger buffet spread. They enjoyed even more the round of drinks that Brendon Johnson shouted for being late for the meeting!! A very generous and much appreciated gesture by Brendon with no pressure being applied of course. Our membership numbers are on the increase and our communication base is both improving and widening. The number of "younger" members that are coming through and taking active participation is heartening and bodes well for the future of the Branch. Anzac Day Parade was held as always on the 25th of April at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Gordon Moore was our standard bearer with a handful of other members in attendance. It is not easy as most of our members live a good distance out of Auckland. Gordon Moore has also been asked to take our Standard to the Waiuku Primary School and to talk about the Royal Marines. Youngsters in New Zealand do take a genuine interest in military issues and history.

Finally, if you are planning a trip Down Under please look us up for a catch up and a few beers.

This is the Globe & Laurel submission, hot off Presidents keyboard, for the July/August publication

It is with the deepest of sadness and regret that I must report the passing of one of our stalwarts in the New Zealand Branch. Eddie Edwardson (PO/X 1787) died from pneumonia on the 23rd of June. His funeral was attended by a good number of our members and the military aspects were very well directed by Ticker Ayling. The Standard was paraded and, at Eddie's request, the Regimental March was played; Bob Reay presented the eulogy and the Corps Prayer was recited. God Bless and Rest in Peace Eddie. We have been informed of another ex Royal who has crossed the bar. Fred Williams (PO/X 124920) who lived in Taupo had been suffering from Alzheimer's. The value of our newly created web site became apparent when we were contacted by Frank Atkins from the UK to inform us that Charles (Jock) Fraser (RM13849) had been admitted to Auckland hospital with a primary cancer and a secondary melanoma. Jock served in the Corps from 1954 to 1963 before transferring to the NZ Royal Signals Regiment where he met Frank. Jock is currently awaiting the results of his tests and we wish him all the very best. Attendance at our bi-monthly meeting held on the 13th of June was again encouraging and a positive sign that the Association is on the up. We welcome Chalky Carr who transferred from the Corps in the rank of Captain and is now a Lt Cdr in the RNZN. Chalky has been active in networking with the ex-Royal fraternity that is serving with the NZ Defence Force. We also welcome Ben Curry (N028060V) who is living and working in the Christchurch area and Ted Downes (RM8247). It has been good also to welcome Dave Addison (RM19315) back into the fold. At the time of sending this article we have just received an enquiry in respect of membership for Col David L Bailey OBE RM (ret'd). David has lived in New Zealand for the last 15 years and was mightily miffed to have missed the visit of Col Peter Babbington MC RM (ret'd). Peter was a subaltern of his!! A number of wives and partners have also joined the Association in their own right which is great to see. Our very own TV celebrity Brendon Johnson (PO45211Q) has taken himself and family off on a world tour for 6 months. TV3 are obviously paying him too much!! Our Sick Visitor Ticker Ayling visits Charles (RMB2135) and Celia Lashmar most Sundays for a good chin wag. He has also called in on Colin Campbell following his knee surgery and he is doing well. Ticker also got a very nice letter from Buster Brown from the Queensland RMA thanking him for his assistance in training and drilling the lads for the Anzac Day Parade. Ticker also became a member of that Association whilst there. Early discussions are under way with Jock Munro with a view to having a gathering for a weekend in the Taupo area in the early part of next year. Watch this space. www.royalmarinesassociation.org/nz/rma_nz_home.html

Welcome aboard to our new member Kevin (Chalky) Carr

Chalky Carr joined the Royal Marines in April 1992 in YO Batch May 92. On completion of his training in November 1993 he was appointed to the Commando Logistics Regiment as the General Duties Troop Commander. As part of this appointment he attended and successfully completed a Jungle Warfare Instructors Course and spent several months embarked in HMS Fearless with a company of Royal Marines conducting Jungle Warfare exercises in South America and the Caribbean. In 1994 he was promoted to Lieutenant and appointed to 45 Commando as the Sustained Fire Troop Commander. He participated in several overseas deployments including the largest Amphibious Exercise since D-Day which took place on the east coast of the USA. He also deployed operationally to County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland for a 6 month roulement tour as a Multiple Commander. In 1996 he was selected to participate in Exercise Long Look and was appointed as a Company Second-In-Command for the 2/1 Infantry Battalion of the NZ Army based in Christchurch, New Zealand.

In 1997 he returned to UK and was appointed to the Commando Training Centre as a Recruit Troop Commander and led a group of 50 young recruits through their arduous 30 week training syllabus. On completion he was appointed as the Assistant Adjutant of CTCRM. He was promoted to Captain in April 1998 and joined the Director of Naval Recruiting's team in June. He was appointed to HMS Caledonia in Scotland with the responsibility for recruiting Officers for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines throughout

Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Chalky left the Royal Marines in October 1999 and immigrated to New Zealand and is now in the Royal New Zealand Navy appointed to a project management position within Navy Recruiting. Chalky resides in Christchurch, is married to Sarah and they have 2 young boys.

We also welcome Ted (Edward) Downes RM 8247 from Christchurch. Ted is keen to converse with other comrades, his email address is on the website or alternatively contact me, Colleen.....

Hallo all

I have recently joined the RMA and hope to hear from anyone who would like to correspond with my emails, a brief outline of my service career, joined the Marines in Deal Kent Nov 8th 1948, at the age of 17 serving 7 years 8 months, I was fortunate to be selected for Earls Court 1950 then being drafted into the Commandos 41st Independent Commando to Korea for a few months then having to complete my 2 1/2 year assignment in Malaya 42 Commando, and a short time in Malta before coming home to the Amphibious School as the advance party in Poole Dorset for two years, before being demobed in 1956. As the saying goes once a Marine always a Marine, and I am very proud to have served as one. Well I will look forward to hearing from any one. I still correspond with the son of the family I was evacuated to during the war so get those fingers tapping and let's hear from you. Bye for now Ted Downes, Rolleston, Christchurch.

And welcome aboard Peter Walton, who lives in Auckland, PLY/X 5814. Born 1930. He's keen to hear from old mates too.

Enlisted 7th December 1947 at Newcastle. 505 Squad.
Basic Training: Deal, Portsmouth, Lympstone, Bickley (Dec 1948)
Gunnery School January 1949 – April 1949
Eastney A.A. 3
H.M.S. Glory April 1949 – December 1950
H.M.S. Ocean
Eastney December 1950 -1952 & 1969 – 1970
HMS Implacable & HMS Indomitable 1952 – 1954
HMS Terror 1954 – 1957 & 1962 – 1964 & 1966 – 1969
HMS Victory 1957 – 1961
HMS Drake 1964 – 1966
Discharged at the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant(WO2) September 1970.
P & O Liners (Canberra & Oriana) – Printer
Emigrated to NZ in 1974
Joined the NZ Herald as a Printer 1976
Then joined Prison Service 1977 as a Prison Officer, served 13 years, reached 2nd Officer. Received the Long Service Medal.
Retired in 1990.

This is an email I received which may be of interest

Ahoy from the other side of the world!

We are a group of naval and military reunion leaders who want share ideas about running and improving our reunion groups. We're working with all services, primarily in the U.S., but also in other countries. Things are going extremely well, and leaders from 185 naval and military reunion groups have told us they are interested in our activities. We'd like to add you to that list. Interest is so high that we're forming a new "group of reunion groups." You can read all about it at <http://www.allmilitaryreunions.org/>
You can see who is involved so far by clicking on "List of Interested Parties".
If you'd like us to keep in contact with you about this, just go to the web site

and click "Register Your Interest." There's no obligation involved in registering – it just lets us know you have an interest in what we are doing.

Regards, Louis "Skip" Sander , The USS Rankin Association
www.ussrankin.org .

**If anyone has any information about USS Rankin or its crew, feel free to contact me and I can forward it on to them for you. Colleen

This article is taken from the Bosuns Chronicle, June 2009.....

The Cutty Sark is to re-open next year. Incredibly, after what appeared such a devastating fire on 21 May 2007, less than 2 percent of the original fabric of the ship has been lost - Cutty Sark's contents, masts, deck-houses and saloon had already been removed for conservation or storage. The majority of the fire damage was to the temporary roofing, scaffolding and replacement decking. The conservation project is now back on course and the Grand Old Lady is due to re-open in summer 2010. <http://www.cuttysark.org.uk/index.cfm>

The City of London RMA have just launched a new website , have a look, it's really colourful and looks fantastic <http://www.rmacol.co.uk/links.html>

Our friend John Mellor, OBE QSM, President of the British Foreign Legion & Wolverhampton RMA always has items of interest and this is a fairly recent letter to the Editor. Keep up the great work John.

The Burma Star Association.

The primary object of the Burma Star Association is to relieve need, hardship amongst those men and women who served with his Majesty's or Allied forces or in the nursing services during the Burma Campaign and are BURMA STAR holders.

Assistance is also given to their widows, widowers and immediate dependants

The benevolence secretary can be contacted at 4, Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W0LA Telephone number 020782342773 Fax. 02077307882 or email

burmatar@btconnect.com

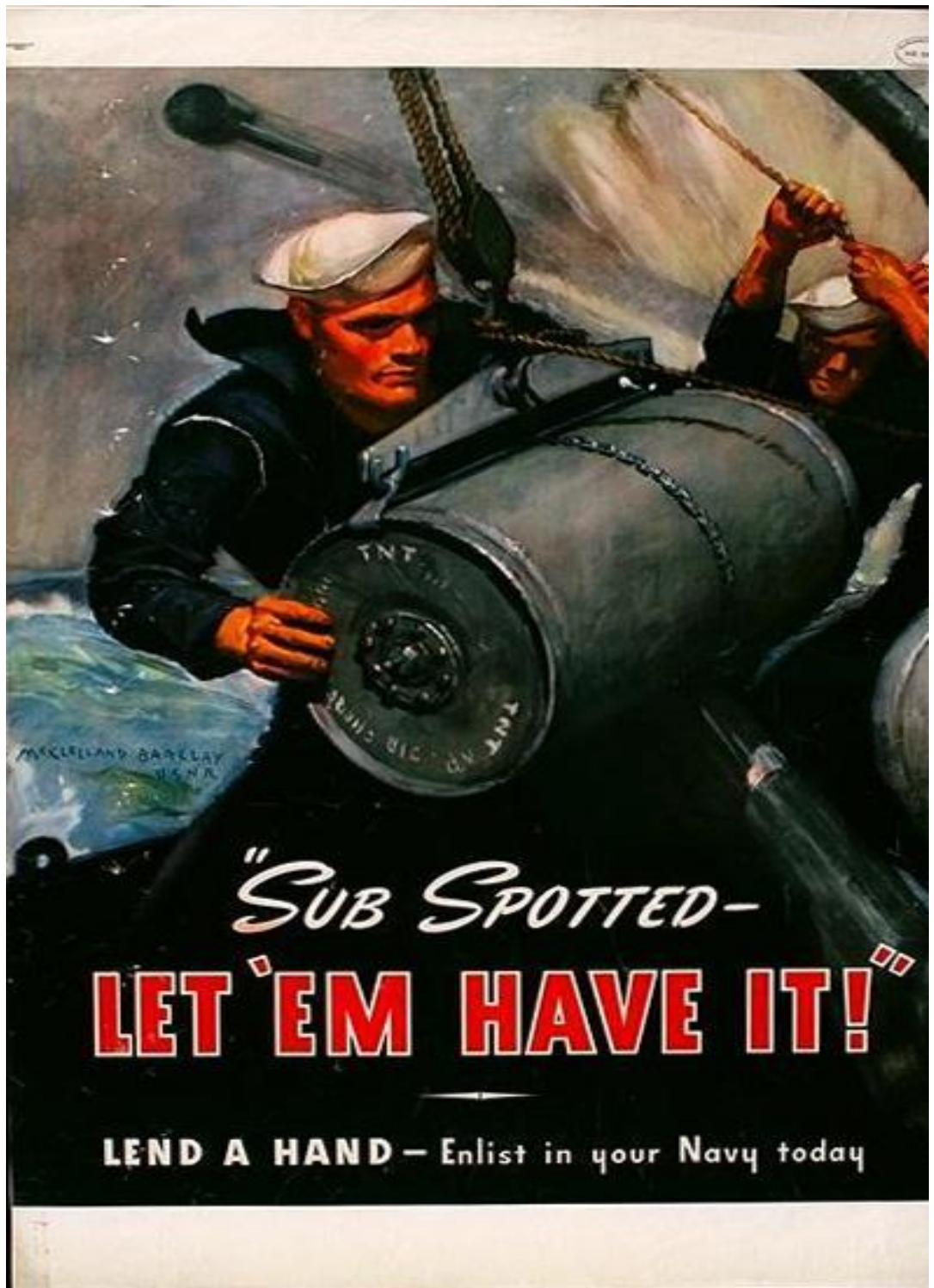
J Mellor. Wolverhampton and district United Ex service council. WV37BG 01902338904

I recently came across this very interesting article in " The Officers' Club (Inc)", June, Newsletter....

Just last month we reported on a simulator for Army tactical training. Well, now the Navy's got one.

The Navy's new training simulator – Marine Engineering Synthetic Training Environment (MESTE) – was opened at the Devonport Naval Base by Commodore Pat Williams on 2 June 2009. " The commissioning of the MESTE simulator brings us closer to our vision of being the best small nation Navy in the world". Said Commodore Williams at the opening. "The Navy is bringing seven new ships into service and moving to a period of higher operational activity, all of which will place new demands on engineers and ship operators. We recognized that simulation was the future for this kind of training and we set out to build a facility that gives our people the opportunity to learn skills and test them in a challenging and realistic environment."

A bit of trivia for the Chatham lads this is the year that the keel was laid for HMS "Victory", on 23 July, in the old single dock at Chatham,(replaced in 1858 by the present No. 2 Dock). The keel was 151 feet 3 inches long and built of elm (very durable under water and resistant to splitting when nails are driven in).



Royal Navy past and present
HMS "Daring", the Navy's newest and most powerful Destroyer will throw open its hatches to the public for the first time this summer. As well there will be a display of over 300 model boats and warships from the eighteenth century to the modern day with a miniature Battle of Trafalgar and Fleet Review created on the Mast Pond.

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and Portsmouth Naval Base. Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 July, 10 am - 6 pm.

<<http://www.historicdockyard.co.uk/events/event358.php>>

Former Royal Navy serviceman is world's oldest man

The Normandy Landings were the first operations of the Allied invasion of Normandy during World War II. The landings commenced on June 6, 1944 - D Day. Last month Henry Allingham, who was born 6 June 1898, celebrated his 113th birthday with a special party aboard HMS "President" in London, hosted by the Royal Navy, with whom he served during the Great War. One of the many gifts was a decanter of Pussers Rum, Henry's favourite tippie. With the recent death of Tomoji Tanabe in Japan, Henry is now officially the world's oldest man.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Allingham>

When and where did the term 'wooden wall' originate?"

"It's become such a well-known phrase now, often signifying the Royal Navy's fleet during the Napoleonic wars, that many think it's a peculiarly English term. However this is actually not the case - it is far older than that - and not English in origin...

Before the battle of Salamis (480 B.C.) the Delphic oracle predicted 'a wooden wall' would ensure victory. On the strength of the Oracle's words, Themistocles argued for the construction of a fleet of ships, telling his fellow Athenians that this would be their wooden wall. He was right, and the Persian fleet was destroyed."

**On a final note, we would like to thank the following Royals for their kind messages sent via Colleen to Eddie Edwardson's family.... John Mellor – Wolverhampton RMA & President of the British Foreign Legion; Derek Boorn – Poole RMA ex RM 42 Cdo; Jeff Trail – Secretary of the Exmouth RMA; our members Dennis Wilkinson, Jock Munro & Stan Grayland.

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Ph 625-0001

Fax: 625-0009

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"Please mention the Royal Marines Association."