

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION: Semaphore Short

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SEMAPHORE SHORT

MONDAY 19th APRIL 2021



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Stand to for Saint Vincent...

Today's Semaphore Short will be a little shorter than previous weeks, due to the fact that the Central Office team have redirected their efforts over the past week to the humanitarian support effort for Saint Vincent & the Grenadines.

On Friday 9th April, the La Soufrière volcano on the Caribbean island of Saint Vincent, which hadn't erupted since 1979, exploded violently and has displaced over 20,000 people on the island, with inhabitants being strongly urged to evacuate. Homes have been covered in a thick layer of ash, from an ash cloud that billowed six kilometres into the air, destroying personal belongings and wiping out homes.

The Royal Naval Association (RNA) Central Office team answered a call to action last week from a team of serving and ex-serving Royal Navy volunteers with personal connections to Saint Vincent, led by Petty Officer Aaron Dickson, who are coordinating a collection of desperately needed supplies.

Saint Vincent & the Grenadines are a member of the Commonwealth, and currently have over 500 Vincentians serving in the Royal Navy. There is also a huge community of Royal Navy Vincentian veterans and families settled both here in the UK and returned to the Caribbean.

Over the weekend, the Portsmouth based minibus has made over 50 collections from Chichester, Portsmouth, Fareham and the surrounding villages, filling the bus to the brim 4 times. After an article in the Portsmouth News and coverage on local television, offers of donations continue to pour in. We'd like to thank everyone for such an outpouring of support and ask you to bear with us as we continue to respond to everyone.

On Wednesday, the first container will sail from Southampton to the islands, with a planned arrival at the beginning of May. A second container is being scheduled for the 5th May, with the support of the British High Commission.

For branches and communities outside of Area 3, please hold fire on taking in any donations locally for the time being. With a warehouse full at present, items are currently being sorted and a list of priority items will be given to us for the second container in due course. We are currently planning the logistics for a national collection if it's deemed necessary by the British High Commission and the Saint Vincent volunteer network.

We will be updating the gallery below with photos of the project. A few on there to get us started!

[View Gallery](#)



What's on this week (19th – 25th April)

- Monday Night Fireside Chat: **Op Chariot – The Zeebrugge Raid**

The weekly Fireside Chat will be hosted again on Zoom **tonight**, where we will be joined once again by Terry Corner who will give a presentation on the Zeebrugge Raid of 1918 in the Belgian port of Bruges-Zeebrugge.

Join us at the regular time of **1800** with a tot in hand.

[Join the Fireside Chat here](#)

- **Saturday Night: Virtual Tot Time**

Every Saturday Night, for almost 12 months now, members from the Wrexham Branch have been hosting a Virtual Tot, inviting members worldwide to join in with them over Zoom. It's proven a lifeline and outlet for many of the RNA community, and they don't intend to wrap it up any time soon. To be involved, click on the link below...

[Find out more](#)

Join 'The Royal Naval Association: Community Site' on Facebook

If you haven't done so already, join the growing community group on Facebook where our members spin dits, host Zoom nights and update each other on branch activities. It's the best place to get your news hot-off-the-press...

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

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