

From: Charlotte Darlington comms@royalnavalassoc.com
Subject: ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION: Semaphore Short
Date: 26 Jul 2021 at 10:06:11
To: Charlotte Darlington comms@royalnavalassoc.com

SEMAPHORE SHORT

MONDAY 26 JULY 2021



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Raise a tot!

51 years ago this week the Royal Navy stopped issuing sailors their daily rum ration, ending a tradition that had been in place since 1655. We now call [the 31st July](#) 'Black Tot Day' and we know many of you enjoy marking the day with a tippie shared with friends.

"UP SPIRITS" was the call for those in the Royal Navy to muster for their daily issue of rum. This was a chance for sailors to come together daily and connect with one another. The past 18 months have presented many challenges, and the act of 'coming together' could not be more relevant and needed now.

Across the world, we would like to encourage you to mark the 51st anniversary of Black Tot Day raising a tot of rum with your Shipmates and/or loved ones [this Saturday](#).



A first-hand Fireside Chat on the Dhofar War

While the Americans were fighting in Vietnam, another war was being fought in the mountains of Dhofar, the southern province of the Sultanate of Oman. With the help of her allies, Oman defeated a Communist insurgency which, in essence, was a war for control of the Strait of Hormuz through which much of the oil sustaining the industrialised world must pass. Oman's victory was of great strategic importance, and yet the story of this hard-fought struggle is not widely known. Ian Gardiner, who, as a young officer commanded a company of Omani soldiers, will explain the background and describe what it was like to live and fight as an Arab in the high passes of Dhofar.

Ian was commissioned into the Royal Marines in 1968. He fought in the Dhofar War in Oman from 1973 to 1975 where he was decorated with the Omani Distinguished Service Medal for Gallantry. He also fought in the Falklands War in 1982 commanding a rifle company in 45 Commando Royal Marines. For over two years he commanded a RM detachment in the frigate HMS *Diomedea* and qualified as a Bridge Watchkeeper. After the IRA bombed the Royal Marines School of Music at Deal in 1989 he was appointed Commandant to help restore the morale of the RM Band Service. Subsequent command of 40 Commando included his fourth operational tour in Northern Ireland. He has also been an Equerry to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and is a graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies.

In his final appointment as Secretary to the [Military Committee](#) at NATO Headquarters in Brussels he was closely involved in the political and strategic direction of the Kosovo conflict. He left the Royal Marines in 2001 a brigadier and is now a keynote speaker on leadership, and an author of military history.

Join the chat via Zoom at 1800 this evening via the link below...

[Join the Fireside Chat here](#)



A slice of discounted, UK luxury

Are you still looking for a UK break this summer? Did you know that as a member of the Royal Navy community you are probably eligible for a range of discounts on a stay at the China Fleet Club; a beautiful country club set in 180 acres of stunning Cornish countryside along the banks of the River Tamar and just 10 minutes from Plymouth it is an ideal location for visiting both Cornwall and Devon? China Fleet has long been famed for its championship standard 18-hole golf course and its range of gym, racquet sport, Aqua Spa, swimming pool, beauty facilities and Woodland Adventure Golf.

As Ex-serving RN/RM personnel, you and your immediate family are beneficiaries of the China Fleet Trust. As serving Royal Navy / Royal Marine personnel, Reservist or RFA you and your immediate family are automatic members of the China Fleet Country Club and primary beneficiaries of the China Fleet Trust. Enjoy a range of discounts and reduced membership fees, including preferential room rates of just £90 per night.

[Visit the website here](#)



What's on this week (26th July – 1st August)

- [Monday Night Fireside Chat: The Dhofar War](#)

The weekly Fireside Chat will be hosted again on Zoom **tonight**, where we will be joined by Ian Gardiner will give a first-hand account and presentation on the Dhofar War from 1963 - 1976.

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

[Join the Fireside Chat here](#)

- [Tuesday Afternoon: The Paintings of Hieronymus Bosch](#)

Bosch's paintings of devils, demons and deadly sins are truly unforgettable. At the same time, his extraordinary treatment of religious themes can be deeply moving. His works are among the most mysterious in the whole of European art, yet if we examine them in the contexts of contemporary politics and cultural sources we find that not only are they perfectly understandable, but they also provide an amazing insight into the society in which the artist lived. Join Arts Society Lecturer Val Woodgate at **1400 on Tuesday 27th July** to learn more.

[Register here](#)

- [Tuesday Evening: Safe Against Scams](#)

Join West Sussex County Council [on Tuesday 27th](#) at 1800 to find

out about useful information and resources to help keep your family, friends and yourself safe from scams.

More than ever before, we have been relying on technology to enable us to work, learn and connect with each other. Inevitably, criminals have exploited and used our increased digital lives to their advantage. The pandemic has seen a rise in scams including: telephone, courier and romance fraud which have all become an increased concern. Not only is there the financial impact on victims but the emotional impact can be even more significant.

To help raise awareness of these different types of scams, how to spot them, and what to do if you or your family become a victim, the West Sussex Community Safety & Wellbeing Team alongside Trading Standards are running free monthly scams awareness webinars for you to attend.

[Register here](#)

- **[Saturday Night: Virtual Tot Time – Black Tot Day!](#)**

Every [Saturday Night](#), for over 18 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

Bldg 1/087 Scott Road, HM Naval Base Portsmouth, PO1 3LU

Charity Reg: 266982

www.royal-naval-association.co.uk