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# 09 JANUARY 2023

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**GREETINGS SHIPMATES** - Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well. Only 51 weeks till Christmas - can't wait!

As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in future Shorts, email me or the team at [comms@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:comms@royalnavalassoc.com). Whilst all contributions will be considered, please note that this is a short update newsletter and we can't publish everything. Some content may be passed to Mike for inclusion in the next Circular.

**FIRESIDE CHATS** Tonight's fireside chat will be a talk by Rear Admiral Steve Moorhouse who is the Director Force Generation for the Royal Navy. Next week's chat (Monday 16th) will be given by Richard Cutler who will talk of the work of the UK International Search and Rescue organisation (UK ISAR).

Fireside chats, unless promulgated otherwise start at 18:30 each Monday. To access the fireside chats, access zoom [here](#)

Meeting ID is 288 830 5105 Password is Shipmate



**RNA AGM AND CONFERENCE AND BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC COMMEMORATIONS** The 2023 RNA AGM/Conference will be held in Liverpool over the weekend 26-28 May 2023. The Battle of Atlantic 80th (BoA80) commemorations take place concurrently with Shipmates included as they wish (the RNA is embedded in Naval Regional Commander led plans). Area 10 are also putting together golf on the Friday, plus fabulous Adelphi Hotel based entertainment on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. The Adelphi RNA AGM will take place early on Saturday morning, with a black-tie Gala Dinner in the evening. Liverpool will be busy with a civil reception on the Friday night, a light show and a concert performed by His Majesty's Royal Marine Band in the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on the Saturday (book [here](#)), and drumhead service on the Sunday (a few BOA veterans to be present, plus as many other Shipmates as possible). Also planned is a military village on the pier head alongside many vessels visiting the city for BoA80. Finally, Area 10 have secured accommodation at two Liverpool hotels:

- *The Adelphi, a 3-star hotel hosting our Conference.*
- *The Novotel, about (1/2 km from the Adelphi), for those liking a little luxury.*

Information including costs, contact numbers and booking forms are available at the rear of the latest Semaphore Circulars which can be found [here](#). Do please book asap before rooms are withdrawn, and come and join in the commemorations and fun.

**ARMED FORCES COVENANT AND VETERANS ANNUAL REPORT** The 2022 Armed Forces Covenant and Veterans Annual Report was published on 19 December 2022, covering the period of 2021 to 2022. This is the 11th Annual Report on the Armed Forces Covenant since its introduction as a statutory requirement in the Armed Forces Act 2011, and it is the second

integrated report between the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Office for Veterans' Affairs (OVA) in the Cabinet Office. The press release from the MoD can be seen [here](#), a summary of the report can be accessed [here](#) and the full report (lengthy!) can be found [here](#).

**LAST MINUTE MALTA BREAK DEAL** Shipmate Mike Critchley who runs Maritime Heritage Tours has late availability places on a winter break to Malta staying at the Preluna Hotel for 10 days from Jan 17th. Accommodation is on a half board basis in a sea view room and the cost is £610.00 (no single occupancy supplements). The cost does not include flights but does include airport transfers in Malta and three organised tours. For those that are able to drop everything and have valid passports, this is a great deal and well below the market rate. More information on the trip and booking [here](#).

**LORNA COCKAYNE** The RNA learnt late last month of the sad passing of Lorna Cockayne, one of the last living WRNS member that served as a code-breaker at Bletchley Park during the Second World War. In 2021 and in recognition of her work, the French government appointed her to the Légion d'honneur, one of its highest awards. She was presented with her medal by Commodore (now Rear Admiral) Jude Terry. Lorna's story is fascinating, a little of which is described in her Daily Telegraph obituary [here](#). RIP Lorna and thank you. She is pictured below on the left after the award of the Légion d'honneur and on the right as a young Wren during her time at Bletchley Park.



**AND FINALLY.....**



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