



GREETINGS SHIPMATES Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well. As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in future Shorts, email me or the team [here](#). 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 used for inclusion in the next Circular.

FIRESIDE CHATS Tonight's Fireside Chat will be a fascinating insight into life rowing boat across the Atlantic. Lieutenant Commander Hugo Mitchell-Heggs was part of the Royal Navy four man 'HMS Oardacious' team that recently took part in the Talisker race. The team became the fastest military team in history to row the 3000 miles across the Atlantic in an astonishing 37 days. Next week's chat (TBC) will be given by Vice-Admiral Mike Gretton who will cover the first WWII Tonnage War and in particular, Convoy ONS-5, which was hounded and attacked by between 40 and 60 German U-Boats during the crossing from Liverpool to Halifax in April/May 1943.



Credit – Atlantic Campaigns – Penny Bird

Fireside chats take place every Monday at 18:30 and to access the chats, log into zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.

90 YEAR OLD CHARLES WYLIE'S JUMP FOR JOY Commander Charles Wylie Royal Navy (Retired) will celebrate his upcoming 90th birthday by jumping out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft strapped to a member of the Red Devils. He is doing the jump to raise money for Alzheimer's Research UK in recognition of the support given to his wife Jean, who has been coping with this terrible disease for the past nine years. Charles is a good friend of the RNA and has been a guest for a Fireside Chat in the past. If you can spare a few pounds, you can find out a little more about the jump and sponsor Charles [here](#).

CENOTAPH – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY We are delighted to have been allocated 120 tickets to this year's Cenotaph Parade in Whitehall on Sunday 12 November. To register your intention to parade, please email Sara at Central Office [here](#) by 11 August.

FROM BRIXHAM TO CHELSEA PENSIONER Brixham Rugby Club recently hosted Brixham Royal Naval Association and a very special returning guest, together with Dartmouth RNA and Brixham Royal British Legion. Former Chairman of the Branch, Edgar Lawrance, aged 89 left the area in September 2022 to become a Chelsea Pensioner. He is pictured here with current chairman Vic Williscroft. This was his first visit back to Brixham and he was delighted to give a talk about his new life in London. Edgar was granted permission by Royal Hospital Chelsea to attend the area meeting in his Chelsea Pensioners uniform and he looked quite resplendent! There was also a talk from Blind Veterans UK followed by a fish and chip supper and a tot to round the evening off.



E-MAIL ISSUES As some of you will be aware, we are experiencing problems in the way that our auto-mail system sends out the Semaphore Short and the links to the Circular. There are a few Shipmates that are not getting mail from us, despite having elected to do so. Please be aware that we are working towards a solution and thanks for your patience. Please do make sure that comms@royalnavalassoc.com is on your safe list.

SIGN UP TO THE NEW RNA WEEKLY LOTTERY The RNA's weekly lottery launched at the national conference on Saturday 27th May. By playing the RNA lottery supporters will not only have the chance to win some wonderful cash prizes, they will be backing a rank-blind network of serving, veteran and family members of the Royal Navy. Once players have registered online, they will be entered into the draw every Friday they are in credit (£1 per line, per week). Please do sign up and play our lottery, and if you're not a member – join us! To sign up for the lottery and have a chance of winning some cash whilst supporting the RNA, look [here](#).

ROYAL NAVY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CUP FINAL This year's final will be between CLR Royal Marines and HMS Queen Elizabeth and will be played at Havant and Waterlooville Football Club on Wednesday 14th June. Kick off is at 19:00 and entry is free. The club address is Westleigh Park, Havant, PO9 5TH.

AND FINALLY.....

The Women's Royal Naval Service bakers always looked forward to their mid-afternoon drill sessions



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