



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 passed to Mike for inclusion in the next Circular.

FIRESIDE CHATS This evening's Fireside Chat will be given by David Lewin who will give us a fascinating insight into the history of waterproof clothing. Next week's chat on Monday 22nd will be given by Mike Milne and will tell the story of the Western Approaches Tactical Unit (WATU) which was set up during WWII to develop new tactics to counter the German U-Boat threat to convoys. Quite aptly, given the upcoming RNA conference venue and the Battle of Atlantic 80th commemorations, the WATU was located in Liverpool. The picture shows the unit in February 1943 (©IWM A 14554). 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.



CORONATION MEDAL There hasn't been one for seventy years but the announcement has been made that a coronation medal will be issued to serving members of the Armed Forces, Reserve Forces and the Emergency Services. The eligibility falls in line with the previous three Queen's Jubilee Medals in that recipients need to have at least five year's service (which can be aggregated) on the 6th May 2023. Medals have already begun to be issued to entitled personnel.



WHITE ENSIGN ASSOCIATION JOBS Our colleagues at the White Ensign Association are recruiting for two key posts. This is a great opportunity to work with a charity that is centric to the welfare of our naval community. The jobs are [Employment Consultant](#) and [Employer Relationship Manager](#). If you click on each link, it will take you to the appropriate COBSEO page which details the jobs and how to apply.

BILL SILVESTER MEMORIAL For those that live in or close to Portsmouth or can travel, there will be a memorial service for the late Shipmate Bill Silvester on 3 June 2023 at 11:00 at Lumps Fort (Southsea Model Village). Bill, who died earlier this year, joined up at the age of 15 and served in HMS Berwick on the Arctic Convoys during WW2 and was also involved in the D-Day Landings for which he received the Legion D'Honneur. The Chaplain of Portsmouth Naval Base, The Rev Ralph Barber will be officiating the small service and the Royal Marine Band Portsmouth is providing a Royal Marine Bugler. Bill lived at Admiral Jellicoe House, run by the [Royal Naval Benevolent Trust](#) and was also supported by a number of charities working closely together, including the Royal Naval Association and SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity which brought Bill back from France during the Covid pandemic. More on Bill's extraordinary exploits and life can be found [here](#).



FIRST FOR HERMES ASSOCIATION We are very happy to celebrate a first for the HMS Hermes Association. Congratulations to Carol Marshall, the new Association Madam Chair. Carol is the first non-serving and first female to ever hold the role. Carol's late father was one of the lucky survivors of the sinking of HMS Hermes, off the coast of Ceylon on 9th April 1942 and Carol has been an Associate Member for 18 years and Secretary for the last 12 years. The HMS Hermes Association has recently changed its constitution to allow associate members to stand as officers. Carol said: "We needed to address the fact that age and abilities are restricting succession of officers to the committee, I am very proud to be stepping into this role. I only decided to go forward for this role after attending the CONA meeting and hearing of the associations that were facing closure, which is so sad as lifetime friendships are made in these associations. The [HMS Hermes Association](#) is part of CONA, the Confederation of Naval Associations, chaired by the Royal Naval Association.



ROYAL MARINES CONCERT – DUNFERMLINE For Shipmates North of the border and for those visiting, the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Scotland will be performing a concert with the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony on Thursday 22nd June at the Vine Conference Centre, Dunfermline at 19:30. To get tickets, visit Eventbrite [here](#).

ABOUT TIME! BZ to the RN men's rugby team after comprehensively beating the Army 39-22 on Saturday, our first win in 13 years. We showed them how to march on the Mall and how to play rugby at Twickenham! Unfortunately, despite digging in until the final whistle, the RN ladies team were overwhelmed by a superior Army side and lost 67-5.

AND FINALLY...Something topical from last weekend courtesy of Shipmate Bob Carr

