



SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES This week's Short is out early to acknowledge the 80th anniversary of VJ Day – see below. Next up in the RNA's diary is the RNRMC Race Across the UK; Bill and Jon (Team RNA – Ready N Able) are incredibly grateful to all shipmates and branches who have donated to their fundraising page so far. "It is a real boost to know that so many of you are behind us – BZ the RNA for having such supportive members!" If you would like to contribute and make the RNA the top of the leaderboard you can donate [here](#).

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ON THE MARCH?

There is still time to join the Naval Associations Biennial Parade in London on 14 September – but don't forget to let us know if you intend to march in Whitehall. You do not need to be a member of the RNA to march – you can march with any Association – but that Association should let us know in advance, and we still need your details so we can keep a tally of numbers expected. Use this form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/92g2vDkmCK>, and if you have any questions about the Parade please contact us on ams@rnassoc.org



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM Today is VJ Day, and marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2 when Japan surrendered. While the war in Europe ended three months earlier, thousands of British and Commonwealth Service personnel – including many Royal Navy sailors – fought on in the Far East. With the Japanese fighting every inch of the way as they were pushed back out of Burma, Borneo and Pacific island chains, the casualty rate of a final invasion of Japan was expected to be colossal, but that nightmare scenario was rendered redundant with the deployment of atomic bombs by the Americans at Hiroshima (6 August 1945) and Nagasaki (9 August), which brought hostilities to a rapid conclusion. More than 90,000 British troops were casualties in the war against Japan – 30,000 died and 37,500 were held prisoner, often in appalling conditions. Their service and sacrifice is being remembered today – August 15 – in events around the UK and beyond, many of which can be found on the VE/VJ Day 80 website <https://ve-vjday80.gov.uk/vj-day/>. The King and Queen will join veterans at a National Commemorative Event at the National Memorial Arboretum, starting with a Two Minute Silence which will be observed at midday. The event will be broadcast live on BBC One and iPlayer from 11.30am.

LISBON MARU To tie in with VJ 80, the documentary 'The Sinking of The Lisbon Maru' is available to view online from today in the UK and Ireland – click here: <https://www.odysseychinesecinema.uk>. The documentary covers events in October 1942 when Lisbon Maru, a Japanese transport ship secretly carrying 1,816 British POWs, was torpedoed off the coast of China by an American submarine unaware of its human cargo. Through rare footage, survivor accounts and expert interviews, the documentary uncovers the harrowing journey of the prisoners as the ship began to sink, leaving them trapped below deck. The film also highlights local Chinese fishermen who risked their lives to rescue many prisoners, and who were honoured with the unveiling of a memorial in China earlier this year. More than 800 men died in the sinking. See the **August Semaphore Circular** (page 11) for more details of cinema screenings of the film and associated events.

FIRESIDE CHATS The Fireside Chat programme is currently on a summer break, and will return on 1 September when Lt Cdr Johnny Mason will talk on the subject of Force Generation of a Carrier Strike Group. Fireside Chats start at 1830 every Monday, and to access the chats, log into Zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.

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ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

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