



HMS Bulwark Albion & Centaur Association

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EDITORIAL

Let me first apologize for not including Bob Cowans address in the last R08. Having included the full committee in the xmas issue I thought you would all have taken note, however from the amount of calls to the sec and myself it would appear I thought wrong. Both Bobs' and our new membership secs details are included within this issue and also in the enclosed membership list. I had also included Bobs address on the subs reminder chits by the way. Having got that off my chest thank you for all the encouraging messages even though Pete Childs story was chopped in half.

I believe that we are breaking new ground this being the first time we have included an advertisement in the R08 please support John Lambert if this is your subject, or even if you think you might be interested.

Prior to editing the R08 I must admit that I used to relish in spotting various errors in printed matter. I now realise how difficult it is to produce the perfect copy, however with the aid of my new proofreader I am striving to eliminate those embarrassing errors, which occur when editing on a computer. A bumper issue is planned for xmas so please keep the dits, especially any crimbo stories, flowing in.

Deadline for xmas edition 1st November

Mike Noonan

31 Worsley Street

Southsea P04 9PR Tel 02392341381

e-mail MikeNoonan@aol.com

And finally.....

Don't forget to fill in your membership details forms (in this issue I promise !) and return it to me as our records are in need in updating !

Any **volunteers** for the post of **Association Historian** ? First proposed at the last AGM, it was thought by the committee that the historical facts and memories of our ships could be collated by a willing volunteer. A tall order, but could be enjoyable for a budding amateur historian ! Any volunteers ? Over to you..... AR.

Yours Aye
Sec

New Members and Amendments

Within the short space of time since the membership list was completed and printed the following new members have joined :-

1505	TED BEAVIS Bulwark 69-72	POAF(O)	Prospect House 44 Chamberlaine Road Wyke Regis Weymouth DT4 9EY
1506	RAYMOND(SHEFF)TAYLOR Bulwark 1960	RA Gunner (42 Cdo)	8 Osborne Road Kiveton Park Sheffield S26 6PR
1507	CHRIS(CHEYENNE) BODY Bulwark 1961	RO2(NGS Party)	199 Sandbanks Road Lilliput Poole BH14 8EJ
1508	ERNIE GENT Bulwark 65-67	L/Bombdr 148 bty RA	White Lodge Hyden Cross East Meon GU32 1QS
1509	BERT PACK Bulwark 65-67	Cpl(HQ 3Cdo) Albion 69-71	35 Minstead Road Eastney Portsmouth PO4 9JP Sgt (42 Cdo) also RM orderly to FOAC
1510	YVONNE JONES(Assoc)		The Chairmans wife
1511	SYLVIA MARTIN(Assoc) Husband Bill served on Bulwark & Albion		86 Cecilia Road Ramsgate Kent CT11 7EA
1512	LAWRENCE VICKERY Bulwark 60-62	Bombdr(42Cdo)	Henley Retreat Broadway Road Aston Somerville WR12 7JF

1513	LARRY LAMBERT		24 Chiltern Close Ampthill
	Albion 56 – 59	ME1/LME	Bedford MS45 2QA
	Bulwark 61-64	POME	
1514	PETER(PUSSER) HILL		27 Ebor Manor Keyningham
	Bulwark 78-80	AB-LS(S)	E Yorks HU9 3LN

Please amend your membership lists for the following members:

Laurie Barrett Bulwark 1954-56 OrdSea/AB

Lofty Bullen LM(E) Engineers writer

Bill Henderson Albion 1953-54 Marine (D)

Change of Address

Neil Montgomery	478	Gaol House 27 Green St, Hinton St. George TA17 8SQ
Ken Marlow	593	1 Northcliff Heights Northcliff Gdns Shanklin IOW
Brian Waldon	803	5 JH Taylor Drive Northam Bideford EX39 1TT
Paddy Radford	1003	Flat1 Charmilk Ct, Spa Rd Weymouth DT3 5DP
Sandy Gailbraith	1194	15 Russell Ave, Pukekohe New Zealand 1800
Roy Smart	1309	Cross Tree Cottage 5 Banbury Lane Byfield NN11 6UX
Frank Ellam	1325	19 Sleaford Close Balsham Cambridge CB1 6DP
Peter Dainty	1367	8 Bakerhouse Grove Great Barr Birmingham B43 5HX
John Mills	1403	14 Graig-Y-Coed Penclawdd Swansea SA4 3RL
Steve Stevenson	1423	141 Meadowsweet Rd, Creekmoor Poole BH17 7XY

Amendment to membership list

Member number 1253 should read MARKLEW not MARLOW

RESIGNATIONS

The following members have resigned from the association :-

Alan Benstead 201

P Thomas 1259

Subs reminder

The response to the idea of paying subs by standing order has been very encouraging, there were some initial snags but we are getting there.

Anyone that has not yet paid their subs by cheque or sent in a standing order form and received a reminder chit with the spring R08 please do so ASAP otherwise regretfully this will be the last R08 that you will receive.

Can you help ???

Did you know Hadyn (Spike) Hughes official number P/J926352, served on Albion as an AB late 1950s or early 60s in 39A mess and came from Doncaster. Hadyns' son is keen to contact his Father or find out any information about him. If you feel you can help please contact him direct at Hadyn Hughes 16 Queens Court, 8 Northney St, London E14 8BT Tel:- 0207 5151037 or mobile 07930 320349.

Book Review

“A Very Ordinary Signalman’s Odyssey” by Jack Love

This is one of the best accounts of life on the lower deck before and during WWII that I have yet read.

Training as a boy at Ganges in 1938 he paints a real picture of life in that well remembered!!! Training establishment.

Moving on to a commission on the Devonshire in the med (Spanish civil war patrols and Palestine) before spending the early war years on the destroyer Inglefield. The ship appeared to have a lucky life during the Malta Convoys, Battle of the Atlantic and Russian convoys.

One of many to be detailed off for combined ops whilst fell in on Drake parade ground(submariners to the left combined ops to the right) Jack found himself as a killick bunting onboard a landing ship carrying troops and landing craft to invade Burma, instead they turned around at Ceylon and invaded Italy and the South of France before heading east to polish off the japs. As he says” lucky for us the yanks dropped the A-bomb and the war was over”. Throughout the book he describes the characters to be found in the mess, he is critical of some of his senior officers whilst also praising the good ones. Being a signalman he was party to many happenings on the bridge unknown to the rest of us.

Well recommended. Published by Merlin Books Ltd ISBN 0 86303 711-9.

Lewin of Greenwich: The authorized biography of Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin by Richard Hill

Many of our members must have heard of Admiral Lewin many possibly served under him. Entering the navy in 1939 he served in the Med, Taranto, and Matapan were just two of the actions he was involved in before going North to the Artic convoys during which he was awarded a DSC and three mentioned in dispatches. Post war he commanded HMS Corrunna, the Dartmouth Training Squadron and HMS Hermes before taking up senior appointments, CinC Fleet 1st Sea Lord and finally Chief of Defence Staff during the Falklands war. He was often described as “the finest naval officer of his generation”. Published Cassell £25.

Letter from Les Kirkden:

“Whilst on Albion early 1963 one of our REMs(Radio Electrical Mechs) decided he was going to take up pipe smoking. Someone in the mess convinced him he needed permission from all departments of the ship to do this & also let the stokers know when he was going to light up. All the ships departments were notified & decided to play along. He was issued with a card similar to a joining routine card & went to all departments to get it stamped. I think he got the card all stamped but not sure if he cottoned on before having to inform the stokers.

Also when I wrote on the mirror “OUT OF ORDER” with a chinagraph pencil he said “what’s wrong with the mirror then ?”.

Festival of the Sea (IFOS)

Plans are now well advanced for IFOS which takes place in Portsmouth Naval Base over the August Bank Holiday Weekend. A total of over 1,000 vessels are planned to take part including over 40 warships this includes Illustrious, 150 commercial ships, 30 large/medium square rigged ships and 650 classic/traditional/modern yachts and motor boats. Royal Marines will be afloat in no.3 basin with their hovercraft and rigid raiders in a daily “battle” which will also include Apache, Lynx, Merlin and Sea King helicopters, Harriers, a Tornado and possible the new Typhoon fighters. In a large arena there will be military displays and concerts including of course the Royal Marines bands.

The Army and RAF will be represented, there are even going to be tanks performing in one of the displays.

Weather permitting there will be quite an airshow planned with everything from the RN Historic Flight to modern jets and the Red Arrows. The whole show is open from 1000 through to midnight each day.

The NATO squadron will also be present with destroyers/frigates from Canada, Germany Netherlands Norway Portugal with the US Navy’s newest warship USS Winston S Churchill making her first overseas visit

If you are on the web www.festivalofthesea.co.uk is the address

If you have nothing better to do and want a great day or weekend out COME ON DOWN.

NOT LIKE IT USED TO BE !!!

Probably all of us at some time or other have used words to that effect when talking about "today's" navy.

The following extracts were written in 1871 when major changes both in the ships and conditions were under way.

"In the old days sailors were full of frolicsome fun, with a possibility of mischief. A ship would come home and land a cargo of men ready to be fleeced to their hearts content, and well worth fleecing. The crew of the Hannibal paid off late at night 12 or 13 years ago included men with 50 or 60 pounds in their pockets. They roamed the streets of Portsmouth the next night without a penny in their pockets. Happily those days when sailors were the victims of crimps are well nigh now over, and with them the old seaman has vanished. The old hands of 10 years ago are out of the field, the stokehold has superceded the decks, and rigging."

Ten years later when the Navy was fully committed to large steam-driven turret gun ships, in a pamphlet on the seamans' life onboard a warship a less nostalgic picture was drawn of the past.

"No leave to go on shore from the day the ship commissioned until paid off. No wages paid until paid off, but occasional prize money. The ship filled with prostitutes at every port by permission of the CO.

Not many years ago (since 1840) the Captain of a frigate in the West Indies gave an order to the 1st Lt, that every man and boy was to have a black woman onboard, the order was carried out,(this was an exceptional case by that date.)

The majority of junior and senior rates got drunk on every opportunity, flogging was a weekly almost daily occurrence. It was almost certain someone would be drunk at evening quarters, the punishment was flogging at 1130 the next day. The men as a rule could neither read nor write. They were as brave as lions and generous, if utterly reckless with their money when they got it, it could be called generosity. After a three years commission men have received £60 to £100 in pay irrespective of prize money.

As a general rule they lost all their money the first night ashore and returned to sign on for another term of service. Such was the seamans; life but all this has now changed.”

Finally !!

Your Treasurer is Bob Cowan and his address is:
R R Cowan 10 Hereford Road Southsea PO5 2DR
Telephone :- 02392 833687

Your Membership secretary is :
Leigh Easton Glenmoray Hayford Place Camsburrton
Stirling FK7 9JX
e-mail eastleigh@lineone.net

Slop Room

The following slops are available direct from Bob Cowan:-

Bulwark Books (a compilation from all commissions) £7.00

Blazer Badges £6.00 – at present only Centaur and Heron in stock.

Cap Tallies £4.00 – Bulwark Albion & Centaur in stock plus one Blazer.

Ties - £5.00 – Centaur only in stock.

If you are interested in any other items please contact Bob.

Don't forget keep those stories coming in, just to jog your memories who was there for the Melika incident, or the Lakonia, or going aground up the River Plate or a hundred and one other things the three ships were involved in over the years, share them with the rest of us.