

H.M.S. SUPERB (CRUISER) ASSOCIATION

A MAGAZINE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP

DECEMBER 2018



OUR SWORDS WE BARE
OUR SPIRITS DARE

CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION IS ROBIN SMITH

CONTENTS

Andy's Musings	Click Here to Go There
Navy News	Click Here to Go There
Letters to The Editor	Click Here to Go There
Jottings of a Very Ordinary Seaman	Click Here to Go There
Did You Know	Click Here to Go There
Crime Warning	Click Here to Go There
Photo Album	Click Here to Go There
Slops	Click Here to Go There
Crossed the Bar	Click Here to Go There
People Searching for People	Click Here to Go There
Members who receive the magazine	Click Here to Go There



Superb - Defending Britain Since 1710



ANDY BRIERLEY'S BLOG

Hello Shipmates,

I have mentioned naval shipbuilding at Babcock's small yard in Devon before. They are lauded in Ireland as constructors of their new class of Offshore Patrol Vessels. Five star build quality, problem free trials, fit for service, virtually straight off the blocks, extolled in Irish Parliament as 'value for money'!

Surprise, surprise, our noble lords decide that yard must be 'shut down' for lack of further orders. They are able to enact this folly as Government own a lump of its shares, allowing it to block desires of 'on-site working board of directors'.

Meanwhile, 'back at the ranch' - B.A.E. Clyde, not long ago, launched *H.M.S. Forth*, first of five, new type O.P.V's for the R.N. On trials, more than one hundred defects were high-lighted - the



least of which was 'bolt heads fixed with glue', can you believe that?, life rafts that would not deploy; that must mean the crew 'cast off under a death sentence.

B.A.E. accepted a £15 million charge due to 'ongoing quality issues'. Their chief executive Charles Woodward is on record as saying, 'As we start building type 26 frigates, lessons are being learned (*not 'have been learnt'*) from

this, making our maritime business 'Match Fit'.

Where does this 'grand panjandrum' learn such 'horseshit' (word allowed in the Oxford English Dictionary)?

Would you - would the Nation, put building of future 'Trident' in the hands of such people, to misuse, waste, the nation's -our - money?

One learns the M.O.D. has just brought building of future type 31 export frigates to a grinding halt. The fond hope that they finally learn a lesson is dashed on seeing the R.U.S.I. (Royal United Services Institute) report; the top defence 'think tank'. It's about the cash!!! We learn 'Royal Navy and wider maritime abilities' were strangled because operations in Iraq and Afghanistan were funded by the Naval Support Budget. Not a lot of salt water in either of those locations!



U.K. government boasts fifth or sixth largest military budget in the world at £38 billion, after the U.S.A., Russia, China, India and France. No one, it seems, is too concerned about what hardware is forthcoming for that sum. Following B.A.E's. nineteen (19) year development for, a much needed, maritime patrol aircraft Nimrod, all British manufacture, a star in its species, the programme was cancelled after an expenditure of £4 billion.

It is a gross embarrassment to read the U.S. bureau's experts comment on such a performance, referring also to £6.2 billion spent on a pair of, so called, Super Carriers; quote ' never has a country spent so much to achieve less in modern history'. That overblown title is quietly being modified, if you keep an eye on sections of the 'think tank', which now says they are not intended to be 'traditional aircraft carriers' but rather, a strange animal called an 'airfield option' for the R.A.F. to deploy Britain's ' expeditionary F35 Jet Force.

What a disgrace the R.A.F. have taken over; Fleet Air Arm, for a second time in its history, again, leaving a 'toothless skeleton'.

A fanfare left Blighty's shores with the *Queen Elizabeth* crossing the Atlantic 'guarded' (?) by the Duke Frigate. That frigate was not a 'towed array' version to keep Russian subs. away from gathering 'sound signatures' and 'photos of underwater hull shape, prop size' etc.

What was the frigate guarding? Maybe those 'dim dicks' in the crew who 'drunk and disorderly' were to urinate on cars and people from the club balcony.

One hero thought the scene was a replay of the U.K. market towns, when the club turn out, jobs negotiating with police in a language to make ones ears burn. He tried to push a 'female U.S. police member' about. She 'tazered' him in short order before a paddy wagon ride to the pokey.

Another shed load of goodwill destroyed for the next R.N. vessel to visit Miami My solution would have been to strip them of their uniform, supply address of nearest U.K. consul so they could purchase a fare home at their own expense. The press report of that incident warrants it!

Tatty bye Shipmates.

Disgusted of Newington



NAVY NEWS

That's how you park a warship! Royal Navy captain hits back after sexist remark is aimed at his wife's boat 'parking' skills

The Evening Standard



The female Commanding Officer has been praised for her driving skills

A Royal Navy captain has hit back at sexists who made a jibe on Twitter over his wife's abilities to 'park' a 60m minesweeper warship.

Rich Harris, who is the commanding officer on board HMS Raleigh, posted a video of his wife Claire Thompson deftly berthing the ship she commands in a tweet that has since gone viral.

Captain Harris said he posted the video is in response to a sexist remark about women drivers, however he did not reveal exactly what the remark was.

He wrote online: "A while ago, in a response to a tweet about my wife driving her warship, somebody made a comment about women drivers.

"This is my wife berthing her ship between a container ship and destroyer.



"No tankers, no fuss, not easy."

The sped up footage shows the commanding officer neatly slotting HMS Ledbury between the two ships.

It has since had over 4,800 retweets and 20,000 likes on Twitter.

Mr Harris said: "I have been blown away by the response to online to my tweet. I posted it quite simply to say how proud I am of my wife and to show that in the Royal Navy, women can do anything."

It has prompted many people to congratulate the commanding officer on her "excellent" parking skills. Other women flooded Twitter to share their experiences about being the butt of jokes about "women drivers."

One woman wrote: "I'm a lady who can drive a cattle rig better than most guys, so I hear all the jokes, surprised exclamations and insults too.

"I can only imagine how hard it is to berth a warship."

Laini Taylor said: "My dad was a US Navy Captain and did that too. I'm thrilled to know there are women driving ships these days."

While Julie Collins wrote: "it's fantastic that you publicly admire your talented wife. I can't help feeling sad though that it's still seen as amazing that a woman might be able to be excellent in a demanding job that requires high level practical and leadership skills."

Ms Thompson is lieutenant commander of HMS Ledbury, a Hunt-class mine countermeasure vessel. It was commissioned on 11 June 1981.

HMS Ledbury is one of six Royal Navy warships currently taking part in Exercise Saif Sareea in the Middle East. It is the largest combined military exercise for UK forces since 2002.

Mr Harris is a commanding officer of HMS Raleigh. It's the largest Royal Navy training establishment in the South West.

He resides in Portsmouth with his wife Claire where they share hobbies of watching rugby and playing golf, according to the Royal Navy website.



This year, the Royal Navy was named in The Times Top 50 employers for employers for women as a leader on workplace gender equality.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

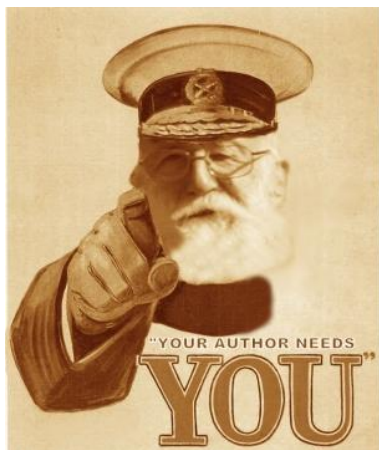


SLOPS (FREE ADVERTISING)

This section contains adverts from members. If you decide to purchase an item from them please note you deal directly with the member selling.

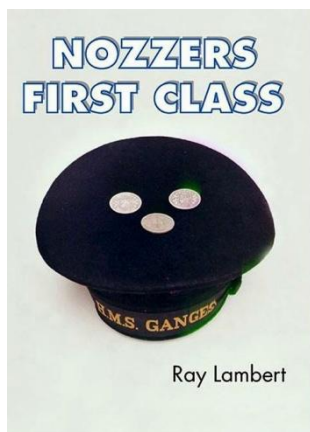
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Journalist & Best Selling Author



OUR IN-HOUSE **BEST SELLING AUTHOR** IS OFFERING THE FOLLOWING BOOKS AT A SPECIAL PRICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION. BUY NOW AS HE'S JUST HAD HIS 81ST BIRTHDAY AND NEEDS THE MONEY TO KEEP HIMSELF IN THE LUXURY TO WHICH HE'S BECOME ACCUSTOMED AS A **RETIRED ROYAL NAVY VETERAN** !

Ray Lambert



NOZZERS GO WEST



Ray Lambert

Follow the author when he was a handsome young man in Ganges and as he joins HMS Superb at Chatham. Go with him as he begins the "Luxury Cruise" of 1954-55. Join him from Punta Arenas to Vancouver and much in between. Learn of Guantanamo Bay and the Falklands before they became headline news.



Each book costs £7.99 including UK postage.

Click **HERE** for more information & to contact Ray by email

SOMETHING FOR THE YOUNGSTERS!

DOGBREATH the Dragon



Shipmate Phil Grimson offers his latest book for sale targeted at children from 8 years upward. It is a magical tale of chivalry which should enchant most youngsters and lead them into a make-believe world where there's fierce and fiery combat when a princess is captured by a dragon.

There are bold knights charging to her rescue one of who wins her hand in marriage.

There are bold knights charging to her rescue one of who wins her hand in marriage.

KINDLE DOWNLOAD £5.59

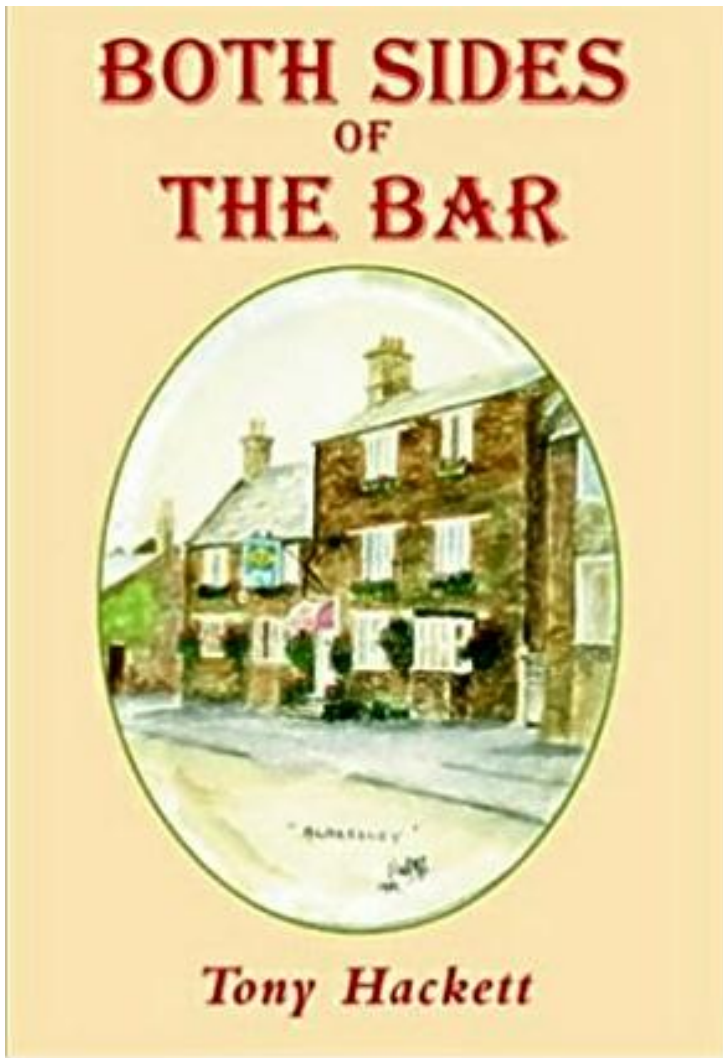
PRINTED VERSION £13.99 + P&P*

Phil can be contacted by email by clicking on this [LINK](#)

*** IF YOU CONTACT PHIL DIRECTLY YOU CAN BUY THE PAPERBACK BOOK FOR ONLY £12.50 + P&P AND PHIL WILL DONATE £1 TO THE HMS SUPERB (CRUISER) ASSOCIATION FUNDS**



LIFE AFTER THE NAVY



Tony, the son of a police officer, joined the Royal Navy aged 15 and spent the next 10 years travelling the world. He entered civvy street in 1959 and went into the pub trade. This book relates Tony's endeavours in balancing his life between his love of rugby, managing often run-down pubs and his love of the sea and finally his successful ownership of his own free-house.

An interesting insight into the trials and tribulations of being self employed.

Available as a hard back book from Amazon at £12.99





JOTTINGS OF A VERY ORDINARY SEAMAN

by Ray Lambert

We had been together for quite a while and had bedded in nicely (not literally I hasten to add). It had been a split commission, the first nine months what they called 'home waters' which included seven weeks off Iceland - not to be recommended - and a bit of time in Gothenburg where I managed to watch a couple of World Cup matches - highly recommended, especially as we were accorded our own little section on the terraces and all for the grand sum of eleven shillings!

It was an old brand new ship if that's not a contradiction in terms. It was 'old brand-new' in the sense that it was built and put straight into reserve, where she stayed for eleven years until we were the first to give her a run out. She was a fairly happy ship; the buffer was a gent and I wish I could recall his name. I would happily spring for a pint for him and I don't say that very often. The GI was also a gent, albeit a bit on the scruffy side but a gent never-the-less. All in all a good gang although there's always a rotten apple and in this case there were two but enough about them, with a bit of luck they have both availed themselves of the undertakers services long ago.

After Gothenburg we then moved down to Gibraltar, where I landed on my feet with a job ashore for around three months. This was followed by Christmas dinner laid on in Gib Dockyard before heading into the Med to get our knees brown.

First stop, isn't it always, was Malta where Mary Sludge became the light of my life, well for one night anyway. Then in what seemed no time at all we were on our way to Cyprus.....

Our mission was to patrol the north coast of the island to dissuade intruders but, as luck would have it, a cease-fire was announced which more or less put us out of business. The navy insisted we carry on with the operation but as there was no real hurry (or danger) we would load up a boat with odd bods, eats and rum and send them off for the day, to sit on the beach and get picked up a couple of passes later in the day.....well that was the plan.

It just had to be me. I was on that first run. We landed safely and set about the cans of booze.

Somebody suggested a game of cricket but in the heat, that soon fizzled out. The next idea was to have a whip round and three of us set off for a nearby bar to buy whatever



the whip would stretch to. Unfortunately we also imbibed in the hostelry before staggering back with our booty.

After that I don't recall a whole lot except the ship had come for us and several others, including the Skipper and Jimmy, had come ashore to sit in the sand and I apparently grabbed the Jimmy by his 'spare-tyre' and called him something like 'Rotund Gentleman'.....end of beach parties.



DID YOU KNOW?



DISCOUNT CARD HELPS SERVICE PERSONNEL GET MORE FOR THEIR MONEY THIS CHRISTMAS

The government is encouraging more people to sign up to a discount card offering service personnel savings on a range of goods and services this Christmas and New Year.

Over a thousand high street companies and businesses across the UK have already signed up to the Defence Discount Service.

Community Covenants encourage local communities to support the armed forces community in their area and also promotes public awareness of issues affecting the armed forces community.

Ex-serviceman, Tony Morris, 65, from Pontymister, near Newport, says he uses his card "whenever possible" but would like to see more local shops involved.

Tony served with the Royal Navy for twelve years, including two eighteen month tours in the Far East. He signed up to his discount card shortly after the scheme launched.

"I heard about the card through my British Legion and found it really easy to sign-up.

"I travel a lot and use my card at service stations to get exclusive deals and money off food and stuff - up to 25%.

"I receive regular emails from the Defence Discount Service telling me what offers are available and would be more inclined to shop somewhere if they accepted the card.

"I would like to see more local shops and businesses in Wales supporting the scheme and what it stands for."

The Defence Privilege Card is available to current and ex service personnel and gives card holders discounts on a range of goods and services.

In order to apply for a Defence Privilege Card please sign up to the website [here](#) if you have not already. When you login to the website you will see a button on the navigation bar called 'Privilege Card'. Click on this button and you will then be guided through the stages.

The ID stage is the second stage of the application process and with this being the Official service for the Ministry of Defence it is a stage we are asked by the MOD to complete in order to verify an affiliation and therefore ensure only those eligible receive a card. All members must provide their own ID, Defence Discount Service is not responsible for proving your eligibility for the service.

Unfortunately the MoD have only opened the service to spouse/partners of currently serving personnel and this has not been extended to family/friends at this time, they will therefore not be eligible for their own account or card.

Click [HERE](#) to go to the website



PHOTO ALBUM



LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

Rrrriiiiiinnnnggg, rrrriiiiiinnnngg,

'Hello?'

'Hi darling. This is Daddy. Is Mummy near the phone?'

'No, Daddy.
She's upstairs in the bedroom with Uncle Paul.'

After a brief pause,

Daddy says,

'But honey, you haven't got an Uncle Paul.'

'Oh yes I do, and he's upstairs in the room with Mummy, right now..'

Brief Pause.

'Uh, okay then, this is what I want you to do. Put the phone down on the table, run upstairs and knock on the bedroom door and shout to Mummy that Daddy's car just pulled into the driveway.'

'Okay, Daddy, Just a minute.'

A few minutes later the little girl comes back to the phone.

'I did it, Daddy.'

'And what happened, darling?'

'Well, Mummy got all scared, jumped out of bed with no clothes on and ran around screaming. Then she tripped over the rug, hit her head on the dresser And now she isn't moving at all!

'Oh my God !!! What about your Uncle Paul?'



'He jumped out of the bed with no clothes on, too.. He was all scared and he jumped out of the back window And into the swimming pool. But I guess he didn't know that you took out the water last week to clean it.

He hit the bottom of the pool and I think he's dead.'

Long Pause

Longer Pause

Even Longer Pause

Then Daddy says,

'Swimming pool? Is this 456-5731 ?'





CRIME WARNING

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has noticed an increase in Action Fraud reports where fraudsters are offering a discount on Television service provider subscriptions. Fraudsters are cold-calling victims, purporting to be from a Television (TV) provider offering a discount on their monthly subscription.

Victims have been told the following: their subscription needs to be renewed; that part or all, of the TV equipment has expired and they are due an upgrade on the equipment/subscription. In order to falsely process the discount, the fraudster asks victims to confirm or provide their bank account details. The scammers may also request the victim's identification documents, such as scanned copies of passports.

The fraudsters are using the following telephone numbers: "08447111444", "02035190197" and "08001514141". The fraudster's voices are reported to sound feminine and have an Asian accent.

Later victims make enquiries and then discover that their TV service provider did not call them and that the fraudster has made transactions using the victim's bank account details.

This type of fraud is nationwide. Since the beginning of this year (2018), there have been 300 Action Fraud Reports relating to this fraud. From the reports received, victims aged over 66 seem to be the most targeted.

What you need to do

Don't assume a phone call or email is authentic: Just because someone knows your basic details (such as your name and address or even your mother's maiden name), it doesn't mean they are genuine. Criminals can exploit the names of well-known companies in order to make their scams appear genuine.

Don't be rushed or pressured into making a decision: a genuine company won't force you to make a financial decisions on the spot. Always be wary if you're pressured to purchase a product or service quickly, and don't hesitate to question uninvited approaches in case it's a scam.

Stay in control: Have the confidence to refuse unusual requests for personal or financial information. Always contact the company yourself using a known email or phone number, such as the one written on a bank statement or bill.

Visit Take Five (takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/advice/) and **Cyber Aware** (cyberaware.gov.uk) for more information about how to protect yourself online.



CROSSED THE BAR



Further details of ex shipmates (but not necessarily members of the Association) who have crossed the bar can be found on the appropriate page our website.

To go there please click [HERE](#)

Crossed the Bar (Recently Notified)



PEOPLE SEARCHING FOR PEOPLE

If you can assist with any of these appeals please contact Brian Saunders in the first instance. No details will be passed on to third parties without express permission. These appeals will be left in the magazine for a few

From previous issues

Derek Baldry (Killick Sparker) would like to contact Ginger Dunne from 1956

Stoker Clive Godley would like to get in touch with old shipmates - I have his telephone number and email address so if you'd like it get back to me. (BS)

Larry Boudier who was in the Chatham field gun's crew in 1955 would like to know if anyone e knows of others in that crew

Eleanor Ingalls Fochesato from New Jersey, USA would like to contact John Stevens, from the 1953 cruise to Maine, USA.

Bob Butcher known to many as "Butch" & who served on Superb between Nov 1950 to July 1951 wonders if Curly Watson is still around. He would like to make contact.

Laura Kardo researching her grandfather, Charles Harris, who served around 1951 & 1952. would like to know more about him.

Jeff , the son of Jim Stewart who was on board as a Telegraphist between 1947 & 1951, would be happy to receive any information re his dad. Jim was also on HMS Vidal in 1955



MEMBERS RECEIVING THE MAGAZINE

Andy Brierley (1954) - Derek Baldry (1956) - Alf Brown (1954) - Bob Butcher (1951) - Ron Clay (1956-57) - Bill Cook (1956) - Jim Copus (1954) - Nick Crump (USN 1954 - USA) - Clive Godley (1954) - Phil Grimson (1953 & 1954) - Tony Hacket (1953) - Alan Harmer (1955 - 56) - Joe Heaton (1956) - Brian Hill (1954) - Charlie Kingston (1956) - Ray Lambert (1955) - Peter MacDonald (1949-51) - George Messmer (USN 1954 - USA) - Malcolm Milham (1953) - Frank Nunn (1954) - Dave Perrin (1954) - Brian Saunders (1954 - 55 France) - Rob Smith (1956) - Pete Tasker (1954) Brian Turner (Associate) - John Ward (1953) - Norman Webber (1956) - Jon Willshir (1953 Thailand)

[Click here to contact Brian Saunders](#) by email



ARCHIVED CONTENT

Past Copies of the Magazine can be accessed on-line by clicking on the appropriate month