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A Message from the National Secretary
Jim McMaster

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Introduction.

It seems like an eternity since I last put digit to keyboard and of course a lot has happened since the last wee news letter. Hopefully I can remember all those things that I intended to say now that I finally got to this point!!

As per the previous 183s this is not the opinion of the NMC, they have no input what so ever and only know the contents when I make it public. So these are my opinions and comments alone!! I would of course welcome your comments in return

National Council Conference 2008

The NCC has come and gone for another year. Was your Branch represented? Sadly only 33 Branches were represented with 23 apologies offered. However 6 Branches just didn't even bother to acknowledge the event in any way!! Personally, I just don't think that is good enough. To survive as an Association we must do all we can to participate. Why did you join the Association? This is not just another Social Club - we are better than that! We are not like ordinary people, we're different, and we're special. And if you don't believe that you must have spent your time inboard!! Anyway enough of the soap box. By now you will be well aware of how close the voting went at the NCC - you could have made the difference! Instead, 17 Branches can dictate to 62 Branches how things will be run. Please try and make the effort to go to the NCC in 2009 in Northern Ireland. Now that promise to be a really good run ashore.

Insurance Cover for Branch Standards

I have mentioned this subject in the past and by all accounts I made a right hash of the whole thing and caused confusion. I apologise for that. I will try again to explain the message I was trying to get across.

All Branch Standards are insured, covered by a group policy, which is paid for by the National Association.

My request is to Branches who can afford to contribute a small sum towards the cost of this insurance. Every little bit helps - but don't worry if you are a small Branch and don't have that kind of funds. Your Standard will still be 'covered'. To ensure that cover stands you should inform the National Treasurer, Rick Elrick, whenever you take your Standard to events. I hope this has not confused anyone!!!

Association DVD

Most of you will know that we have been having a DVD produced about the Association. This item will soon be completed and available for purchase. Remember this DVD is about the Association, NOT about the Submarine Service. It can only succeed if you buy a copy. Of course all proceeds will go to the Association. Start saving your pennies now!!

The book of poems will also be available soon. What a project that was!! I did not realise there was such talent in our midst!

The National Draw

Will you be in Barrow-in-Furness on 5th July? Did you sell your quota of Draw Tickets? Remember 1/3 of all the money you raised selling tickets goes into your Branch Funds!! How good is that?? It's a Win-Win situation!

The Barrow Branch is pulling out all the stops to ensure that the day goes well. As well as the National Draw there will be a Bar-B-Q and evening social. This will include a competition for the 'loudest' shirt! Ear defenders will be available.

Have you booked accommodation for the weekend? Surely you are not staying away from this event too? A lot of people go to a lot of trouble in their own time to organise such events so please, give it a try. Enjoying yourself isn't compulsory but it is recommended!! Give it a go.

Remembrance Day Parade

National Remembrance Day this year is Sunday 9th November and that is always well attended. However, more importantly and less well attended is the Submarine Service Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 2nd November. This Parade held on the Victoria Embankment in London is our own special tribute to those who have gone before us. It is our opportunity to pay our respects to our own kind. Please don't misunderstand, we do get a very good turnout for the Parade and I thank most sincerely all those who make the effort but I feel there could be more. This is no small event. It is attended by RASM for example and of course the Band of the Royal Marines. The actual marching is only about 500 yards so it won't do you too much harm. A Service of Remembrance is held at the Submarine Memorial on the Embankment. You did know that we have a large Memorial and striking tribute to the Submarine Service there, didn't you? It is truly magnificent. Even if your Branch can't send a representative to OUR Parade you can still organise for a wreath to be laid at the Memorial.

Any Branch wishing to order a Wreath or Cross of Remembrance must place their order with Ted Hogben by September 30th at the latest, any orders received after that date will NOT be actioned. The Crosses are £1-00 for plain ones and £3-00 for those with an Association badge, a "C" Type wreath with the Association badge is £18-00. These costs are production costs and therefore don't have any donation value to RBL Poppy Appeal. For example a donation of £25-00 will purchase a wreath for the Memorial and a badged Cross of Remembrance for the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey the following Thursday (6th.Nov). Cheques must be made payable to RBL Poppy Appeal and accompanied

by a card to be affixed to the wreath, laminated if possible. The cheques can be post-dated 30th. September as Ted won't be making the donation until October. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact - Ted Hogben, 62 Kitchener Road, Strood. Kent ME2 3AP, 01634 715634 or mayted@blueyonder.co.uk

Submarine Museum

I am sure that by now you will all have heard the news that Jeff Tall has retired as the Curator of the Museum. What a splendid job he did bringing the museum to the incredibly high standard it is. We all owe him our thanks. Now he is moving to his next challenge I'm certain we all wish him well.

So who is his relief???

Shock, horror it's a female!!!!

Let me assure you that this lady is more than capable of looking after our museum! She is Mrs Marion Budgett AMA, MiMgt. And she took over on 1st April - but she is no fool!! Marion has been the Director of the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Heritage and Service Manager at South Somerset District Council, and has worked in a variety of Museums including the RAF Museum where she was Deputy Keeper. Her last role before joining us was as Curator of the West Berkshire Museum. Her experience and knowledge of the subject is up there with the best of them. Let's make sure we give her all the support she needs in this new and challenging role.

Also supporting her will be Jeff Tall himself. Jeff has been formally appointed as The Honorary Regimental Secretary of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum. Basically it will enable a bridging between Jeff's retirement from and Marion's installation as Director of the Museum in terms of '*esprit de corps*' issues. Jeff will be able to advise Marion on any contentious issues which he will probably see as '*old hat*'.

Assistance Requested.

I have been approached for help by a gentleman by the name of David Templeman. David has been asked to maintain a valedictory roll of the naval officers who joined Dartmouth together in September 1965 and who have since died. He is looking for the Associations help in finding details of GRAHAM FRAZER and CHARLES TIBBITS. Key information required is: Service details and Date of Birth, where/how they died and if possible where they are buried. Information on their NOK would be helpful. This is a genuine and worthy cause and as such is backed by our own President Sir James Perowne.

So can you or any of your members help with this request? Please send any information to me and I will forward to David. Likewise if you have any questions please let me know.

British Veterans Recognition Card

This item is for your information. You should not assume that the Association endorses this initiative. Check the information and make your own decision based on that.

The card is available for all ex-servicemen and women, an identity card to acknowledge your military service and provide access to a unique range of discounts and savings.

Be aware that a subscription is required - to join and then annually.

For an application form call Customer Services Department on 01473 652661
OR print out the form on the website: www.britishveterans.co.uk and submit, together
with the relevant supporting documents to: British Veterans, Freepost NAT15489,
Ipswich, IP7 5BR
To view the full range of current discounts available to card holders please visit the
website.

That's all I have for this News Letter but please, please give me some feedback. I know
we are the 'Silent Service' but let's not take it to extremes. If you have an opinion - tell us
all!

Regards,

Yours Aye

Jim McMaster

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Please be aware that I am one of the lucky ones who is fully employed so if you phone
during the day, my wife will be willing to take any message you wish to pass on.

