



April 2022

EDITORIAL

We recently held the Annual AGM of the Association. The attendance was somewhat fewer than expected but it appeared that Covid had once again reared its ugly head and members had to withdraw at the last minute. However, it was a successful day followed by an excellent lecture on 'Operation Sidecar' (details below) given by Ian Miles who some time ago gave the lecture on Night Fighters over Sussex. We are grateful to Ray, who managed to enlist Ian at very short notice' owing to the speaker Dr James Bosbonitis who had to withdraw through illness.

We now look forward to our next event which will be a visit to **HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH** on **Thursday 28 April** at Portsmouth Naval Base, including lunch in the Wardroom of HMS NELSON. (Details attached)

THE AGM

There were no surprises and your existing EC was re-elected en block! We are pleased to announce however that two new members have joined the Committee, **Lt Cdr Roger Martin** and **Lt Kiaran Smyth**.

WELCOME

The Association would like to welcome our latest member **Mr Richard Wernick**.

LECTURE/LUNCH

As mentioned earlier, we are grateful to our Secretary Ray Wright who managed to secure the services of Ian Miles to present the lecture '**OPERATION SIDECAR**' at very short notice.



The exercise, code named "SIDECAR", was an American operation involving the 101st Airborne Division and 437 Group, part of the 53rd Carrier Wing which was based at Ramsbury Airfield near Marlborough in Wiltshire. The landing site was chosen because the countryside was very similar to that in Normandy, where the D-Day invasion was being prepared for. The glider pilots had to be able to land in small fields no longer than 350 yards that were surrounded by high hedges and large trees. The gliders used in this exercise were the British built "Horsa", and the smaller American built

CG-4A “Waco”. (Colin Rudling, from ‘Gliders at Dial Post’). The exercise was carried out adjacent to our Secretary’s house in Shipley! This took place in April 1944 involving 48 gliders.



HORSA



WACO

OBITUARY

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER EDWARD MERVYN ‘PADDY’ DOWZER RN

A loyal member of SANO Paddy Dowzer recently crossed over the bar after a difficult illness.



Paddy joined the Royal Navy as a Radio Electrical Mechanic (Air) serving both ashore and afloat with Fleet Air Arm Squadrons. His abilities were soon noticed, and he was commissioned onto the Special Duties list in the AV branch. His first job as a Sub-Lieutenant was in the wilds of Scotland helping to look after the UK armed forces one and only live bombing range. His first sea going appointment as an officer was to HMS Ark Royal the then fixed wing aircraft carrier as assistant aircraft control room officer. He went on to serve a second commission in Ark Royal as well as a commission in HMS HERMES. He served ashore in both RN Air Stations at Culdrose and Yeovilton. Paddy’s

personal skills were put to good use when he joined the RN presentation team. Paddy had his time in the sun when he served as 1st Lieutenant of HMS ROOKE at Gibraltar. Ray Wright (SANO Sec) writes “I personally had the good fortune to serve with Paddy in one of his spells in ARK ROYAL where I came to admire not only his professionalism but his wicked sense of humour. Whatever the situation, Paddy could always be relied on to see the funny side of it.”

C76?

No one was able to identify the ship in pictured in last moths NL. Philip Sherwin came close but not close enough to win a prize! The vessel illustrated was in fact HMS Concord a C Class destroyer.

So what’s going on?

Jean and I have recently been going through her father, CERA Donald Studley’s (1918- 1988) papers where we came across a



photo of a two-funnel ship with a pennant number C76. It is clearly not HMS Newcastle whose pennant number was C76. Closer examination with a magnifying glass showed what appeared to be a dummy funnel and dummy gun barrels. On-line research came up with the explanation. Concord was in 1957 part of the Hong Kong flotilla. Newcastle was the flagship Both ships took part in a joint exercise with the Royal Australian Navy. The RAN were tasked with tracking down and intercepting Newcastle. A plan of deception was devised where concord disguised herself as Newcastle. The ruse worked and the RAN and RAAF went charging off in the wrong direction for five hours.

Don Studley was mentioned in dispatches in 1944 “For courage, resolution and skill while serving in HMS Duckworth on anti-U-boat operations”.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Date	Day/Time	Event	Venue	Speaker	Topic
28 April 2022	Thu	Visit	Portsmouth Naval Base		
20 May 2022	Fri 1200	Lunch			
9 July 2022	Sat 1100	Curry Lunch		Sarah Nathaniel	Commonwealth War Graves (Research)
1 Sept 2022	Thu 1200	Pub Lunch	tba (E Sussex)		
22 Oct 2022	Sat 1830	Trafalgar Night Dinner			
26 Nov 2022	Sat 1100	Lecture/ Lunch		Stewart Angell	Secret Sussex

15 April Good Friday, 18 April Easter Monday, 2nd May DayBank Holiday, 2nd June Spring Bank Holiday, 3rd June Platinum Jubilee, 29 August Summer Bank Holiday, 25 December Christmas, 26 December Boxing Day, 27 December Bank Holiday

TAILPIECE

An investment banker hired a plumber to repair a tap. He took ten minutes on the job and charged £80.

“I say,” said the investment banker, “I couldn’t make £80 for ten minutes work.”

“Nor could I,” said the plumber, “when I was an investment banker.”

Best wishes, Bob

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