



EDITORIAL

Saturday 23 March the Association held its AGM at the Hove Club followed by Cdr Rupert Head delivering a moving and excellent account of the last voyage of the SS ATLANTIC CONVEYOR, having been commandeered by the MOD for service in the South Atlantic during the Falklands Conflict. It would appear that the captain of the vessel at the time was under considerable stress and Cdr Head assumed a pivotal role in command. The ship was on fire and crucial decisions had to be taken which Rupert admitted that there were no right or wrong answers. The sort of questions that might be directed to candidates at an AIB! To avoid a cataclysmic explosion should the engine room be drenched with carbon dioxide when there were still crew members down there? Do you allow a captain to remain on the stricken vessel which would have been his wish, or throw him into the water? You decide!



In the absence of the President, our Chairman conducted the meeting in a most efficient manner. There were no serious conflicting issues arising and the current Executive Committee who were prepared to stand again for office were re-elected en bloc.

CAPTAIN JULIA SIMPSON ROYAL NAVY was approved by the meeting as Vice-President of the Association.

Our next event will take place on **Wednesday 17 April** and will be a visit to Southwick House, the coordinating centre for the D Day Operation. You should have received booking details for this event



HMS COVENTRY

Whilst on the Falklands theme the Chairman thought that the following may be of interest to members:-



‘I have a particular link to Coventry having been born there, but also because my Mother was one of the volunteers who went onto the cathedral roof armed with a shovel trying to pick up the incendiaries and throw them off. In the end there were just too many’.

<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/news/2024/march/19/20240319-coventrys-iconic-cross-captured-on-canvas-in-falklands-tribute>

HMS FITTLETON

Many members of Sussex Division will have their own memories of HMS Fittleton. Mike Price forwarded to me an article from the London Division RNR Newsletter which contained a very comprehensive history of the ship. I have added an extract of this as an attachment to the Newsletter.



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

DATE	DAY TIME	EVENT	VENUE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
17 th April Time to be announced	Wed	Visit Southwick House Lunch at Southwick Golf Club	Southwick (Former HMS Dryad)		D Day
18 th May	Sat 1830	Mess Guest Night	Hove Club	Brigadier Anthony Lamb MBE Deputy Head Eastbourne College	
7 th June	Fri	Lunch	Army & Navy Club Pall Mall		
20 th July	Sat 1100	Lecture/Lunch	Hove Club	Richard Werrick	Poland and the Internarium
5 th September	Thu 1200	Pub Lunch	The Lamb Inn Pevensey Marsh		
26 th October	Sat 1830	Trafalgar Night Dinner	Hove Club		
16 th November	Sat 1100	Lecture/Lunch	Hove Club	Shoreham Harbour Engineer	Shoreham Harbour

Key dates:

6th May Day Bank Holiday, 27th May Spring Bank Holiday, 26th August Summer Bank Holiday, 25th December Christmas 26th December Boxing Day.

TAILPIECE

A young woman at a cocktail party was introduced to a naval surgeon. ‘Goodness me’ she said, ‘I had no idea that surgery had become so specialised’.

Best wishes, Bob