



NRCEE's Foreword



**Commodore David Elford OBE ADC Royal Navy
Naval Regional Commander eastern England**

When we put together our last (and inaugural) NRCEE newsletter back in June, I think few of us would have thought that, in October, we would still be battling the virus as hard as we are. The past few months have presented many challenges to virtually everyone in our nation and those of us involved with 'engaging society' have certainly had to reign in our ambition and modify our ways of working. I have been particularly impressed with the adaptability and imagination shown by many: from the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association (RFCAs), with their electronic newsletters, online meetings and virtual awards ceremonies to our own sailors filming tours around their ships in lieu of opening to the general public. The show must go on!

As you will read later in this edition, I will soon be losing my current Chief of Staff, Cdr Glynn Johns, who will be retiring from the regular Royal Navy (RN), after over 34 years and 1 week of loyal service. As those of you who have had dealings with Glynn will testify, he has been a loyal and diligent deputy to me and has done a superb job over the last 2 years. We will miss him and I'm sure you will join me in wishing him well in 'civvy street' (although I suspect we will see him serve on in the Royal Navy Reserves (RNR)).

What's coming up in this Newsletter:

- ◆ [NRCEE staff changes...](#)
- ◆ [VJ Day 75 and WWII Veteran re-presented medals](#)
- ◆ [Armed Forces Day - City flag-raising](#)
- ◆ [NLO's mobilisation continues...](#)
- ◆ [HMS KENT - Kayak charity challenge and awards](#)
- ◆ [HMS TAMAR - Visits London for the first time!](#)
- ◆ [SERFCA 'virtual' Silver awards from HMS VICTORY](#)

All Change!

by Commander Glynn Johns Chief of Staff
(COS) NRCEE

After 2 years in post, I sadly hand over the COS baton to Commander Andy Swain on 6 November 2020. With the role of promoting the RN through a variety domestic engagement activities, can I take this opportunity to thank all those reading this newsletter who have contributed to help achieve that aim. Notwithstanding the



impact COVID-19 has had on face-to-face engagement over the past 6 months, I have had a most incredible, rewarding and life-enhancing experience. I've been lucky to have met so many wonderful and interesting people and gained access to some remarkable places, some often revealing surprises; the historical Kings Lynn Town Hall and it's 'must visit' museum to name one. This will be my last appointment as a Regular in the Royal Navy and I could not have wished for a better swan song.

In the small 10-person staff, I'm not the only one on the move: Lt Luke Flynn, the Deputy Naval Liaison Officer (DNLO), has also retired and will be replaced by Lt Owen Prowle on 2 November 2020. For those of you who are familiar with the Outreach Team, Air Engineering Technician's (AET's), Danny Richardson and Mitch Willison -Swindles have also both moved on and replaced by AET Damyon Brazier and Leading Survival Equipment Technician (LSET) Adam 'Smarty' Smart. As I bid you farewell, I wish them all well.

NRCEE Rogue's Gallery...Update



**COS Desig Cdr
Andy Swain**



DNLO Lt Owen Prowle



LSET 'Smarty' Smart

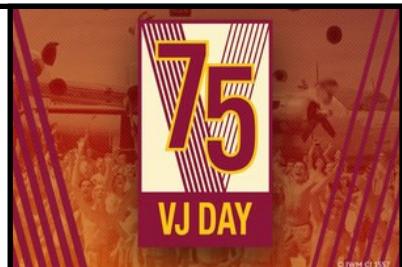


AET Damo Brazier



Commodore Elford's VJ Day Family Link

The 75th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day, is a day when we remember the sacrifices made in the Far East during the Second World War. Of course, over 2 months after Victory was declared in Europe, VJ day (as it became known) marked the surrender of Japan and was effectively therefore the final end to the Second World War. Even after VE day, British soldiers, sailors and airmen remained serving in the Far East, fighting hard to achieve victory – and so they were among the last to come home, especially the prisoners of war. The Japanese held over 50,000 British prisoners for up to three and a half years, most in conditions that were so bad that around a quarter of them perished.



Among them was Petty Officer Sydney Devis from my home town of Plymouth. He had been serving in HMS RE-PULSE which, in December 1941, was sunk in the South China Sea off what is now Malaysia after intense Japanese aerial attack along with the battleship HMS PRINCE OF WALES; this was 3 days after Pearl Harbor. Having survived this ordeal, he and his remaining shipmates and those from the PRINCE OF WALES were taken to Singapore by the RN ships that had rescued them. Two months later, he was taken prisoner when Singapore was overrun by the Japanese; although he managed to survive to learn of the end of the war, he died in a 'Prisoner of War' camp in what is now Indonesia on the day of his liberation, 2 weeks after VJ day. Had he survived, I would likely have met my great uncle Syd and my poor late Great Auntie Ethel would have had quite a different life. It is important that we remember what we owe the veterans of the Far East campaign. They liberated South East Asia; they brought an end to the Second World War; they changed the course of history for the better; and, sadly, many paid the ultimate sacrifice. That is why, on VJ Day 75 and every year – 'we will remember them'.

Centenarian sailor is re-presented with his WWII medals



On VJ Day 75, Saturday 15th August 2020, Centenarian John Jude was re-presented his replacement Second World War medals by Commodore David Elford OBE ADC RN at Cambridge Guildhall during an official ceremony sponsored by the Mayor of Cambridge. Although not formally part of the VJ Day commemorations, it was deemed during the pandemic as to be a fitting opportunity to present the medals as, due to the pandemic, we'd missed opportunities on both VE Day and on Mr Jude's 100th Birthday on 4th June 2020 had been missed.

Mr John Jude, born on 4th June 1920, joined the Royal Navy on 19th August 1940 at the age of 20. He conducted his initial training at HMS COLLINGWOOD, Fareham and, after a holding draft at HMS PEMBROKE, he moved to the Gunnery Training School at HMS EXCELLENT in Portsmouth. After holding at HMS PEMBROKE for another short period, he was drafted onto HMS FARNDALE from 19th April 1941 - 3rd March 1942, where with the ship mainly patrolled the Mediterranean predominately based in Egypt. However, the ship was severely damaged in February 1942. AB Jude was then drafted to HMS NAIADE in Malta although only for just some 7 days as the ship suffered severe torpedo damage from German aircraft during operations off Crete Ops and she was sunk on 11th March 1942.

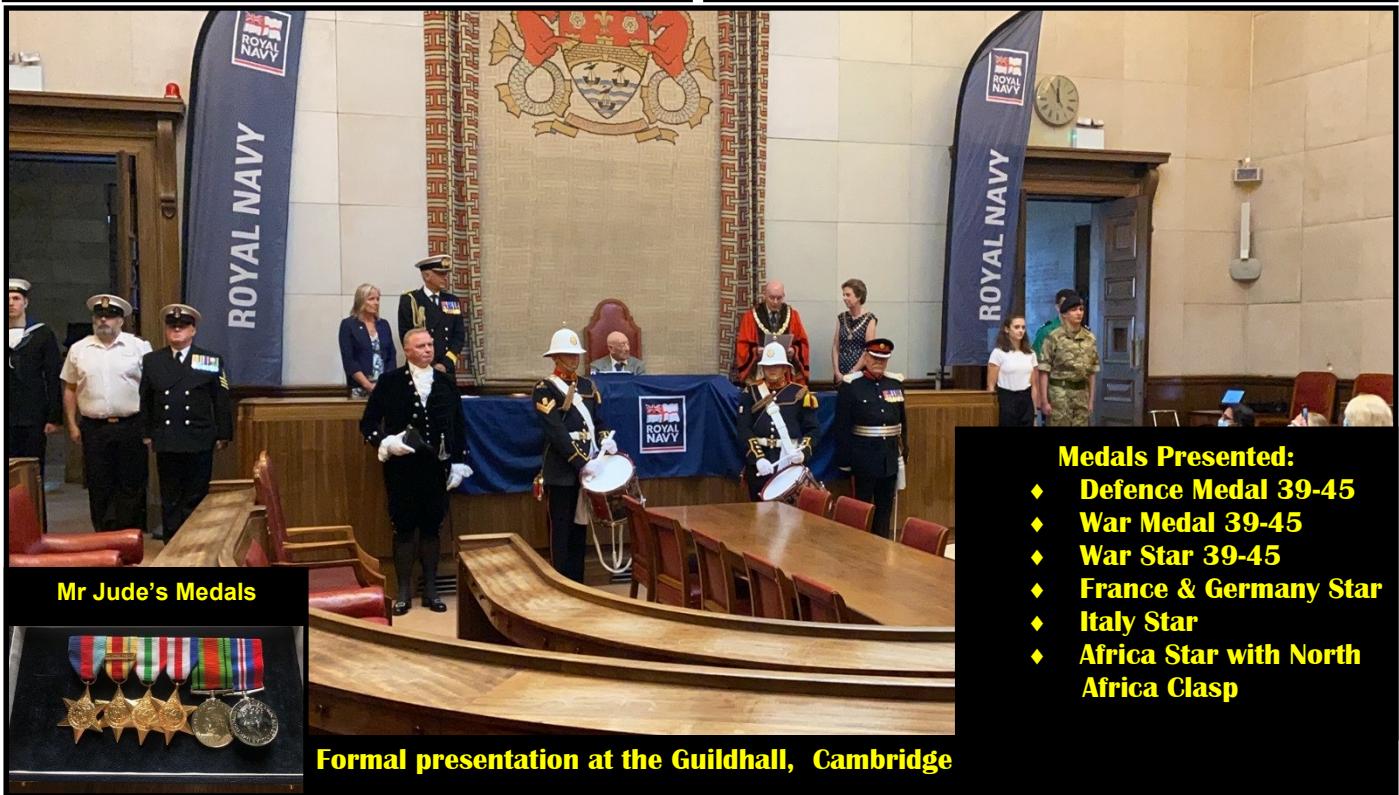
As a Fleet Air Arm, Gunner, AB Jude continued with Coastal Forces throughout WWII serving across the Mediterranean crewing a selection of Motor Torpedo Boats and Motor Launches in 1943. He then returned to the UK in 1944 in a selection of drafts for both training and crewing MTBs and MLs on the South Coast from HMS HORNET in Gosport, HMS CICALA, Dartmouth to HMS ST CHRISTOPHER based out of Fort William, Scotland. At the end of WWII, AB Jude was based out of HMS WILDFIRE, Sheerness, Kent where he crewed MLs until March 1947; however, he did sustain an injury to his lower left fibula on 6th June 1945 whilst in Holland. After a couple of shorter drafts, he was transferred in to the Royal Fleet Reserve where he served the remainder of his time and was discharged from the Service on 13th February 1953 having served approximately 12 years and 7 months. Mr Jude then returned to his hometown of Norwich and worked in the Mackintosh chocolate factory that reopened in 1952 after being demolished during WWII.'

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'We Will Remember Them' VJ Day 75 @ 1100 am



Mr Jude's Medals

Medals Presented:

- ◆ Defence Medal 39-45
- ◆ War Medal 39-45
- ◆ War Star 39-45
- ◆ France & Germany Star
- ◆ Italy Star
- ◆ Africa Star with North Africa Clasp

Formal presentation at the Guildhall, Cambridge



[CLICK HERE to see presentation](#)

JOHN JUDE
VETERAN

Click on link above for Forces News coverage



Mr Jude stands proud to show his medals

For the latest Royal Navy News search: www.royalnavy.mod.uk/ or @RoyalNavy on



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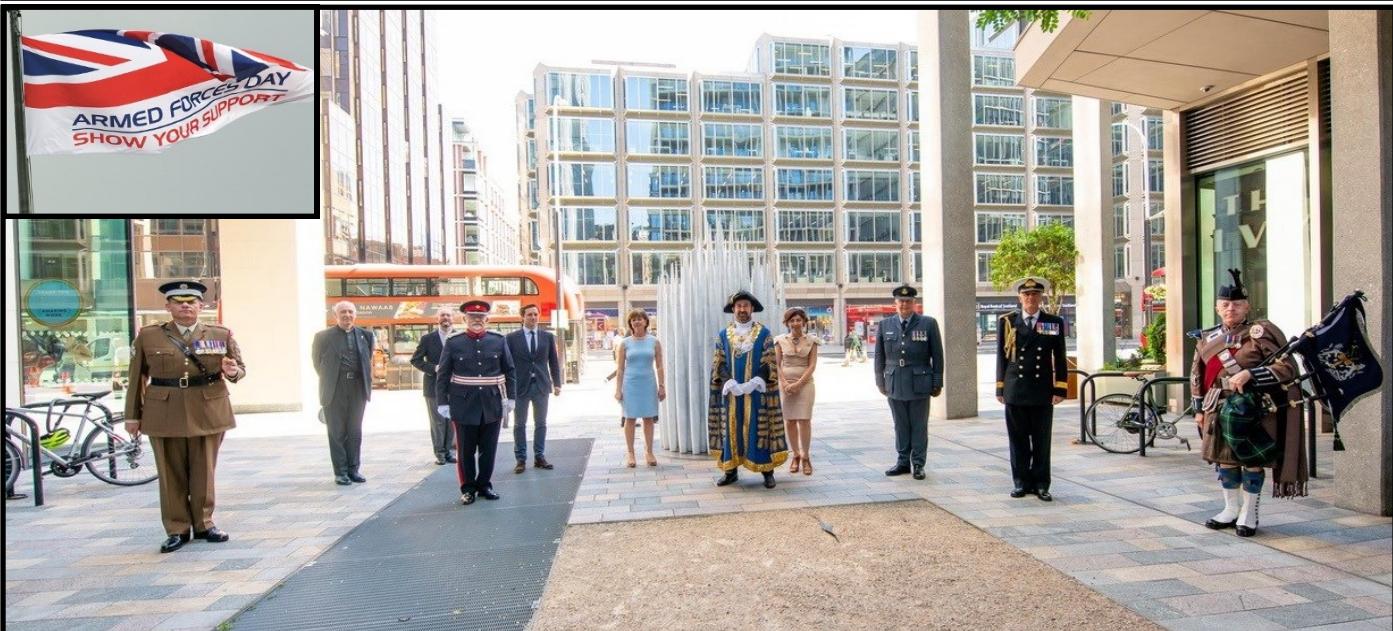


Naval Regional Command Eastern England (Edition 2, June—September)

Armed Forces Day - Westminster City flag-raising

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Jonathan Glanz led the City of Westminster Armed Forces Day 'socially distanced' flag-raising ceremony, at the front Westminster City Hall on Wednesday 24 June 2020, supported by Commodore David Elford, NRCEE, Cdr Chris Owen, RAF and the Coldstream Guards Regimental Sergeant Major. Separately, Commodore Elford supported a Skadden virtual piece that thanked the Armed Forces and veterans and the introduction of SkadVets.

[Click to see SkadVets Video](#)



NLO's mobilisation continues...



By Charles Perrett, Naval Liaison Officer NLO

At the end of March 2020, the nation looked to the Armed Forces to support the fight against COVID. Unsure what would be required, the MOD established a 'Support Force' of around 20,000 Service personnel including 3000 reserves, of which the Royal Naval Reserve (RNR) was expected to provide 1000 personnel. The NRCEE NLO, Mr Charles Perrett, who is also in the RNR was mobilised to Navy Command HQ in Portsmouth as part of the Naval Legal Branch to help facilitate the largest mobilisation of Naval Reservists in recent memory. Appointed as one of 3 Fleet Adjudication Officers, he was

responsible for processing Reservists into Regular service, specifically dealing with Reservist and Employer objections, reservist awards and expenses. By the end of April, it was realised that the scope of mobilisations would be significantly less due to the efforts of the UK's volunteering sector, so the NLO was re-tasked to the Midlands as a Military Liaison Officer with the NHS. Initially, he was working in the Black Country in West Birmingham providing a vital link between the NHS Trusts and the local Joint Military Command. During his deployment, he has been involved with the 'Test, Track and Trace' coordination, the deployment of Mobile Testing Units and the location of potential COVID vaccine sites. Now nearing the end of his mobilisation, he has also taken on the liaison with the NHS in Coventry. By the end of his 7 months of mobilised RNR service, he is looking forward to returning back to working as NRCEE's NLO in November 2020.

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HMS KENT - Kayak Charity Challenge

A team of 9 from HMS KENT swapped their frigate for kayaks for a 4-day challenge to raise money for seriously ill children at Demelza Hospices. Personnel from the Portsmouth based ship, who had just returned from practising their submarine hunting skills in Iceland, paddled 145 miles on the waterways from Bristol to North London from 7-10 August 2020, in aid of the Demelza Hospice. The ship has been involved with the charity that run hospices based in Kent, South East London and East Sussex for terminally ill children and their families for over 20 years. Sailors have visited children at the homes regularly and to present the proceeds of fundraising efforts. The challenge was instigated by Leading Hand Cyndi Dodd, Leading Physical Trainer Holly Cole and Sub-Lieutenant Joshua Ward. After hours of training during lockdown, the paddlers chose the route that took them the length of the Kennet and Avon Canal. After 108 miles, at the point it meets the Thames in Reading, they had to portage their kayaks from Windsor to the Grand Union Canal before paddling on through Slough to the Regent's Canal and finishing their journey at Camden Lock. So far they have raised over £3096. You can still support their efforts by donating at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hmskentops



**Over £3096 raised for
Demelza Hospice**

Glaziers' Company presents inaugural Sailor awards

A party of senior members of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers & Painters of Glass attended a virtual ceremony on 24 September on HMS KENT to make a presentation of certificates and citations to the winner of the Glaziers' Sailor of the Year Award and runner-up, plus the Carisbrooke cup to the winner. The event was hosted by the ship's Commanding Officer (CO), Commander Matt Sykes with the Glaziers being introduced by Master Suzanne Galloway; Commodore David Elford ADC OBE, was in attendance. Deputy Master Andy Lane, an amateur sailor, having already led a visit to the ship last year, confirmed the active commitment of the Glaziers to the affiliation, saying "One of the rewarding aspects of being affiliated with a ship on deployment is following where you are and what you are doing and experiencing."

The CO explained the significance of the award as part of the affiliation between the Glaziers' Company and HMS KENT that started in 2019. He described the ship's recent missions in the Baltic and the Gulf, praising the performance of the crew, then showed a video by the crew about the ship that gave a comprehensive view in a light-hearted way of how the ship worked, that was greatly appreciated by the visiting Glaziers. Renter Warden Phil Fortey (due to be Master in November) then provided a video about the Carisbrooke Cup; it was then presented to CPO McNeil as Sailor of the Year. This beautifully restored, stunning piece of silver was originally given as a present by Queen Victoria to her grandson Prince Alexander Mountbatten, 1st Marquis of Carisbrooke, at one time a serving Royal Navy officer. After he had served as Master of the Glaziers the marquis made a gift of the cup to the Company. The cup and the certificates from the Glaziers and citations from the ship were then presented by HMS KENT officers. The winner was Chief Petty Officer Engineer Technician (WE) Mervyn McNeill his citation concluded: "He epitomises what all personnel should strive to emulate and is a worthy winner of KENT's Sailor of the Year." and the runner up was Writer Tamica Mignott her citation concluded: "For her overall contribution throughout the year, undoubtedly commitment to HMS KENT and the RN, she is an individual of enormous potential and therefore...is thoroughly deserving of recognition as runner up of Sailor of the Year."



Carisbrooke Cup

The final address was made by Commodore David Elford ADC OBE, who referred to the proactive nature of the affiliation from both sides and his own close involvement in it on a "fly on the wall" basis, perhaps more so than with other City livery company affiliations. He remarked on the impact that the Carisbrooke Cup had on the whole award event.



Winners framed certificates

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HMS TAMAR'S first visit to London

HMS TAMAR visited London for the first time from 4-17th September 2020 and for the duration she was alongside HMS BELFAST, situated on the South Bank of the River Thames; this was the first NRCEE supported ship's visit since HMS KENT in Dover just before lockdown in March 2020.

As part her visit, the ship hosted several engagement events and capability demonstrations, including by Royal Marines of 42 Commando using offshore raiding craft and the Office of Chief Technology Officer; a joint press conference onboard to discuss Defence's vision for the Integrated review held by General Sir Nick Carter KCB CBE DSO ADC Gen and the Secretary of State for Defence, The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP; a visit from the Lord Mayor of London and the First Sea Lord to meet the ship's company and a small number of invited visitors for ship's tours.

Click to Take a Virtual Tour

(civilian access only...)



HMS TAMAR became the first new Royal Navy River-class ship to visit London

HMS TAMAR alongside HMS BELFAST



The Lord Mayor of London and the First Sea Lord make a call with CO HMS TAMAR



The Chief of Defence Staff and the Secretary of State for Defence host a press conference onboard



HMS TAMAR leaving London

HMS Tamar is a Batch 2 River-class offshore patrol vessel of the Royal Navy. Named after the River Tamar in England, this is the 7th Royal Navy ship to be named Tamar.

Royal Navy - About HMS TAMAR

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Invitation only - ship's tour of HMS TAMAR

Parliamentary outer office staff enjoyed a Ship's tour onboard HMS TAMAR, with 9 guests touring in groups of 3 in order to maintain social distancing, followed by 'sundowners' overlooking Tower Bridge with members of the ship's company. Grace Mulligan, Assistant Parliamentary Clerk who visited HMS TAMAR sent her thanks to the ship's company and said: "The team and I had a very good time (and lots of fun playing with the big guns!). For someone with absolutely no Navy background it was really interesting to learn about how they operate on the ship".



Handling Personal Weapons



'Big Guns' with a City backdrop



Explanation of using the weapon system



All Crew have to be able to 'Fire Fight'



The Bridge from the Captain's chair



Medical capabilities onboard

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South East Employers Recognised at the Employer Recognition Scheme 'Virtual' Silver Awards



RM Band fanfares for the virtual Silver awards



Explanation of transferable skills of military reservists to Businesses / Employers

The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) encourages employers to support the Armed Forces Community and inspires others to do the same. The scheme encompasses Bronze, Silver and Gold awards for employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate and advocate their support to defence and the Armed Forces' Community, and align their values with the Armed Forces' Covenant.

The South East Reserve Forces' & Cadets' Association (SERFCA), awarded 28 employers with their prestigious Silver awards. The awards ceremony should have taken place onboard the historic ship HMS VICTORY, Portsmouth in early September. However, owing to COVID-19 restrictions, SERFCA hosted a virtual ceremony to congratulate the winners. A cross-section of awardees including: Aspire Oxfordshire, Oxford; Cherwell District Council, Banbury; Content Guru, Bracknell; Diamond Light Source Ltd, Didcot; to Forces Family Finance, Chatham; the HPower Group, Windsor; the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, Portsmouth and the Naval Families Federation, Portsmouth. In 2020, across the SERFCA region, there are now 30 Gold award holders, 134 Silver holders, 429 Bronze award holders and over 3400 organisations have signed up to the Armed Forces' Covenant.

Commodore David Elford represented the Royal Navy and welcomed all participants to the First Sea Lord's historic flagship, both virtual and physical. The Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson Esq virtually presented the 28 businesses (21 private, 3 public and 5 not for profit organisations) with their Silver ERS awards, he said: "I would like to congratulate each of the 2020 Silver Employer Engagement award winners. The quality of nominations was again extremely high this year and to make the final selection is a real testament to their company's dedication, enthusiasm and hard work to support and advocate for the Armed Forces community. As President of the South East Reserve Forces' & Cadets' Association, I am sorry that I was unable to thank these individuals in person due to

COVID-19, however it should not steer away from the importance of the positive and tangible help these businesses give to the armed forces family and their wonderful support to Defence."

On receiving their award, a spokesperson from the Naval Families Federation said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have been awarded the Silver ERS Award. Through our engagement with RN and RM families we have a deep understanding of the challenges that they face with regard to securing meaningful employment and career progression. It is, therefore, incredibly important to us that we demonstrate good employment practice in support of this community."

[**Watch the SERFCA 'virtual' Silver awards**](#)



Presenting team for the virtual Silver awards onboard HMS VICTORY