



Welcome to the Seventeen edition of the Journal. I had thought that this Journal would not have much in it but I have three events to report on and also an assessment of the last year by our Chairman Basil. I hope you enjoy this edition. The journal is not only for the officers of Associations but also Association members so we ask you to give it as wide a distribution as possible to members and anyone else you think might be interested.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE LAST YEAR

2013 Was another good year for the Federation as we continued to go from strength to strength and now considered ourselves to be truly back on course after the slip back of a few years ago. With our support of many local events and ceremonies our profile within the city is high. The annual Remembrance Festival 2013 was another great success and remains possibly one of the leading Remembrance features in the County. Our Standards were out on Parade on many occasions proving the dedication of our Standard Bearers under the guidance of Parade Marshall Richard Bendell BEM.

Our finances are sound and well administered by Peter Cuzner our Treasurer with major input to our funds from the efforts of our Fund Raisers Fred and Joan Ford supported by volunteer collectors and our President Phyl Ainsworth with additional cash coming in from contacts made by our PRO Neville Edwards. We now have a well enjoyed and circulated Journal due the efforts, alongside all his other work by our very able Secretary Richard Walker. A lot of credit for our success is with our Patron Cdr. Charles Crichton OBE RN who directs our festival and uses his networking skills to our advantage. Our committee are committed to the support of the Federation and it's aims but I am acutely aware that age and poor health can take its toll and we need other and possibly younger people to step forward to take on the responsibilities but meantime as your Chairman I sincerely thank the

committee and all our Delegates for the support they have given me and the Federation during 2013 and I remain confident that our success will continue into 2014.

Basil Downing-Waite Chairman

PAST EVENTS

WREATH LAYING FOR Lt G HINCKLY VC

On Tuesday the 31st December the Plymouth branch of the RNA paid their annual homage to Lt. George Hinckley VC RN. Forty people attended the service in the newly refurbished Chapel in Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth conducted by The RNA and Federation Padre the Reverend Peter Warland QHC RN. Among those attending were the great-great grandson of Lt Hinckley, Andrew Smith and also the great-great-granddaughter Rachael Connor and her husband Kevin. Eight Standards were in attendance, the Plymouth Branch RNA, HMS Ganges Association, Royal Fleet Auxiliary Association, British Korean Veterans Association, R.A.F. Association, Light Infantry Association, Coldstream Guards Association and R.B.L. Ivybridge Branch.



Those attending assembled before the service, Andrew Smith and Rachael Connor, in the centre

After the service everyone proceed to the grave were a poppy wreath laid by Andrew Smith and the standards paraded with Richard Bendell the Federation Parade Marshall taking charge of the parade. This was followed by tea, coffee and soft

drinks along with a much appreciated buffet. This was made possible by the efforts of John Boon and his volunteer helpers of the Friends of Ford Park Cemetery Trust.



Reverend Peter Warland QHC RN with the Grand Children at the grave side



The Federation Chairman Basil Downing-Waite sounding the still

LAYING UP OF THE WRNS ASSOCIATION STANDARD

Following the decision to close the branch arrangements were made to lay-up the branch standard. This took place at St. Nicholas' Church, HMS DRAKE on Sunday the 12th January 2014. The service was conducted by the Reverend Ken Bromage, RN on his first Sunday back at St. Nicholas. That said he had carried out the service with experience borne from previous times and it was to our benefit.



Standard Bearers with the Reverend Bromage and Parade Marshal Jim Patterson

The standard bearers from the RNA, HMS GANGES Association, RFA Association, Coldstream Guards Association and the RAF Association escorted our standard down the aisle and the recess at the end, with Jim Paterson acting as the Parade Marshal – our thanks to all of them. The Naval Base Commander, Commodore Graeme Little and his wife Mrs Helen Little were also present and Commodore Little read the lesson. Representatives from many Associations were also in attendance and the Naval Prayer was replaced by the Wrens Prayer. The march at the end was composed by Sir Vivien Dunn and is called “Passing By (The Wrens March)”



Ann Grantham, the WRENS Standard Bearer, handing the standard over to the Reverend Bromage



All retired and serving members after the service with the standards

The branch intend to continue meeting as an informal group, as is happening in other parts of the country with the age of the older members coupled with younger

members working it is becoming harder to maintain vibrant branches and a lot of the younger ones use Facebook to keep in contact.

I would like to thank Nancy Hill for the report on this event and John Whiteman for providing the excellent photographs.

FUNERAL OF MARY DAVIS

The funeral of Mary took place at St Mary's church Plymstock on the 24th January at 1215. Mary had been a long time delegate to the Federation for the ATAS & WRAC Association only recently being relieved by Ruth Jennings. There were many members of her Association in the church and their standard was carried by the husband of one of the members. There was a eulogy written by the Association Chairwoman, who unfortunately was not present, but it was read out by one of the other members.

In all there were nine standards present which was a very good turnout and I am sure that Mary would have been pleased. The Federation was represented by the Chairman and many other delegates who adjourned to the Plymstock Inn after the service.

FUTURE EVENTS

There are no events at present for February.

Cdr. Charles Crichton is now compiling a list of events for the coming year and asks that anyone who is aware of an event which would interest the Federation to let him know on the following email charles_delia@talktalk.net