



GUARDIAN ENSIQN



NEWSLETTER OF
THE FEDERATION OF NAVAL ASSOCIATIONS,
NUMBER 43 Autumn 2010
Registered Charity 1068708



SECRETARYS' BRIEFCASE

Next years AGM/Reunion Weekend, it has been decided, will be held at/in the Warwick Hotel, Blackpool. Somewhat of a change to all of our previous do's, which have been at camp venues. Within this edition there should be a booking form and itinerary, which is also on our web site. The booking form should be returned to the Secretary asap, as space is at a premium. Last year our numbers were down for various reasons, so it has been decided that it would be wise to work from last years total and go from there. Rather than doing such a silly thing as booking a venue that we may not be able to fill, we have gone for the availability of extra room, should it be needed, at an adjacent venue. In this respect we will not end up with a bill for something we do not require and may not use. We have wished to encompass a hotel venue for some time, but the pricing is sometimes more than I would wish our people to pay, however, I think £105 per person for three nights half board is not too bad. Of course the entertainment is not quite up to the holiday village level in hotels I find, but I have secured the services of an entertainer for the Saturday night. Apparently he is known within naval circles, or was it daisy chains? One of those anyway. Goes by the name of Shep Woolley, for those who may have heard of him. Another plus is it is a quid cheaper than last year, but don't go wasting it, put it in the building society. In twenty years time it will be worth around £1-10. Who needs to win the lottery.

To change tack, just a bit, we, the FNA that is, have now taken out comprehensive public liability insurance. We have been pursuing such for some time and have now gained what we were after, which includes Association Standard cover. However, it must be stressed that a cover charge of £8 per item will have to prevail and we can only cover the Standard/s of organisations that are members of the FNA. This being a stipulation of the policy terms. Any queries etc` on this, or indeed, anything else pertaining to, please contact the secretary who's details are on the rear cover. Whilst on the subject of membership, sort of, a little reminder for those that have not renewed their subs`, they are overdue!!

I will finish this epistle with a short reminder for those who are responsible for supplying their respective organisations with Blazer badges etc` that they can be obtained through the FNA at very competitive prices. £7 for a Blazer badge, Gold Wire. Once again, contact the secretary. Here endeth the lesson. **Robbie R.**

Mrs Alison Seaberk MP

House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

Date 31-07-2010

Dear Mrs Seaberk

I am a Claimant together with hundreds of Veterans exposed to radiation during Britain's atomic weapons testing in Australia and at Christmas Island in the 1950s and 1960s. Those who took part played a crucial role in defending our country during the Cold War.

Many people are seriously ill as a result of exposure to ionizing radiation during their time at the test sites, the survivors are currently dying at a rate of three every month.

The UK's major wartime allies – the USA, Canada and France – recognise the sacrifice their servicemen made and compensate them for the ill health and suffering they have had as a result of taking part in nuclear tests carried out by those governments. The Isle of Man, China and Russia all compensate servicemen who have suffered from radiation related medical consequences. The UK Government refuses to compensate British servicemen and their families but they have paid the Australian Government £20million towards personal injury compensation for Australians who have suffered from radiation exposure.

We are now engaged in a long legal battle with the Ministry of Defence which started in 2004 and is likely to drag on for years to come. We and our families cannot afford to wait that long – over 100 of us will die in the next three years alone.

We want the MoD to recognise the sacrifice we made and reach a settlement without recourse to a long and costly High Court battle – legal fees paid for by the taxpayer will stretch to tens of millions of pounds. The current Minister for the Armed Forces, Nick Harvey, was a witness for the Claimants at the limitation trial when he said in his statement:-

“Britain continues to ignore her veterans and hide behind legislation to deny a fair and democratic hearing in the public domain”.

As my MP I ask you to write to the MoD demanding an apology for the Veterans and that they offer a compensation scheme like every other nation.

Yours sincerely

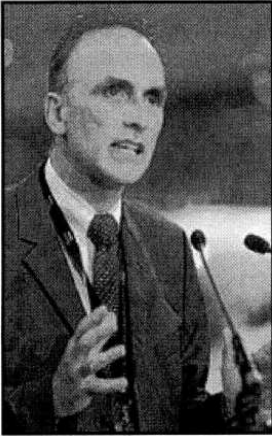


ASSOCIATION STANDARDS

Does your Association have a Standard? Is it Insured?

The FNA has a comprehensive liability insurance, which covers all Member Associations for parades and functions such as Navy Days etc`. Standards at a cost of £8 per Standard, covering loss or damage to Standards
Full details may be obtained from the Secretary.

'Gagging order' stops MPs from raising nuclear test veterans' case in Commons



Derby North MP Chris Williamson said the issue was of huge public interest

MPs have been barred from asking questions about Britain's nuclear test veterans in the House of Commons.

The veterans took part in atomic weapons tests in the 1950s and say their health was damaged by radiation they were exposed to.

Now, they are locked in a legal battle with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in a bid to claim compensation and the Derby Telegraph has launched a campaign urging the Government to pay up.

However, the Telegraph has learned that after MoD officials wrote to the House of Commons authorities, a decision was taken to ban MPs from raising points in Parliament about the veterans.

The MoD argued that parliamentary questions regarding the veterans' would be "sub judice" – in other words they might prejudice the outcome of the ongoing legal battle.

The Commons authorities have said any decision to stop MPs raising particular questions in Parliament was theirs alone to make.

But they have not denied receiving correspondence from the MoD and have refused to release details of the decision which led to a ban on questions being imposed.

Alan Rimmer, spokesman for charity the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association, which represents former servicemen in Derbyshire, said: "I am outraged that the Government can seek to gag MPs on such an important matter.

"It has gone to the Court of Appeal but there is nothing to stop MPs speaking about this in Parliament.

"Men are still dying every week and we cannot afford to wait around while the niceties of the appeal process go through."

One legal expert, media lawyer Nigel Hanson, argued that raising the veterans' story in the Commons would not affect the ongoing court case. The British legal system recognises that juries and witnesses giving evidence might be swayed by media coverage of an issue but holds that judges, trained to make balanced decisions, will not be affected.

In the ongoing court battle between the MoD and veterans, only judges will be involved in coming to a decision, which is expected at the end of next month.

Mr Hanson, of law firm Foot Anstey, said: "It seems a very odd decision to have banned MPs raising this issue in Parliament. It appears all the evidence has been heard and the matter is now down to be decided by three judges. I can't see them being influenced in any way by debate in Parliament."

Meanwhile, Derby North MP Chris Williamson pledged to write to the Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow – who holds ultimate authority over questions that are put in the Commons chamber.

"It does sound to me like this is a gagging order and I don't like the way in which the Ministry of Defence are involved," he said.

"MPs have something called parliamentary privilege – a rule that means in the House of Commons they can raise issues freely that elsewhere might be subject to legal restrictions. The issue of the test veterans is of huge public interest and we need to have freedom to discuss it, as there is not a risk of prejudicing the legal case."

A spokesman for the Commons authorities confirmed that they could choose to apply a ban on motions, debates or questions regarding an issue on which there were active court proceedings.

He said: "It is for the House authorities (under the supervision of Mr Speaker) to decide whether the sub judice resolution applies in any particular case.

"Government departments may be asked for factual information, for example on whether court proceedings are active, but they do not make the decisions."

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the MoD said: "The legal case has proceeded to the Court of Appeal and as such is sub judice. As judgment is awaited from the Court of Appeal in the Nuclear Test Veterans Group Action, it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage."

FNA REUNION 2011

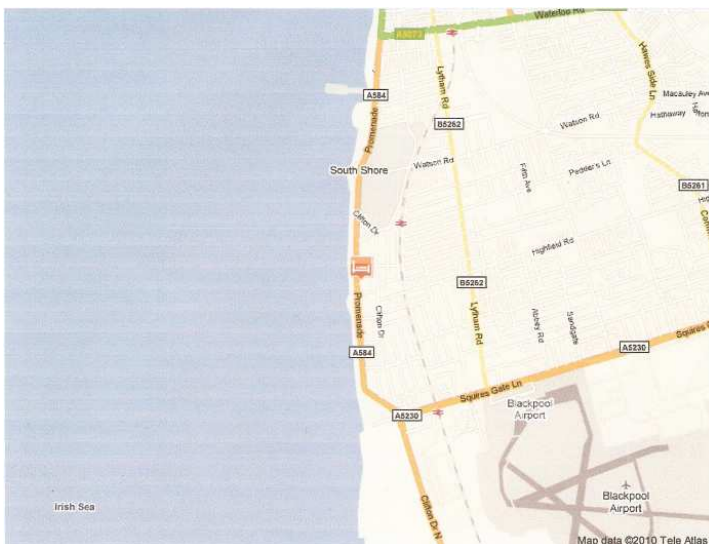
Warwick Hotel Blackpool

FRI 25TH MARCH TO MON 28TH



The Warwick Hotel enjoys a prime seafront position on the quieter, level New South Promenade. The hotel is convenient for the Pleasure Beach and just opposite one of the many tram stops.

Here you can look forward to a warm welcome from our General Manager and staff, together with friendly service and comfortable accommodation. The hotel features a heated indoor swimming pool, and a regular entertainment programme throughout the season. There's also a lovely sea facing restaurant, a resident bar, comfortable lounge area, and a separate public bar serving real ales too. All 51 bedrooms are en suite and include colour TVs, and tea and coffee making facilities. There is a lift to all floors and, to the rear of the hotel, there is ample free car parking space available. Please note that all our bedrooms are non smoking.



REUNIONS



HMS Tiger Association **Reunion 1st to 4th October 2010** **Royal Hotel- Great Yarmouth**

Contact Dennis Andrew 01262 670860



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HMS Newcastle Association

2010 Reunion And AGM At the

Ambassador Hotel

Scarborough.

Friday 15th October to Monday 18th October 2010

FURTHER DETAILS FROM Shirley Winn

IOW Tours Ltd, 3 New Road, Lake,

Sandown, Isle of Wight. PO36 9JN TEL:01983 405116

Email: enquiries@iowtours.com



D87



RNEBA AGM & Reunion Weekend **Friday 1st to Monday 4th October 2010** **Tillington Hall Hotel Stafford**

Contact

FURTHER DETAILS FROM Shirley Winn

IOW Tours Ltd, 3 New Road, Lake,

Sandown, Isle of Wight. PO36 9JN TEL:01983 405116

Email: enquiries@iowtours.com

REGULATING & RNPA ***REUNION W/E***

@ Portsmouth Fri 1st & 2nd Oct 2010

Contact Willie Dick 02392345228

Email;- maawgd@sky.com



HMS Mohawk Association

Annual Reunion,
Weston Hotel

**Scarborough from 5th-8th November
2010**

For further details please contact
Neville Saunders on 01582 619379 or Email;neville Saunders@hotmail.co .uk



Survey Ships Association

2010 AGM & Reunion

AT THE

The Celtic Royal Hotel Caernarfon

Friday 29th Oct - Monday 1st Nov

Details of reunion and membership from



HMS GLASGOW C21/D88

31st Reunion 6th-9th May2011

Queens Hotel PAIGNTON

Details from S/M Gary Eaton

10 Elderwood Ave

Thornton

Cleverleys FY5 5EQ

All excrew welcome

**Great News We Now Have
A Web Site**

<http://f-n-a.org>

Items for the web site will be at the editor's discretion

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