



August 2009

## Antrim Times

The newsletter of the HMS Antrim Association

# H.M.S Antrim



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## HMS ANTRIM ASSOCIATION KEY MEMBERS

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## In The News

A WREN on a warship hunting drug barons has been charged with trying to smuggle £1million of cocaine into Britain.

Junior rating Teresa Matos, 36, was arrested on HMS Manchester in a dramatic swoop by navy cops and customs officers.

The Type 42 destroyer was returning from an anti-drugs mission off South America, including a stop in Colombia.

The bust - off the coast of Plymouth, Devon, on August 10 - followed a tip-off.

A total of 12kg of cocaine was found in a locker on board the ship, a court in the town heard yesterday.

Packages containing the drug were discovered sewn into a vest and a rucksack.

Matos - a steward who served officers meals on the ship - was remanded in prison for a month. Her arrest triggered a national operation that resulted in three civilian men from the London area being charged with importing cocaine.

All have been remanded in custody.

Angolan-born Matos joined the Navy in 2007 after passing her British citizenship test.

In Brazil she and comrades carried out aid work with street kids while ashore.

Matos has lived in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, for about four years. Neighbour Albert Bell, 57, said: "She talked a lot about how she loved the Navy."

She has a sister in London. UK. Her mum and another sister live in Africa

## Reunion 2009

### **We need final numbers for the hotel by Sept 15.**

This includes just booking for the **Sat night dinner only**. We are having some problems with the hotel currently, numbers proving to be a potential bombshell but we are on the case.

People should book by phone, the contact is Davina Jones. 023 9273 1281 Make sure when you book you get a booking ref and confirmation as the hotel have messed up some bookings.

Those that have already booked, should check their booking just in case. Seaview rooms are available free of charge, first come first served.

The cost for dinner only on the Sat night is £35. Menu is tbd by us. We have managed to get them to offer TWO choices rather than the one.

There will be a tot ceremony pre dinner on Sat night. A crooner is booked to do two sessions with instructions not to interfere with drinking. Golf is available down at Eastney on the Saturday for a reasonable charge. Bookings direct through Mike Williams. 01329665885.

AGM will be in the hotel at 11.00 am Sunday. We are hoping to get some refreshments laid on for afterwards for the travellers to have before they leave.

All you Pompey RA's need to shape up and book or we could be looking at financial problems but what else we can do

**Time is running out so those that are intending to go and have not yet booked, need to get on the phone ASAP.**

# Swanage Armed Forces Weekend

The sun shone down for the 1st Armed Forces weekend in Swanage at the end of May, with an estimated 10,000 plus visitors.

## **Saturday**

On Sandpit Field there were many stands from Armed Forces Support Agencies, St Dunstons, Royal Navy Benevolent Trust, Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, Royal Air Force Association, SSAFA and SAMA82 (South Atlantic Medal Association 1982) plus other stalls of memorabilia, crafts etc, and a selection Restored Military Vehicles.

A small area was set aside for a demonstration on Disaster Relief Cooking, where MR Steve Hooper cooked up jacket potatoes, jerk chicken, soup and other bits and pieces using just a dustbin and 2 old car wheels this was very successful and many questions were asked at the display.



**Royal Navy go  
anywhere and  
cook anywhere!**

At 2.30pm after the re-opening of Herston Halt on Swanage's Railway, it was time for the 11 Signals Regiment, Royal Corp of Signals to parade through the town as holders of the "Liberty of the Town" as the band played so did the public in showing their support for today's soldiers as the streets of Swanage become lined with people applauding the Troops.

Once the parade was over everyone retired to Sandpit field for a first time to Swanage performance by the "Devizes Male Majorwrecks" which was sponsored by "Innovation" Kings Road, Swanage. This was some lighthearted entertainment, which was very well received by the troops and the public as they went through their 30-minute



routine. The group included a serving Royal Marine, who is soon to be deployed to Afghanistan, and 2 ex-Police officers, they raise money for their local charity to help disadvantaged children, all the men are put through their paces by Mrs Liz Smith.

There was then a small speech and presentation made by Mr Frank Roberts to the Commanding Officer Lt Col J.A.G. Langley of the Royal Signals to the Regiment.

## Sunday

Day 2 saw the Cadets put through their paces in the Annual Swanage Armed Forces Cadets Standard Bearers Competition. 2 Cadets from 171 Squadron Christchurch ATC fought it out in the heat of the day with 1st Place going to Cpl Samuel Booth of



171 Sqd Christchurch ATC. Carrying The Standard of The Royal Air Force Association Christchurch Branch. The winning shield and certificate were presented to him by Colonel David Swann MBE, Armoured Centre & Bovington Garrison Commander.

2nd place went to Cpl Lauren Potter carrying the ATC Standard of 171 Sqd Christchurch ATC.

Well done to both cadets for holding it all together in the heat of the day.

Colonel Swann presented 3 Armed Forces Veterans badges to Mr Martin Arnold, Mr Jeff Dray and Mr John Dodd, all who come from the local area.

On completion of the presentation's Colonel Swann then went to speak with the Veterans as they formed up for the Parade through the town. The parade included Veterans from the Normandy Landings, WWII, Korea, Falkland Islands, Gulf and Afghanistan. Standards were also present from St Dunstons, Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Air Force Association, and the Dorset County and Branches of Royal British Legion.



The parade was lead by the Ringwood Pipe band with a gentle pace for the Veterans to follow, then came 2 squads from Royal Armoured corps at Bovington and a small selection of Vehicles with Veterans unable to march in them, the first Veteran was the oldest on parade at 95.

**The Standards ready to march off with Mr Tony Smith as guide and escort for Mr Nigel Whiteley from St Dunstan's.**

After this section came the Royal British Legion Band Christchurch leading the Standards and members of the Royal British Legion and Royal British Legion Women's Section, and more vehicles and Veterans followed them, finally came a local man Mr Brian Guy in his car flying car flags showing "Sword Beach" 1944 and Operation "Market Garden".

On completion of the parade both the Ringwood Pipe band and Royal British Legion Band Christchurch performed in the arena on Sandpit Field ending in Sunset and the National Anthem, when the Union Flag was lowered and the weekend came to a close.

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## **Secretaries Report**

Greetings ship mates.

Pompey revs. Well not long to go now as I write this. Roll on Pompey. All is in place for what should be a well attended and enjoyable weekend for all. A few new members should be turning up so it will be good to welcome them back into our 'extended family'. Thanks to Mike Williams for all his efforts in organising the re union this year. If you haven't booked, do it now! Pompey ratings please consider staying both nights in order to fully join in the experience! There's nothing like breakfast on the Saturday morning, when you see how bad your oppos look, it makes you feel all that much better! I have secured sponsorship once again from Lambs Navy Rum so the tot ceremony is covered.

I and the Vice Chairman plus one of the 3 committee members' positions are up for re-election this year. If you want to have a go please let me know asap and well in advance of the AGM.

Roy Turp has been working hard to get the London 2010 reunion sorted out. He will be providing updates at the AGM where we will be seeking the formal go ahead to book and proceed with the reunion. Currently I have drawn a blank with using the Union Jack Club as the

accommodation, so we have switched our attention to the Victory Services Club, which, in my opinion, offers better accommodation anyway. I would encourage all to support Roy in his efforts to make this one off event a success. Details will be on the website as soon as possible also.

Also at this AGM we need to be voting on where the 2011 reunion should be. Possibilities are limited as we have found in the past. We are due back up North for that year so any suggestions would be most welcome. We could always go back to Coventry which proved so successful last year.

If you have any input for the AGM, which will follow the usual format, please submit them to me asap. Any other business you wish to raise is always welcome. Remember, it's your Association so feel free to speak up. I will bring the few remaining Falklands 82 medals down should anybody want them and a few copies of the commemorative magazine that I have for sale.

Well that's it from me for now. I look forward to seeing you all in the Bar for the Friday make and mend session!!. Keep safe and well.

Yours Aye,

Stu Pennock

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## **Reunion 2010**

*Re-union at the House Of Commons (Parliament) in 2010*

*The venue itself is free to us...H.M.S Antrim association; this will include a guided tour.*

*3 course meal starts from £33:00*

*We would have to purchase their drinks*

*If we use the Victory services club as accommodation, we will require coaches(s) to collect us from the Victory services club and take us to the*

*H.O.C; this has been priced at £265:00 return at this years price. Each coach can hold 49 people.*

*Accommodation at the Victory services club*

*This venue is about the best deal we are going to get that I know of, I have tried several others but none of them can compete with the Victory services club.*

*Rooms: Double £117:00 per night including Breakfast...un-suite  
Single £68:00 per night including breakfast...un-suite*

*Friday night hire of large room for us to have a drink and dance is £780:00...times are 17:30 until 23:00. The bar will be closed then, however other bars will be kept open. The victory services club have suggested to me that in order to keep the costs down we should have our meal on Friday in the main restaurants and then use the large hall for the drinking and dancing. If we wanted to have our meal (3x course) together in the large hall this will cost us £26:65PP.*

*Hire of room for our Sunday morning A.G.M is £255:00...if we would like a working lunch i.e Buffett this will be £8:90 PP*

*If we went ahead and booked the V.S.C they require deposit of £640:00 (refundable)*

*These are this years prices.*

**More information will be available at the AGM.**

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## **UP SPIRITS – STAND FAST THE HOLY GHOST !**

There once was a time in HM Ships when the magic hour had come  
The Leading Hands of every mess prepared to collect the rum  
The smell of Jamaican filled the air as the ritual began  
A daily tot of Nelson's Blood was a favourite to every man

When the (Rum) Bosun stood, his measure poised  
To serve every man his tot  
Two fingers always in the cup  
Making sure that the 'Queen' got her lot

The Ticker Off was there of course, his pencil at the ready  
With a sipper given from each man's tot,  
His hand no longer steady

The rum rat sat, his eyes aglow, his whiskers twitching well  
He liked his rum so much it seems he could get pissed on the smell

Sometimes the tots were passed around as each man paid his debts  
A favour, a rubber, a duty swapped could cost a couple of wets

Then came the time to sup the 'Queens' 'God Bless Her' was the toast  
A watchful eye, as each man supped so the Rum Bosun got the most

Once the rum had been consumed and nothing left to pour  
The dits began as the grog took charge of favourite runs ashore

A feed, a fight, a couple of pints was part of the run ashore  
A game of darts was in there too  
Then all night in with a Pompey whore

No longer though does the scent of rum pervade Her Majesty's boats  
No more to sup Lord Nelson's Blood and give the Queen her toasts

So to all who drank Lord Nelson's Blood and heard the Klaxon's blast  
May old shipmates meet and share a wet  
Spinning dits of the good times passed

A toast then to Horatio, and another to the Queen  
And may we all, wherever we are,  
Remember where we've been

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## **ON A LIGHTER NOTE**

Undoubtedly, for ex-matelots, there are bound to be times when you will look back with misty eyes at bygone years on the Grey Funnel Line. How can you cope with these gut-wrenching moments of blackness I hear you ask(?). Well, here are the final tips for old sailors who eventually find themselves in the same civvy boat:

21. Raise the freshholds and lower the top sills of all doors in the house. Now you'll always either hit your head or skin your shins when passing through them.
22. When baking a cake, prop up one side of the cake tin while it is baking. When it has cooled, spread icing really thick on one side to level it out again.
23. Every so often throw your cat in the bath, shout 'Man Overboard', then run into the kitchen and sweep all the pots and pans onto the floor while yelling at your wife for not having secured for sea properly.
24. Put your stereo headphones on but don't plug them in, then go and stand in front of your dishwasher and say to nobody in particular, "Dishwasher manned and ready Sir". Then stand there for three or four hours and say again to nobody in particular, "Dishwasher secured Sir". Then put your earphones away again.
25. Nickname your favourite shoes "steamies" then get your kids to hide them around the house on a random basis. Also, every now and again get your wife to pour a pint of orange squash in each boot!

**And, to ensure the Pusser's simple catering accounting system never fades from your memory:**

26. Create a stock account for all items in your fridge and larder. Use it for a couple of years to calculate your household endurance and financial balance, then upgrade it for a

computerised version which takes four hours a day to produce a shopping list for the stuff you've already bought.

27. To check your wife and kids aren't nicking any marmalade or fish fingers, create a set of weekly and monthly checks and controls for your local Mayor, but don't forget to fudge the stocktaking figures in case you overstep the critical 3% capital punishment margin.

**And finally, to preserve the more recent memory of increased bureaucracy and manpower gapping:**

28. Work 26 hours a day, 8 days a week and 13 months a year – but within budget. Try digging the garden with a one-pronged fork and painting the house with a one-haired toothbrush. Get 6 builders round to knock up an extension, but then medically downgrade one to paperwork duties only, and get the rest to flit backwards and forwards on bricklaying, carpentry and plumbing courses, and clear massive back-logs of outstanding leave. With a bit of luck the extension might only take 5 years. Then to prove to yourself that you are your ***own*** greatest single factor – get the Investors In People team around to interview the kids the day before they ask for money to go to Ibiza.

Need I say anymore?

Cheers shipmates,

**David (Rowdy) Yates**

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**Website Updates**

If you would like to receive email notification of updates on the website, please send the webmaster (Mac) an email from the website so that he can list your email address for notification.

## **In Remembrance**

**Peter Ford  
1936 – 2009**

It is with great sadness I have to tell you, my dear husband and best friend Pete passed away on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

He was diagnosed with terminal cancer in January and was given 6- 12 months to live.

In February Pete spent a spell in hospital with fluid on the lung, and events took their cause much sooner.

I would like to thank Ian Cox who came the evening before the funeral so as the Standard could be used.

Pete joined the Fleet Air Arm at 16 and was on the Ark Royal before he met me (Joyce) in my home town of Portsmouth, and we married in 1961 and had 2 children Philip and Pauline.

Pete's last ship was HMS Antrim and I remember taking my young children to the commissioning.

Pete loved the life and comradeship of his mates and completed 24 years service.

After service life he settled well and loved family life and his home. He worked for Britvic soft drinks as a service manager before his early retirement at 57.

I thank God for those extra years as we had a happy and contented retirement together.

Pete was 72 when he passed away – too early to go. I nursed him at home until the last day and he passed away peacefully at the local hospice.

I was proud and still am to have been his wife.

**Joyce Ford**