

'The Shadow'



The Newsletter of **HMS Penelope Association**



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DITORIAL:-



If you know of any members who are sick and in need of some sympathy, please let me know. Lewie@hms-penelope.com

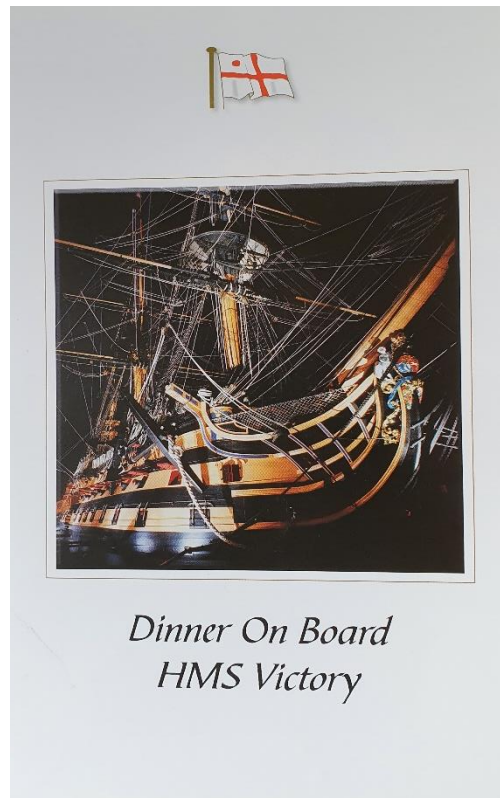
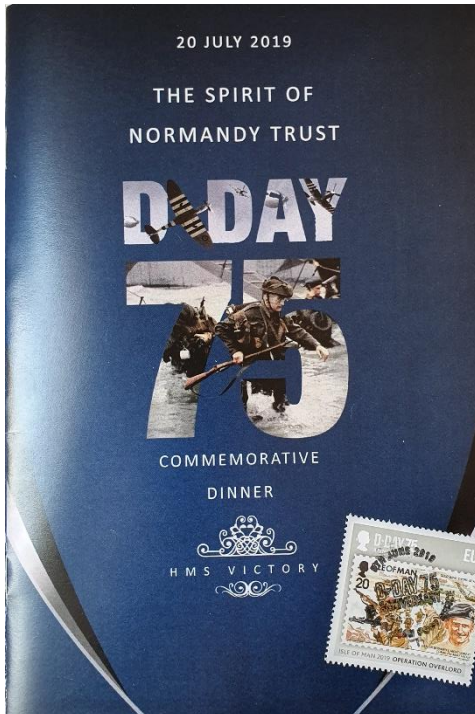
Or via contact page on website www.hms-penelope.com

Army Navy Rugby 2019 (yes, we lost again!)
We still all had a great time





Had a great night with the spirit of Normandy Trust D Day 75 commemorative dinner on board HMS Victory, 2 D-Day guests aged 96 & 99 both ex-Royal Navy, very moving stories and still lots of banter/dits from these Veterans.







Glenda inman very kindly sent me some information she said I could share with association.

Torpedo Leading Wireman H. Pugh

I joined PENELOPE at Portsmouth after her return from U.S.A. where she had been refitted with the latest radar and gyro-controlled aerlikaas. I served for Hostilities Only, about 90% of the ship's company were Active Service personnel. It was a happy ship and morale was high.

Action occurred in the Mediterranean. A 6 ~~size~~ inch shell fired from shore batteries on Pantellaria resulted in no casualties and only slight damage to the seamen's heads (toilets).

PENELOPE helped the Army in its advance along the North African coast - Bone, Philippeville, Algiers, Oran. She was involved a good deal with the Sicily, Salerno and Anzio landings. During action off Cos and Leros in the Aegean the ship was hit with a 1,000 lb. bomb which went right through her, hit one of the propeller shafts and ricocheted into a fuel tank without exploding; it was recovered at Alex. The casualties it caused were 1 officer and 9 ratings killed and 5 officers and 51 ratings injured.

On 8 September 1943 PENELOPE sailed from Algiers for the occupation of Taranto. We were in company with AURORA, DIDO and SIRIUS and we were all full of the First Parachute Division. ABDIEL hit a mine in Taranto Harbour and sank. It was the time that Italy was changing sides.

We left Naples early in the morning of 18 February 1944 to return to Anzio beach. It was cold and snowing. We were making 32 knots when at about 0655 we were hit in the stern by a torpedo. The propellers were damaged and the ship stopped and listed to starboard. I was in the mess-deck off watch at the time. The order was piped to jettison all top weight on the starboard side. I rushed to the upper deck, inflated my lifejacket as I could hardly swim, and released three torpedoes. The gunners were already throwing over the side 4 inch shells from the gun deck above. The water was nearly up to my knees in the starboard waist of the ship when a second torpedo hit amidships on the starboard side just below where I was standing. The next thing I remember, after a few seconds, I was ~~under~~ under the water, being knocked about a bit, still going down and the water got darker. Then suddenly I stopped descending, things calmed down and my lifejacket started to bring me to the surface. I was astonished to see no sign of ~~the ship~~ PENELOPE. There were a few bits of wreckage and a lot of thick oil on the surface. I managed to see three other ratings clinging on to a hazel rod fender so I joined them. We were hanging on to this fender when a Tank Landing Vessel appeared; it was on its way to Anzio with troops of the Queen's Regiment. After coming alongside we had the problem of boarding the vessel. I was cold and could not hold a rope so a net was sent down and we threaded our arms through the squares to be pulled up one at a time. I asked the soldiers if a lot had been picked up and was told that another landing vessel was helping in the rescue. I was also told that that I was picked up at 1315. I did not realise that I had been in the water so long. After a hot shower and a drink and with a blanket round me we returned to Naples where we received a parcel from a Red Cross Nurse as soon as we put our feet on the jetty. All the survivors were put on a troopship and issued with Army kit. After a few days we transferred to an Italian cruiser for passage to Malta, then waited for passage home where I arrived at the end of March 1944.

417 men, including the Captain, lost their lives in PENELOPE. The bodies of the Captain and 12 others were picked up and buried at Naples. It was learnt later that U?boat 401 had fired the torpedoes.

July 17TH

Mid Hewitt
H.M.S. Revelante

My dear Mummy & Daddy.

As you can guess there is absolutely no news (publishable) whatever - we've been very busy and will probably continue to be so. I am having a lot of trouble with my ear - there are a lot of sores inside it and I have a lot of treatment and it hurts a LOT: otherwise I, like everyone else on board, am quite fit and safe. I hope everything at home is dandy - we've had no mail at ~~home~~ since the big lot. Last night I had 13 hours sleep! - 5.30 P - 6.30 A.M. - I still feel tired now! I hope you got my last cable - I thought you'd like one after all the Sicily business, we seem to be doing very well there. How I am going to fill up all this space I don't know - there is great F.A. to say. It's boiling hot here - the water out of the ~~hot~~ ^{cold} tap is really hot - and the after deck in the afternoon is impossible. I am longing to be home again with you both: fed up with this lot! - no, I'm not ~~say~~ fed up exactly fed up with it - but I sure would like a change, I'm going all out for that gunnery course. Well I hope you won't think I'm a big stopping now - but there's not much to say and everything's so unsettled.

very much love to you both
your loving son John.

Invictus 2020

So, it begins again!

Invictus 2020 starts with **trials in Sheffield.**
Games are in the Hague 9th-16th May 2020

On Monday we went to see Eliot Kennedy with headline act Alfie Boe, and special guest's classical artist Laura Wright, pop-sensation Heather Small, Suggs from Madness and Game of Thrones actor Charles Dance along with huge YouTube sensation JP Cooper, to celebrate the opening of the Invictus UK Trials in the City.

Sheffield hosted the Invictus UK Trials on 22nd and 26th July 2019, giving nearly 500 competitors the chance to take part in an adaptive multi-sport event as part of their recovery journey, supported by their friends and family

The programme is delivered by a partnership of Help for Heroes, the Ministry of Defence and the Royal British Legion.

Invictus Sheffield wheelchair basket final



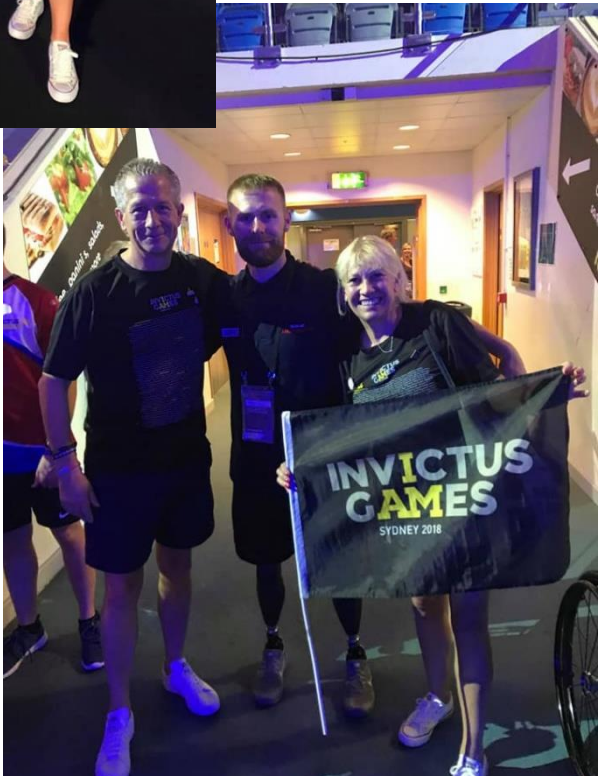






Invictus trials Sheffield indoor rowing, met up our Royal Marine Mark Ormrod who we know from Toronto and Sydney games, also new ship mate rear admiral Jim lol !! who is now involved helping organising the games.





Cenotaph 2019 Application

We have been successful again with confirmation that HMS Penelope Association will be marching at this year's event. we marched last year with 29, we have 35 places so please contact me - it's an amazing day

if you would like to march send email lewie@hms-penelope.com or use the contact page on the website.

The security requirement has been imposed by Metropolitan Police as they will need to conduct individual security checks on all participants. Therefore, basic personal information will need to be provided in advance for each applicant.

Ticket holders will then need to bring photographic ID or document showing proof of address with them for access to Horse Guards Parade via the manned Police entry points on the day.

A few jokes & dits:

1. Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.
2. Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.
3. I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
4. There is great need for a sarcasm font.
5. How the hell are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?
6. Was learning cursive really necessary?
7. Map Quest or Google Maps really need to start their directions on #5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighbourhood.

8. Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.
9. I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind of tired.
10. Bad decisions make good stories.
11. You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
12. Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blu-Ray? I don't want to have to restart my collection... again.
13. I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my ten-page technical report that I swear I did not make any changes to.
14. I keep some people's phone numbers in my phone just so I know not to answer when they call.
15. I think the freezer deserves a light as well.
16. I wish Google Maps had an "Avoid Ghetto" routing option.
17. I have a hard time deciphering the fine line between boredom and hunger.
18. How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?
19. I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars team up to prevent a jerk from cutting in at the front. Stay strong, brothers and sisters!
20. Shirts get dirty. Underwear gets dirty. Pants? Pants never get dirty, and you can wear them forever.

21. Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone, and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey - but I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time.

22. The first testicular guard, the "Cup," was used in Hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974. That means it only took 100 years for men to realize that their brain is also important.

It just gets better as you get older, doesn't it?

From all at HMS Penelope Association
God Bless, Take Care & Stay Safe

Slops:-

We have Ships Plaques at £13.00 - Association Ties at £7.00 - Metal Lapel Badges for only £3.00, - Blazer Badges at £13.00 - (although we only keep a small number of blazer badges in stock due to the price of them).

Email & Websites:-

The membership Secretaries email address is **GMu14@aol.com** his postal address is on the front cover. If there are any members who are on line and we haven't got your address can you let me have it please? Also, PLEASE let us know of any changes to your address, telephone number or email address.

The web site for the association can be found at **www.hms-penelope.com** there are many pictures of the Annual Reunion on the site and well worth taking a look at from time to time.

We really need your help on material for the shadow

Please tell us about your time on the Penny any funny dits/stories or anything you would like to be added in any edition of the shadow

Booking forms for next year's reunion to be held over the weekend 21st to 24th February 2020 at Tiffany's Hotel, Blackpool are available from Isle of Wight Tour Ltd

More information and lots more photos online
www.hms-penelope.com

Editor – Shipmate Lewie Armstrong

