

EXETER WHITE ENSIGN CLUB



THE QUEEN
GOD BLESS HER



NEWSLETTER

Date.....JUNE.....2014.



HE WAS GETTING OLD AND PAUNCHY, AND HIS HAIR WAS FALLING FAST.
AND HE SAT AROUND THE LEGION, TELLING STORIES OF THE PAST.
OF A WAR THAT HE ONCE FOUGHT IN AND THE DEEDS THAT HE HAD DONE,
IN HIS EXPLOITS WITH HIS BUDDIES; THEY WERE HEROES, EVERY ONE.

AND 'THO SOMETIMES TO HIS NEIGHBOURS HIS TALES BECAME A JOKE,
ALL HIS BUDDIES LISTENED QUIETLY FOR THEY KNEW OF WHAT HE SPOKE.
BUT WE'LL HEAR HIS TALES NO LONGER, FOR OLD JOE HAS PASSED AWAY,
AND THE WORLD'S A LITTLE POORER, FOR A SOLDIER DIED TODAY.

HE WON'T BE MOURNED BY MANY, JUST HIS CHILDREN AND HIS WIFE
FOR HE JUST LIVED AN ORDINARY AND QUIET SORT OF LIFE.
HE EARNED A WAGE AND RAISED HIS KIDS, GOING QUIETLY ON HIS WAY,
AND THE WORLD WON'T NOTE HIS PASSING 'THO A SOLDIER DIED TODAY.

WHEN POLITICIANS LEAVE THIS EARTH, THEIR BODIES LIE IN STATE,
WHILE THOUSANDS MARK THEIR PASSING AND PROCLAIM THAT THEY WERE GREAT.
PAPERS TELL OF THEIR LIFE STORIES FROM THE TIME WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG,
BUT THE PASSING OF A SOLDIER GOES UNNOTICED AND UNSUNG.

IS THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELFARE OF OUR LAND,
SOME JERK WHO BREAKS HIS PROMISE AND CONS HIS FELLOW MAN?
OR THE ORDINARY FELLOW WHO IN TIMES OF WAR AND STRIFE,
GOES OFF TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY, AND OFFERS UP HIS LIFE.

THE POLITICIANS STIPEND AND THE STYLE IN WHICH HE LIVES,
ARE OFTEN DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE SERVICE THAT HE GIVES.
WHILE THE ORDINARY SOLDIER, WHO OFFERS UP HIS ALL,
IS PAID OFF WITH A MEDAL AND A PENSION, VERY SMALL.

IT IS NOT THE POLITICIANS WITH THEIR COMPROMISE AND PLOYS
WHO WON FOR US THE FREEDOM THAT OUR COUNTRY NOW ENJOYS.
SHOULD YOU FIND YOURSELF IN DANGER, WITH YOUR ENEMIES AT HAND,
WOULD YOU REALLY WANT SOME COP-OUT WITH HIS EVER WAFFLING STAND?

OR WOULD YOU WANT A SOLDIER PROUD OF HIS HOME AND OF HIS KIN,
JUST A COMMON SOLDIER, WHO WOULD FIGHT UNTIL THE END.
HE WAS JUST A COMMON SOLDIER, AND HIS RANKS ARE GROWING THIN.
BUT HIS PRESENCE SHOULD REMIND US WE MAY NEED HIS LIKE AGAIN.

FOR WHEN COUNTRIES ARE IN CONFLICT WE FIND THE SOLDIER'S PART
IS TO CLEAN UP ALL THE TROUBLE THAT THE POLITICIANS START.
IF WE CANNOT DO HIM HONOUR WHILE HE LIVES TO HEAR THE PRAISE,
THEN AT LEAST LET'S GIVE HIM HOMAGE AT THE ENDING OF HIS DAYS.

PERHAPS JUST A SIMPLE HEADLINE IN THE PAPER THAT MIGHT SAY

“ OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING

A SOLDIER DIED TODAY.”

J. Coulter 535

WHAT'S ON JUNE

- Sun, 1 17:00 - 22:00 Bingo tonight
- Mon, 2 19:30 - 21:30 Line Dancing
- Tue, 3 19:00 - 23:00 Euchre 19:00 - 23:00 Jazz Band
- Wed, 4 11:30 - 22:30 Benenden Health (buffet) Bingo tonight 19:00 22:00
- Thu, 5 10:00 - 13:00 Wrens British Legion PM
- Fri, 6 19:00 - 23:00 Members quiz Trinity chest etc 19:00 - 23:00 Buffs in the Wheelhouse
- Sat, 7 Today is to be a Terry Cocks memorial event so come along and support if not play. (See Notice Board for details) 19:00 - 23:00 Saturday Night Dancing with the ever popular music from Malcolm
- Sun, 8 19:00 - 22:00 Bingo tonight
- Mon, 9 10:00 - 12:30 Canal Zoners 19:30 - 21:30 Line Dancing
- Tue, 10 10:00 - 13:00 Royal Air Force Association buffet 18:00 - 23:00 Guards Meeting
19:00 - 23:00 Euchre
- Wed, 11 19:00 - 22:00 Bingo
- Thu, 12 19:00 - 23:00 Royal Marine Association
- Fri, 13 19:00 - 23:00 Members quiz Trinity chest etc
- Sat, 14 19:00 - 23:00 Saturday Night Dancing to old favourites Just for the Record
- Sun, 15 19:00 - 22:00 Bingo tonight
- Mon, 16 19:30 - 21:30 Line Dancing
- Tue, 17 19:00 - 23:00 Euchre
- Wed, 18 19:00 - 23:00 Bingo
- Thu, 19 19:00 - 23:00 Submariners Association Meeting
- Fri 20 19:00 - 23:00 Members quiz Trinity chest etc Buffs in the Wheelhouse
- Sat, 21 Armed Forces Day (See Notice Board for details) 19:00 - 23:00 Saturday Night Dancing to Patches
- Sun, 22 19:00 - 22:00 Bingo tonight
- Mon, 23 19:30 - 21:30 Line Dancing
- Tues 24 Euchre 19:00 -23:00

Weds 25 19:00 - 23:00 Bingo tonight

Thurs 26 Committee meeting 18:30 Mountbatten Lounge Members meeting 20:00 Families need
Fathers Mountbatten Lounge 20-00

Fri 27 Members quiz Trinity chest etc

Sat 28 Dancing tonight with Face to Face

Sun 29 19:00 - 22:00 Bingo tonight

Mon 30 19:30 - 21:30 Line Dancing

Dear Members

Hello everyone, yes it's that time again, and can you believe we are half way through another year oddly it's been quite reasonable weather when you consider the Devon County Show(wiped out for the last day) has been and gone and so has another Bank Holiday .

The past month has seen some very interesting things taking place with the replacing of the floor on the stage which had started to show signs of failing and new vents put in the stage front and sides to keep air moving underneath. The gents toilets have been redecorated and the damaged WC is now sorted out but enough of the boring but very essential stuff. The first Saturday of the month saw a new band for the Saturday dancers; called Retro they certainly made their mark with music from the 50's through to the 90's The dance floor was full all night with special guests Tina Turner (unbelievable impression) and Elvis put in an appearance although not quite right with a goatee beard, very well attended enjoyed by the vast majority (a bit loud for one or two I was told) and no doubt they will be back some time.

The next weekend saw the return of Sounds Easy, their laid back style of music was enjoyed by all those present and the Easter theme round the club was appreciated by all those who attended.

The ever popular John St. John was back for the 17th. He sang all the favourites of those present and introduced a lot of new songs to keep the night fresh and very vibrant. I never thought I would see everyone in the Club waving and chanting 'We Will Rock You' the classic rock anthem but it was there for all to see (and hear).

Rio were back with their old favourites so popular with so many and the month will conclude with the hugely popular Ann Clancy. This article had to be written prior to her appearance but there is nothing much to say about one of the most popular singers attending the Club that has not been said before except, if you have not seen her you are really missing out.

It would be remiss of me to not mention the bank Holiday tea dance. There was not a huge turnout but those that did attend had a terrific afternoon of dance music from Malcolm. The floor was never empty from start to finish; every genre of music (and dance) was asked for and available, a number of guests turned up and were signed in and their comments on leaving at the end of the event augers very well for the future. The dancing "morphed" into bingo in the evening and those that stayed for this had a fantastic time I am told and all are looking forward to the next special event so watch this space.

Now may be a goodtime to remind you that the efforts of the Committee to

continue to bring you good quality music and dancing on Saturdays are really generating greater interest and many more people are regularly attending on those nights. As has been said before the Club cannot survive without its members so thank you to everyone for your continuing support and if this carries on as we hope it will we may just be able to start relaxing just a little.

Thank you too to all concerned for your efforts in putting the events together; for the back office staff that routinely cater for the events and regularly collect glasses etc often without proper recognition and finally to those who make donations etc and whose contributions enable the bands to keep on coming. A great big Thank You once again.

Alex (Spencer) tried to make things a little more interesting for you with brain teaser puzzles. On three occasions he offered a prize for correct answers but no one entered so he has decided to call it a day. Perhaps we may try again later in the year. On that basis there will be no puzzle or quiz this month, however the answer to the previous poser relating to Milly's muffins.... Milly made 14 muffins, Milly's mother made 12Molly made 11 and Molly's mother made 13 If you want a full explanation just ask as there is not room here this time.

Anyway the local and European elections are now over and one of our illustrious members wanted to remind everyone through this page of what it means to be British.

Being British is about driving German cars to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then travelling home via a curry house or kebab shop to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on Japanese televisions.

Only in Britain do supermarkets make sick people go to the back of the shop for prescriptions while healthy people get there fags at the front. Only in Britain do people order double cheeseburgers and large fries with a diet coke and banks leave all the doors open while they keep pens chained to the counters. And only in Britain do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on driveways and cheap lawnmowers in the garage.

Finally you may know that this year is the 30th Anniversary of the death of Tommy Cooper an old Exonian so courtesy of Alan Turner here are a few of classic Cooperisms.

Do you always have your whisky neat? No sometimes I take my tie off.

A man walked into a bar..... It hurt cos it was an iron bar.

said to the taxi driver King Arthur's Close he said don't worry we will lose him at he lights

Intil next time

A Harley rider took his wife to the rodeo and one of their first stops was the breeding bull exhibit. They went up to the first pen and there was a sign that said, "This bull mated 50 times year."

The wife playfully nudged her husband in the ribs and said, "See. He mated 50 times last year....once a week."

They walked to the second pen which had a sign attached that said, "This bull mated 120 times last year."

The wife gave her husband a healthy jab and said, "That's more than twice a week! You could learn a lot from him."

They walked to the third pen and it had a sign attached that said, in capital letters: -

"THIS BULL MATED 365 TIMES LAST YEAR."

The wife, so excited that her elbow nearly broke her husband's ribs, said, "That's once a DAY. You could REALLY learn something from this one."

The husband looked at her and said, "Go over and ask him if it was with the same cow,"

NOTE. The husband's condition has been upgraded from critical to stable, and the doctors say after months of rehab and couple more operations he will recover completely.

While in China, a man is very sexually promiscuous and does not use a condom all the time. A week after his arrival back home, he wakes one morning to find his penis covered in bright green and purple spots.

Horrified he immediately goes to see the doctor.

The doctor, never having seen anything like this before, orders some tests and tells the man to return in two days-time for the results.

The man returns a couple of days later and the doctor says, "I've got bad news for you, you've contracted Mongolian VD. It's very rare and almost unheard of here, we know very little about it."

The man looks a little perplexed and says, "Well give me a shot of something and fix me up, Doc."

The doctor answers, "I'm sorry, there's no known cure. We're going to have to amputate your penis."

The man screams in horror, "Absolutely not!! I want a second opinion."

The doctor replies, "Well, it's your choice. Go ahead if you want, but surgery is your only choice."

The next day, the man seeks out a Chinese doctor, figuring that he'll know more about the disease.

The Chinese doctor examines his penis and proclaims, "Ah, yes, Mongolian VD. Vely lare disease."

The guy says to the doctor, "Yeah, yeah, I already know that but what can we do? My American doctor wants to operate and amputate my penis."

The Chinese doctor shakes his head and laughs, "Stupid Amelican docta, always want to oplate. Make more money dat way. No need to oplate!"

"Oh! Thank God!!" the man replies.

"Yes." says the Chinese doctor, "wait two week. Fawl off by self!!"

New cars now have a button to bring the window down, a button to bring the steering wheel down, and a button to bring the top down – all we need now is a button to bring the price down.

The best car safety device is a rear view mirror with a police car in it.

“Do you really believe your husband when he tells you he goes fishing every weekend?” asked Jane’s best friend.

“Why shouldn’t I?” said Jane.

“Maybe he is having an affair?”

“No way,” said Jane, “He never returns with any fish...”

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, “Son can you tell me where the Post Office is?”

The little boy replied, “Sure! Just go straight down this street and turn to your right.”

The man thanked the boy kindly and said, “I’m the new pastor in town. I’d like you to come to church on Sunday. I’ll show you the way to Heaven.”

The little boy replied with a chuckle, “You’re kidding me, right? You don’t even know the way to the Post Office!!”

Two men were walking down a country lane when they saw two boys coming toward them, their arms full of fish.

“How did you get them?” asked one of the men.

“Just further down the lane you will see a bridge over the river,” explained one of the boys, “My pal lowers me down holding my ankles, I then tickle the fishes bellies to relax them, then I just pull them out.”

“Sounds easy,” say the men, “We’ll give it a try.”

Further down the lane they came across a bridge. One lowers the other down. After a few minutes he shouts, “Quick pull me up!!”

“Have you caught something?” says the other man.

“No, there’s a train coming!!”

I asked Rod Stewart if my friend Maggie and I could have his autograph. His reply was, “You can’t but Maggie may.”

The ideal gift for the man who has everything is burglar alarm.

A person who thinks they have no faults has at least one.

Girls in tight jeans who think them becoming, should look in the mirror to see themselves going.

Should an unhappy manicurist file for divorce?

I bought some rocket salad yesterday – but it went off before I could eat it.

The problem with kids is how quickly they wear out their shoes, their shirts and their parents.

A Coulter 535

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The Birth of the Fighter Plane, 1915

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The newly invented airplane entered World War I as an observer of enemy activity (see *The Beginning of Air Warfare, 1914*). The importance of the information gathered by this new technological innovation was made evident to all the belligerents in the opening days of the conflict. The equal importance of preventing the enemy from accomplishing this mission was also apparent.

The French were the first to develop an effective solution. On April 1, 1915 French pilot Roland Garros took to the air in an airplane armed with a machine gun that fired through its propeller. This feat was accomplished by protecting the lower section of the propeller blades with steel armor plates that deflected any bullets that might strike the spinning blades. It was a crude solution but it worked, on his first flight Garros downed a German observation plane. Within two weeks Garros added four more planes to his list of kills. Garros became a national hero and his total of five enemy kills became the benchmark for an air "Ace."

However, on April 19, Garros was forced down behind enemy lines and his secret revealed to the Germans. Dutch aircraft manufacturer Anthony Fokker, whose factory was nearby, was immediately summoned to inspect the plane. The Germans ordered Fokker to return to his factory, duplicate the French machinegun and demonstrate it to them within 48 hours. Fokker did what he was told and then some. Aware that the French device was crude and would ultimately result in damaging the propeller, Fokker and his engineers looked for a better solution. The result was a machinegun whose rate of fire was controlled by the turning of the propeller. This synchronization assured that the bullets would pass harmlessly through the empty space between the propeller blades.

Although Fokker's demonstration at his factory was successful, the German generals were still skeptical. They felt that the only true test of the new weapon would be in combat. Fokker was informed that he must make the first test. Fokker dutifully followed instructions and was soon in the air searching for a French plane whose destruction would serve as a practical

Roland Garros, the French pilot who first strapped a machine gun to his airplane, escaped from German captivity in February 1918. Rejoining the French air corps, he was shot down and killed in combat over the Ardennes Forest in October 1918 - just five weeks before the end of the war and one day shy of his thirtieth birthday.



Anthony Fokker (left) at an airbase at the time of the introduction of his new machinegun, 1915

In 1928, a new tennis stadium in Paris was named after Roland Garros. The tennis center is the home of the annual French Tennis Open and the tournament's official name is the Roland-Garros Open.

demonstration of his innovation. Finding one, he began his attack while the bewildered French crew watched his approach. As his prey grew larger in his sights, and the certainty of its destruction dawned on Fokker, he abandoned his mission, returned to his base and told the Germans that they would have to do their own killing. A German pilot soon accomplished the mission and orders were given that as many German planes as possible be fitted with the new weapon.

The airplane was no longer just an observer of the war; it was now a full-fledged participant in the carnage of conflict.

"I thought of what a deadly accurate stream of lead I could send into the plane."

Fokker described his encounter with the French airplane in his biography written a few years after the war. We join his story as he searches the sky for a likely victim:

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"...while I was flying around about 6,000 feet high, a Farman two-seater biplane, similar to the ones which had bombed me, appeared out of a cloud 2,000 or 3,000 feet below. That was my opportunity to show what the gun would do, and I dived rapidly toward it. The plane, an observation type with propeller in the rear, was flying leisurely along. It may even have been that the Frenchmen didn't see me. It takes long practice and constant vigilance to guard against surprise air attack, for the enemy can assail one from any point in the sphere.

Even though they had seen me, they would have had no reason to fear bullets through my propeller. While approaching, I thought of what a deadly accurate stream of lead I could send into the plane. It would be just like shooting a rabbit on the sit, because the pilot couldn't shoot back through his pusher propeller at me.

As the distance between us narrowed the plane grew larger in my sights. My imagination could vision my shots puncturing the gasoline tanks in front of the engine. The tank would catch fire. Even if my bullets failed to kill the pilot and observer, the ship would fall down in flames. I had my finger on the trigger. . . I had no personal animosity towards the French. I was flying merely to prove that a certain mechanism I had invented would work. By this time I was near enough to open fire, and the French pilots were watching me curiously, wondering, no doubt, why I was flying up behind them. In another instant, it would be all over for them.

Suddenly, I decided that the whole job could go to hell. It was too much like 'cold meat' to suit me. I had no stomach for the whole business, nor any wish to kill Frenchmen for Germans. Let them do their own killing!



Fokker's test plane with the machine gun attached to its nose

Returning quickly to the Douai flying field, I informed the commander of the field that I was

through flying over the Front. After a brief argument, it was agreed that a regular German pilot would take up the plane. Lieutenant Oswald Boelcke, later to be the first German ace, was assigned to the job. The next morning I showed him how to manipulate the machine gun while flying the plane, watched him take off for the Front, and left for Berlin.

The first news which greeted my arrival there was a report from the Front that Boelcke, on his third flight, had brought down an Allied plane. Boelcke's success, so soon after he had obtained the machine, convinced the entire air corps overnight of the efficiency of my synchronized machine gun. From its early skepticism headquarters shifted to the wildest enthusiasm for the new weapon."

References:

This eyewitness account appears in: Fokker, Anthony H. G., *Flying Dutchman* (1931); Cooke, David C., *Sky Battle 1914-1918* (1970); Reynolds, Quentin, *They Fought for the Sky* (1957).

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The best way to make a decision on the quality of a bed is to sleep on it.

Rich, fatty foods are like destiny; they too, shape our ends.

A woman, leaving home, is confronted by television licence inspectors.

"I'm in a terrible rush to catch the bus so as not to be late for work," she tells them, "But my husband will be here in an hour. He will show you the licence. It's under the clock on the mantelpiece."

When they return and meet the husband, he tells them, "We do have a licence but I'm afraid I don't know where it is."

They tell him to look under the clock on the mantelpiece.

He comes back with the licence and, amazed, says, "Wow, that's some detector you guys have got!!"

I find insurance contracts difficult to understand – either the words are too big or the prints too small

A woman went into a pet shop wanting a coat for her dog

"What size?" asked the shop assistant.

"I don't know," said the woman, "I have him out in the car."

"Bring him in then," said the shop assistant.

"Oh, I can't," said the woman, "It's supposed to be a surprise!!"

You don't get insults for nothing. You have to earn them.

I am 45, in 33 years time I will 78, is that a record?

A girl who has too much to drink has a lot more to lose than her inhibitions.

A new film has just been released, all about caravans. I haven't seen it yet, but the trailer is brilliant.

If there were a "Europe Monopoly Board", the "Human Rights Act" would be the "Get Out of Jail" card.

Husband takes his wife to a disco.

There's a guy on the floor giving it loads – break dancing, moon walking, back flips, the works.

The wife turns to her husband and says, "See the guy? 25 years ago he proposed to me and I turned him down."

Husband says, "Looks like he's still celebrating!!"

A man invites his mate back home for dinner.

The wife screams at him, "I've not done my hair, not done my make-up; not done any housework, not done the dishes and can't be bothered with cooking!! What the f**k did you invite him for??"

"Cos he's thinking of getting married!!"

ADT
404

1664 Order-in-Council issued, calling for 1200 soldiers to be recruited for Fleet service, to be known as the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot. As the Duke was The Lord High Admiral, it became known as the Admiral's Regiment

1704 During the war with France and Spain, the British attacked the Rock of Gibraltar. British and Dutch Marines prevented Spanish reinforcements reaching the fortress, with British ships bombarding the city whilst marines and seamen stormed the defences. These men later withstood nine months of siege

1788 British Marines were aboard first ships to arrive in Australia

1816 British Marines deployed to the bombardment of Algiers

1827 King George IV granted the Globe and Laurel insignia to Marines, with Gibraltar as its sole battle honour

1914 Outbreak of WWI - Britain had the largest fleet in commission in the world, with all ships above that of destroyer size having Royal Marines detachments

1915 Royal Marines conducted the amphibious assault at Gallipoli together with Anzac forces

1918 British Marines led the famous assault on the harbour at Zeebrugge

1942 Some 80,000 men served in the Royal Marines during WWII and they continued to operate at sea and in land formations, but 1942 saw the formation of the first Royal Marines Commandos

1944 Around 17,000 Royal Marines were involved in the D-Day Landings - some as part of ship detachments manning guns, with many other crewing a huge array of Landing Craft. Of that number approximately 2,000 Royal Marines went ashore with Commando units in the D-Day landings

1982 Royal Marines assisted the recapture of the Falkland Islands from the Argentinians

1991 Gulf War participation

1995 Formation of a Royal Marines Rapid Reaction Force in Bosnia

2001 Training in the Gulf, available to participate in the war in Afghanistan

ROYAL MARINES.

Per Mare Per Terram... By Sea, By Land... The famous motto of the Royal Marines Commandos truly encapsulates the adaptability of these valiant men of the Naval Service. With a strength today of some 7300, the Royal Marines have served their monarch and country for 350 years.

Continuously instrumental in a range of far-reaching global operations, they rely on their spirit and training, combined with cutting-edge equipment to be ready for operations in areas of conflict across the world. For every Royal Marine, precision is crucial. Often, the difference between success and failure can come down to a few seconds and an ultra-reliable, durable timepiece is a vital piece of the Commandos' kit.

In 1827 King George IV granted the Marines the Globe and Laurel insignia, with Gibraltar as its sole battle honour. The capture of Gibraltar in 1704 was selected to represent all previous battle honours earned since 1664.

This insignia symbolises the pride, might, capability and prestige of the Royal Marines Commandos, and adorns the 350th Anniversary Royal Marine Commandos 'By Sea, By Land' Chronograph - a timepiece inspired by the Royal Marines Commandos.

Globe & Laurel Insignia

The Royal Marines' colours - with the exception of Gibraltar - do not carry battle honours. Their heraldic crest instead features the Lion and Crown to denote a Royal Regiment, chosen by King George III in 1802. The Great Globe was chosen in 1827 by King George IV to recognise the Marines' service and successes. The laurels honour the gallantry displayed during the capture of Belle Isle in June 1761. The word Gibraltar refers to the capture of Gibraltar in 1704 and its subsequent defence. The Latin motto Per Mare Per Terram translates into English as 'By Sea By Land'. First used in 1775, this motto describes the Royal Marines ability in fighting both at sea or ashore.



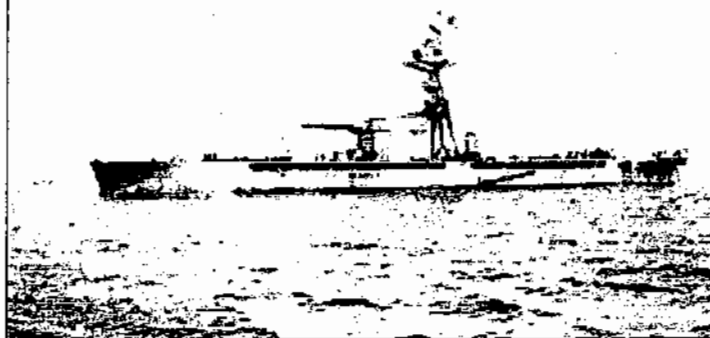
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HMS *Marshal Ney* was a Royal Navy *Marshal Ney* class 6,600 ton monitor constructed in the opening years of the First World War at the yard of Palmers in Newcastle.

She was launched on June 17th 1915 and commissioned in August of the same year.

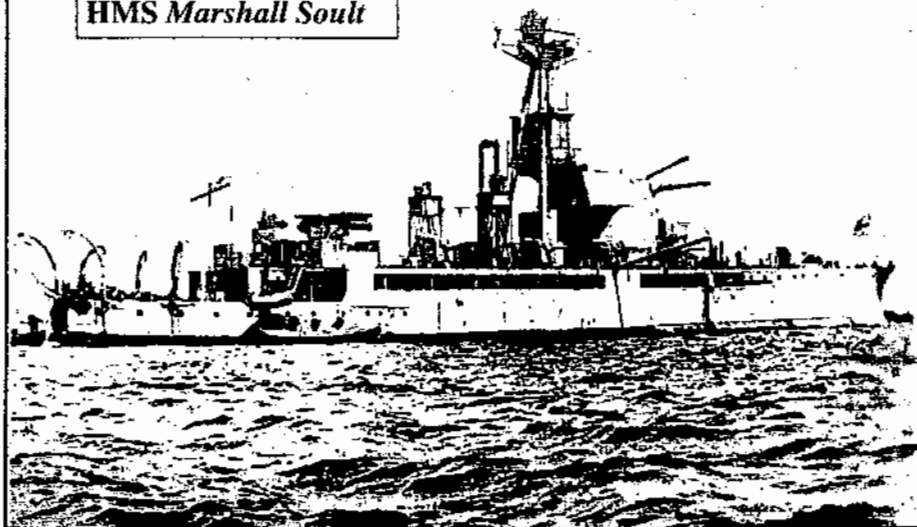
She was laid down as *M13* then named after the French General of the Napoleonic Wars Marshal Michel Ney, her sister ship was *Marshall Soult*. After service during the First World War she became a depot ship and then a stokers' training ship. Between 1922 and 1947 she was renamed three times, becoming successively *Vivid*, *Drake* and *Alaunia II*.

HMS *Marshall Ney*



Designed for inshore operations along the sandbank strewn Belgian coastline, *Marshal Ney* was equipped with two massive 15-inch naval guns. Originally these guns were to have been removed from one of the battle cruisers *Renown* or *Repulse* after they were redesigned, however, the guns were not ready and the main armament intended for the battleship *Ramillies* were used instead. Unusually she was

HMS *Marshall Soult*



powered by two diesel engines built by MAN but these proved to be a constant source of technical difficulty restricting the use of the ships. *Marshal Ney* in particular was—in the words of *Jane's Fighting Ships*—"practically a failure", on account of her MAN diesel engines being so unreliable. In 1916, her 15-inch barbette was removed and fitted to the 7,200 ton monitor HMS *Erebus* which was launched in the same year. *Marshal Ney* was then re-armed with a single 9.2-inch gun and four 6-inch guns for service as a guard ship for The Downs. She engaged German destroyers during a raid on Ramsgate in April 1917. During 1919, *Marshal Ney* was used as a base ship at Queenborough before being disarmed and becoming a depot ship at Fort Block-

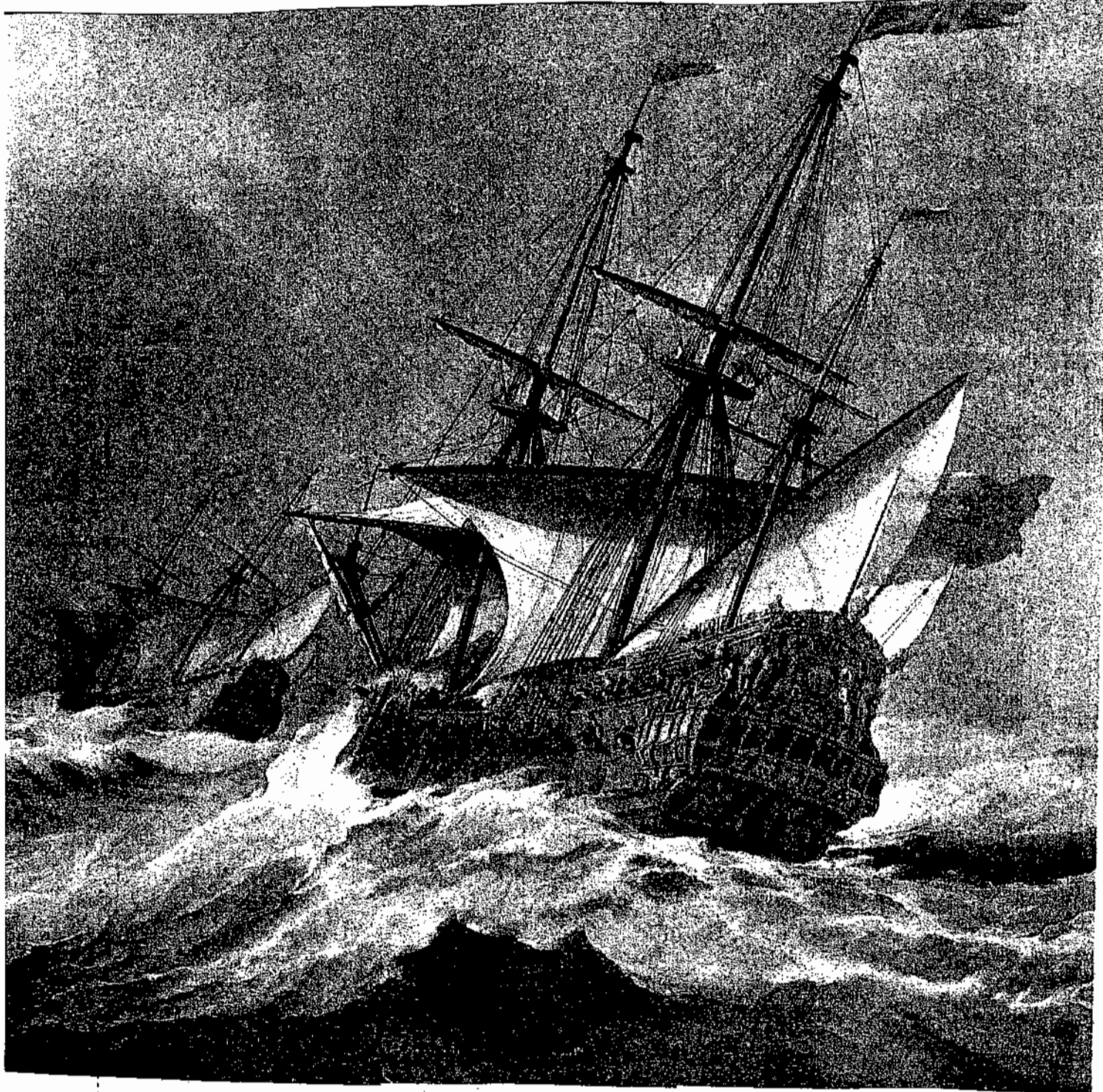
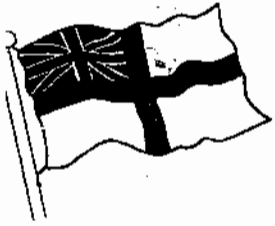
house from 1920. Renamed *Vivid* in June 1922, she then served as a stoker training ship until 1957. She was again renamed *Drake* in January 1934 and *Alaunia II* in 1947. She arrived at Ward's shipyard at Milford Haven on 6 October 1957 for breaking up. The 15 inch guns of her sister ship HMS *Marshall Soult* were removed in 1940 intended to be fitted to one of the new *Roberts* class monitors, they ended up on HMS *Abercrombie*. The *Marshall Soult* subsequently ended her days tied up alongside in number 3 basin in Portsmouth Dockyard. She provided support for the armed trawlers of the Royal Naval Patrol Service (*Harry Tate's Navy*). She was broken up in 1946.

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