



Royal Naval Communication Chiefs' Association

11th September 2022

Mourning the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II

The Royal Naval Communications Chiefs' Association (RNCCA) convey their deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to His Majesty King Charles III, Her Majesty the Queen Consort and members of the Royal Family. The entire association mourns the death of our most noble Head of the Armed Forces, Head of the Commonwealth, Monarch of this United Kingdom and above all else, our Sovereign.

A beacon of light that shone so bright has very sadly dwindled and finally become extinguished as Queen Elizabeth II crossed the bar. Despite the inevitability of mortality, the overwhelming sense of loss undoubtedly resonates among her subjects, none more so than those who volunteered to serve Queen and Country.

Throughout their careers, nearly all our current association members, only knew Queen Elizabeth II as the reigning monarch, although a few remember her father's reign at the start of their careers.

There existed an unspoken yet infallible bond between the Queen and her Royal Navy family that nothing could sever and it was so very revered by those wearing the naval uniform. Hundreds of our association members served in warships that provided escort to HMY Britannia, both anticipating and relishing the fleeting glimpse of both HM the Queen and our Lord High Admiral as they waved in response to "Three Cheers" as we steamed past. The numerous occasions of "Dress Ship Overall" to celebrate anniversaries and birthdays as ordered by the Royal Calendar were managed and executed by Royal Navy communicators. Indeed, HM King Charles III, was himself a Communications Officer (SCO) in the Leander frigate HMS JUPITER. A few of our current members who served with him in HMS JUPITER remember how, at the very start of his Naval service, His Majesty King Charles III made everyone feel at ease.

Our HMY Britannia members who dutifully served and dedicated the greater part of their careers to manning the Royal Yacht will instinctively remember the occasions when members of the Royal Family were embarked. Often, joyful occasions which were invariably spontaneous and yet, created with ingenuity, such as the "Water Slide" fashioned from materials that were part of the Royal Yachts fittings!

Spanning HM Ships and Submarines, shore establishments and Naval Parties, the Royal Navy Communications Chiefs', both veterans and serving send to His Majesty King Charles III and members of the Royal Family our heartfelt condolences during this mourning period.

God save the King.

Stephen Kerslake
Chair
RNCCA

