

Greetings Shipmates!!

I can now touch index finger and thumb where once was a bicep, all meat and muscle gone. I suppose waiting their return is a lost cause.

Anyway, it provides some levity as son and grandson now refer to me as Gandhi; seen naked I fully understand, plus he was a person of some significance in his community; all I need is a larger walking stick.

One gets satisfaction now from N.A.T.O. closing ranks on the tanks for Ukraine issue. I feel Macron is not as motivated as the U.K. has been filling that role. N.A.T.O.'s European nations would need to cough up \$300 billion over ten years to match current contribution to our security.

The U.K.'s shopping by B.A.E. Clyde for new composite type 26 frigate composite mast, a really high tech item needs to be paid for, it being made by UMOE-NORWAY and it can be seen already following its predecessors completion dates, falling rapidly backwards, cash for home-grown hulls being used to acquire foreign tech acquisitions.



I notice another high tech item from Norway is new strike missile to replace obsolete Harpoon; something's got to give I suppose.

All the goodies are brought into hull fitted for, but not with, their state of respective art. The perpetual delusion followed by our Joint Chiefs then passed down to our shoulders expecting belief such as fill Navy News.

It is an eye opener when you come across things naval, Engineer Officers have given the service - the world in fact - the humble Jubilee Clip, fitted by the dozen in any size on motor car the world over, or anywhere with a hose to metal connection. The steam catapult and angle flight deck, first fitted to USS Antietam, a training carrier.

Its record for saving expensive and dry dock time in its first operational year back in service a reason for rejoicing as 'all' expected crashes were also saved; the R.N.'s sacred department



Gunnery being finally convinced it was safe for breech not to be closed before the round went off. This gave the service some decent quick-firing guns when most urgently needed, Orlicon, Bofors etc.

A particular interest to me was to two *Junglies*, ex R.A.F. helicopters, hand-me-downs to the R.N. Both flew into high ground on a job from Ireland to Scotland. R.A.F. Chief Whip advised his side it was pure pilot error. One engineer disagreed loudly that R.A.F maintenance modifications had not been done when handed over; the case dragged on, to be found so later; the two pilots, who died anyway, with stellar records being saved; a belated satisfaction to their families.

That same engineer officer was responsible for bulldozing *Westlands* and the R.N. into getting 'bagged airborne early-warning radar' on handed down R.A.F. helicopters in eleven weeks; a few bureaucrats must have had bruising of the butt, it saved carriers from ambush on way down to Falklands.

The same engineer officer was 'resigned' - or pushed - some months later. I know this quiet, unassuming gentle man, wed to a nurse since 'coming out' of service.

My arm and hand ache like mad now, so will cease the scribble!

**Please do me a favour - put pen to paper with a short personal story to help us stay alive.**