

Good day all y'all,

It must have looked as if I was being unkind to President Macron when I last passed comment on his apparent aspirations for a leading role in a European military force with the U.S.A., not leader of N.A.T.O, but another partner nation.

I could not imagine a Germany unwilling to back Boris's proposed sanctions against Putin for his invasion of Ukraine, joining the wimps of Italy, India, etc. in standing back, fearing their own fate. President Macron would appear to know more about his own neighbour than we do. I cannot get out of my mind the fact that Frau Angela was, once upon a time, an informed member of East German administration. Her successor seems to march to the same drum; for some reason opposes financial sanctions against Putin's plans for Europe.

Newsprint today is wringing its hands over the poor footballers, on three grand a week, wondering if Abramovich will sign the wage bill next week. He - being 'Just another' in the enormous Laundromat chain, cleansing bloodstained roubles.

I guess what the military think tanks call 'force protection' comes in many guises. All those oligarchs getting several mega super yachts built are, as customers, party to a yard's forward thinking on rapid economic design and build methods that go straight across to serious building of cutting edge frigates etc.

Today's newspaper tells Boris is to revitalise our ship building industry; to get the industry rebuild ports enlivened --- AGAIN. It may be more of those O.P.V's with the 30 mm gun on the foc'sle, what a load of horse feathers we are fed.

Germany's attitude to Putin's violation of Ukraine convinces me they are certainly not the folks to run a European Military. A trawl through the remainder of Europeans is a catalogue of underfunded political disinterest who feel Uncle Sam will fix it for them if the shooting starts.

Under the present president that is a bit of whimsy. Germany was involved in the skulduggery that over threw Ukraine's previous president in 2014. I feel France alone is able to have its own foreign policy.

It is backed by what used to be called '*La Force de Frappe*' (Fighting force). Maybe still is.

A nuclear deterrent air force of strength, aircraft of quality, designed, operated and built by France. Right now it operates a nuclear powered carrier, own strike group and nuclear submarines with missile fits. Troops in her overseas territories free of civil strife and unrest. News print says right now their carrier task group has left on patrol with its own modern A.A frigates, support vessels, nuke powered hunter/killer submarine. A most creditable show of how its defence cash is spent; maybe the only one that meets Roosevelt's instruction 'to walk softly -- but carry a big stick'.

**What say you Shipmates?**

I can say, without fear or favour, it was a struggle to write that. I blame a new potion given by neurology consultant to hold prostate problem at bay. I swear it had destroyed every joint in my upper body - fingertips to shoulder.

To hold a pen is possible as ones hand lays on table. When I related the 'second side effect' he laughed at me; you may imagine I shared the joy with him!!!! My nipples were hard and sore, becoming prominent on my emaciated frame; I was growing breasts and ceased the pills at once. To peruse side effects as printed on the side of the pill box there is no mention was made of this. Told the *femmes* of our household, no problem at Christmas, just change 'book token' to 'M&S bra section'.

Eventually got a new full top denture for that trodden on in the op theatre at Medway Maritime Hospital. Was initially quoted £1400.00; it took a month on slops.

When I mentioned itemised bill to N.H.S. to support claim for cash back he had a magical rapid rethink as it came to £980.00. I hope the thieving bastard's mouth rots in hell on reaching my vintage.

That's it folks - as my dreary tale goes on a bit I will desist, as am very sore.