

Editorial

J E Smith

Welcome to the Winter 2019 issue of the Journal of the Royal Naval Medical Service. As I write this editorial, we have just confirmed initial operating capability of the Maritime Role 3 (MR3) on board RFA ARGUS, with a team of 130 personnel embarked (mostly UK but with some French and US personnel), led by the command team of the Maritime Deployed Hospital Group. This was part of Exercise GRIFFIN STRIKE, a combined joint exercise involving land, amphibious and maritime elements. It has been a pleasure to see so many young and enthusiastic faces on board, during what for many of them was their first time at sea, develop and form such a cohesive team.

In addition to the Role 3 activity, we currently have Role 1 and Role 2 Afloat (R2A) elements embarked on HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH for the WESTLANT 19 deployment; R2A have also been involved in delivering hurricane relief operations, and there are, as ever, RNMS personnel deployed all around the globe delivering Role 1 care to our sailors and marines.

In this issue we continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Institute of Naval Medicine with a description of the departments within the Institute, from both a historical and a present-day perspective. In addition, I would draw readers' attention to a very useful article on fitness to fly with respiratory disease, which is an excellent summary of the pertinent points around this dilemma. In this era where there is a renewed focus on leadership, there is also an excellent and timely summary of the opportunities for personnel to undertake formal leadership training. My thanks go once again to Jane Wickenden, Historic Collections Librarian at INM, especially for her article on Haslar; I was particularly struck by

the quoted comment "There were no anaesthetics in the olden days. Operations were very rapidly performed, but men would stand anything when promised a drink of spirits". How little times change.

I would like to update our readership with regard to the future of this Journal. Negotiations between BMJ and the RAMC have taken place and have resulted in BMJ taking over the *Journal of the RAMC*, which will soon cease to exist in its current form. The intention is to rebrand and make it a truly Tri-Service affair, entitled *BMJ Military Health*; the first issue of the new Journal will be published in February 2020. We are exploring the possibility of joining forces with this Journal, combining resources such as editorial input, authors and hopefully subscribers to make the overall result stronger and more resilient moving into the future. As the *Journal of the RAMC* has done, it is my intention to preserve the archive and history of our journal, with the help of BMJ. As a result of this process, the *Journal of the RNMS* would also cease to exist in its current form. The timescale for this process has yet to be confirmed, and the detail of what will happen to the specific elements of our Journal that remain so popular with readers, such as the Service News section, is yet to be defined, but it is my goal to preserve the specific Royal Naval Medical Service elements in an accessible format.

I welcome any feedback and can be contacted at the address below.

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