

## 1874 – 1892 ROYAL NAVY ARTILLERY VOLUNTEER FORCE

On August 5th 1873 Parliament passed an Act "to provide for the establishment of a Royal Naval Artillery Volunteer Force". The corps of volunteers were raised initially in the principal ports [London, Liverpool, Glasgow and Bristol] to train for 'service in her Majesty's ships or vessels in the defence of the coasts of the United Kingdom'. They would however, 'not be required to go aloft or to attend to fires in the stoke-hole'.

For administrative purposes, the members were formed into Brigades [commanded by Lieutenants] each comprising four or more Batteries of 60 – 80 men [commanded by Sub-Lieutenants]. Volunteers were required to attend at least two drills per month until they were qualified as 'Efficient'. To distinguish them from the Royal Navy, officers' stripes were formed of two parallel wavy lines of ¼" silver braid, and the tape trimmings of ratings' white frocks were similarly waved.

Although initially called the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteer Force (RNAV), it was subsequently re-named the Royal Navy Artillery Reserves (RNAR) (date to be researched).

- 15/07/1873 First drill of the Bristol RNAV on board HMS DAEDALUS.
- 09/07/1881 Bristol RNAV takes part in Queens Review of the Volunteers at Windsor.
- 1881 Lady Anna Brassey presents colours to the Bristol Brigade of the RNAV. [Thomas Brassey was appointed Civil Lord of the Admiralty 12 May 1880 and KCB and Hon Commander, Liverpool Brigade of the RNAV 24 May 1881].
- 01/10/1881 The Bristol Unit RNAV strength reaches over 400 and is constituted as a Brigade with a Corps at Swansea of 200 men.
- Nov 1881 Duke of Edinburgh inspects the RNR and Bristol Brigade RNAV.
- 20/07/1888 Prince Albert Victor presents the annual prizes to the Bristol Brigade RNAR at the Colston Hall during a visit to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee.
- 18/02/1892 Annual Dinner of the Bristol Brigade RNAR at the Royal Hotel.
- 14/03/1892 First Lord announces the disbandment of the RNAR on the recommendation of a Committee chaired by Vice Admiral Sir George Tryon.
- 26/03/1892 Farewell Dinner at the Victoria Rooms given by the Officers for the Members of the Bristol Brigade RNAR.
- 01/04/1892 RNAR disbanded.