
Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow...
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain...
When you awaken in the mornings hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight...
I am the soft stars that shine at night,
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.



C.P.Coombe

Glenmoor, Moss Side, Callington ☎ 44 1579 38 33 49



His Legion stories, his diving stories...I dont think I ever met a guy with as many stories as Ray. His Sargeant Major impersonation used to kill me!!!!

I'd like to begin with some of Ray's accomplishments in Armenia.

Ray has been with AHDC from the very beginning, arriving in March 2002 as the Senior Deminer, just as the Centre was opening.

In June 2003, Ray became RONCO Chief of Party. He brought new, strong leadership and vision to the program.

Under Ray's guidance, in 2003 the AHDC cleared over 85,000 hectares of land in the village of Davit Bek in Syunik Marz. This includes over 200 mines and hundreds of rounds of other munitions, such as rocket propelled grenades, small arms ammunition and mortar rounds.

This year operations have already begun in the village of Yegvard (Syunik Marz), with 10,500 square meters already cleared.

Under his watch the AHDC graduated the second company of deminers and increased its capabilities by expanding the dog section to 19 and adding a mechanical flail. Presently over 110 personnel are assigned to the AHDC.

However, these statistics, impressive as they are, do not adequately communicate the commitment and passion the Ray brought to the demining program.

Ray was on a mission to save the people of Armenia from the devastation that land mines bring. HE earned admiration, respect and devotion from everyone he worked with, from enlisted men to Ministers.

He had a soldier's courage and faithfulness to duty; the negotiating skills and tact of a diplomat; and the heart of a great humanitarian.

We will miss him deeply at embassy Yerevan and within the community of expatriates in Armenia.

I can only guess at what his loss must mean to his friends and colleagues at the Centre. And I can't bear to think what his loss means for the many people of Armenia whose lives he saved and, through his accomplishments, continues to save, though he is gone.

(Reading by Ms. Vivien Walker, DCM, U.S. Embassy,

At the memorial service held in Yerevan, Armenia)

We bring our condolences cordially

Ray Rowlands' effective activity, full of dedication, will always remain in our hearts as an unforgettable memory.

RA MOD Deputy Minister, LT. General M.A. Grigoryan, Republic of Armenia
(translated from personal message)

Donations for R.N.L.I. may be made through the retiring collection or sent to

C.P.Coombe

Glenmoor, Moss Side, Callington phone + 44 1579 38 33 49

In Loving Memory

Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of

Ray (Scouse) Rowlands

1950 ~ 2004

St. Melanus Church at St. Mellion

Friday June 18th

THE GATHERING

ADDRESS

HYMN

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His work my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Yes, when this heart and flesh shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there a thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we first begun.

I was really shocked when I found out about Ray "Scouse", I am truly sorry and I send my condolences, at this very sad time it is a great loss to us all that knew him. I knew Ray for 25 years when I was in the Navy and we kept in touch by the internet and e mail (when he remembered), when I immigrated to the US in 2001. I got an e mail from him just last week, as I was working in California at the time on a UXO contract.

I am very proud that, not only had I the pleasure of serving with him but could call him a true friend.

Respectfully yours,
Harry Wallace

In our navies there are many traditions, one of them is the "Sea-Daddy". The Sea Daddy is someone that either gets assigned to you or for whatever reason attaches to you. Ray was my sea-daddy. In the years I knew him I learned more about my job and about life than in the previous 20 odd years. Ray was my mentor, my friend, my confidant, my brother and my father all in one. There are very few times in life when a man can find another that can fit all those things, and I feel extremely lucky that he was part of my life for the last 6 years. He always knew what to say to me, always. When I was down he always cheered me up, when I made a mistake (and there were plenty of those) he always gave me a swift kick in the rear and got me going in the right direction...followed by a pat in the back and a quick word of encouragement. I am sure I gave him plenty of excuses to be mad at me but he never held a grudge. All in all, I am extremely proud that Scouse was my Sea-Daddy, couldn't have asked for a better one.

I have told many people this, including the AHDC and Ronco, Ray was the reason our program there was successful. Every time there was a problem it was Ray that fixed it. Every time I got stuck in the field, it was Ray that came to my rescue. Ray and I always played "good cop, bad cop" with him always been the good guy, I wouldn't have it any other way. I can tell you without a shadow of a doubt that he was admired and respected, both as a friend and co-worker, by everyone. I never met anyone that had anything bad to say about Ray anywhere.

Luis

dear MRS rowlands
i am franco an italian EOD supervisor
i know ray in afghanistan in 2002 and work with him four month
he was my big english friend and i will never forgot him
my heart bleeds
please send me a picture of my friend
i 'm very sorry
Franco Demichelis

Please accept the EOD MC's condolences on the loss of Ray. I hear he was a fine man and EOD tech. I feel unfortunate that I never had the opportunity to work with him in the grid. He sounds like my kind of guy.
Bomber
John R. Oskar
President EOD MC

I write this note to you with the sadist of hearts. Ray and i worked together for a very short period in 2002. We bacame blood brothers during that time. I will miss his spirit as much as i have ever missed anything in my life. Ray was a blessing to all those who ever met him. You will be in my prayers for i know it is the ones left behind who carry the burden the most. I shall remember him often and salute his memory every time it crosses. You were blessed to have him for a while. Rays is a great spirit. May God bless and keep you, Skip Barbe

Please accept my deepest condolences to the passing of Ray.
Ray and I go back a long time and the news comes as a shock to both me, and my wife Cath. Unfortunately, as I am currently in the USA, and will be unable to attend the funeral of a dear friend
Perry Mason

I am so sorry to hear about Ray. Melissa's and my thoughts are with you, and we wish we could be there to pay him the last respect.

We will always remember him the way he was on Maui, full of energy and never short of a good story to tell, or a drinking song to sing. It was a pleasure for us knowing him, and meeting you and your family.
Uli & Melissa Bergmann

I can't tell you how shocked I was to hear of the sad loss of Ray
He was a great friend, & a real character
I spent 25 years in the Navy as a diver, & worked with Ray for years, I also worked with him in Dubai just a few years ago
My heartfelt condolences go out to you & his family
Gary Sewell

Prayers of Penitence

As children of a loving heavenly father, let us ask his forgiveness, for he is gentle and full of compassion.

Silence may be kept

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit
Lord have mercy

All: Lord have mercy

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart
Christ have mercy

All: Christ have mercy

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided
Lord have mercy

All: Lord have mercy

May God our Father who forgive us our sins and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom where dust and ashes have no dominion.

Amen

COLLECT

Merciful Father, hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son,
whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith that Ray and all
who have died in the love of Christ will share in His
resurrection; who lives and reigns with you,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE READING

1 Peter 1. 3-9

HYMN

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

it is with great sadness that I send my condolences to you. I've known Ray for many years, working with him in the Navy and in civilian life. He had a great life and made many friends along the way. He has also left behind a name and reputation that will be remembered and revered for a long time to come.

Again my sadist condolences.
Dean (Dixie) Fullwood and Family.

I am deeply saddened and shocked by this tragic news. I respected Ray and loved him like a brother and I miss him.

I am blessed to have met him May God Bless you. Love, Pete Jimenez

You have our deepest sympathies. Dave & I got an email from Jack yesterday and are still in shock. Ray was an incredible and wonderful person who will be sorely missed by all.

Debbie & Dave

I was so sorry to hear about Ray. I liked Ray very much and enjoyed working with him. Aloha, Susan

It is with great sadness that I send my condolences to you. I've known Ray for many years, working with him in the Navy and in civilian life. He had a great life and made many friends along the way. He has also left behind a name and reputation that will be remembered and revered for a long time to come.

Again my sadist condolences.
Dean (Dixie) Fullwood and Family.

I am deeply saddened by Ray's passing and your loss. We here on Maui are stunned. Ray was a friend to many of us here and a mate. I personally will miss him. He was a unique man who stayed true to his soul in a time when it was difficult to maintain that individuality. I will remember him best not as a UXO guy or QC partner, but as a family man who was always courteous and a wonderful host. His colorful and roguish Scouse way was welcoming and the many gatherings at your house in Kihei were full of soul, laughter and respect. Sure there were many many times when his Liverpool accented singing would break up a serious office environment. Ray could get everyone to laugh hysterically with colorful stories complete with perfect accents to go with the range of characters he brought to life. It was refreshing and truly unique to see hard edged UXO techs sit near Ray and listen to his stories like a bunch of kids hanging onto every word of their favorite uncles stories of adventure. But truly, his presence as a host, and genuine desire that any guests to his home felt welcome ring deeply to me about his true character. That's what I'll remember. I can only imagine how difficult this time is for you and pray your family will be comforting and comforted during this trying time.

with love and sympathy,
John Spasari
June 8, 2004
Maui, Hawaii

What a sad day when we loose one of our great divers, Scouse for all those who worked with you" you will be well and truly missed" in the diving and EOD world
Another sad day Yours aye Yorky Tudor

In Memory of Scouse Rolands

'At the days end we, if we meet again we will smile.

If not then this party was well made.'

I met Scouse in Eritrea a couple of years ago. After a 3 year expedition around Africa getting arrested, held at gun point, helped or hindered by rebels, mugged, stopped by wild elephants ect my most near death experiance was meeting up with Scouse again. After an all day session the last thing I remember was him chewing the top of a bottle of whisky....and he never left an empty bottle. People told me the mountain in Eritrea was impossible, it was in a mine field. Scouse had helped me before when I was a baby diver and he would helped me again. I climbed the mountain the next day being sick several times on the walk up. He will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Cheers Scouse

Ginge

From our branch which has produced so many characters, it is such a shame that we have lost probably the "greatest character" I've had the pleasure of knowing. My fondest memories of Scouse generally revolve around alcohol to a greater degree and the story from Tommo is typical of his excellent sense of humour. (even if Tommo did'nt think so at the time!)

We have lost a great CD1 and friend, good night Scouse and may God go with you.

Bob Hayter

I remember our time in Larashell. Gone but not forgotton, Condolences to Scouses Family, one of lifes great characters, who will be sadly missed.

Paddy Doonan

VERY SAD NEWS ABOUT SCOUSE, I SERVED WITH HIM IN VERNON/
FASLANE@ AS COX'N AT ROSYTH, ALBERT CHAPMAN ALSO SENDS HIS

DEEPEST SYMPATHY, R.I.P. SCOUSE, BILL Mc GOVERN

aloha kakahiaka, I'm sorry to hear about Ray,

ray was well liked by alot of people . . . and I am one of them. my prayers go out to you and the family . . .

god bless and may Ray rest in peace

malama pono - Estra

THE PRAYERS

At the end of each prayer the leader will say

Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer**

The Prayers conclude with the following prayers

God of mercy

Entrusting into your hands

All that you have made

And rejoicing in our communion with all your faithful people

We make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Saviour

Amen

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray.

Our Father

Who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name

Thy kingdom come

Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

For ever and ever

Amen.

HYMN

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd' st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,
And calm amid the storm didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Holy spirit, who didst brood
Upon the waters dark and rude,
And bid their angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er They go:
Thus evermore shall rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Very sad to hear of scouse he was with me in scottish team we had some great times some that come to mind the drake in rathlin.and many a milk run.
rip mate
Alf Slingsby

Very sorry to hear the sad news on Scouse, I had a lot of good laughs with him, again as Alf has said at Rathlin and on the Runs. May he rest in peace.
Leo

Scouse was my coxswain on the Wilton, a good time was had by all.
He will be sorely missed by all.
With deepest Sympathy to all his family
Dave Cowling

I'd like to echo everything that has been said about Scouse, and extend my sympathy to his family.
I never served with him, but met him on a number of occasions and liked him for his wit, infectious humour and indomitable spirit which will live on in our memories.
Yours in sadness, Chris Archer.

I'm lost for words at the sad loss of one of our most carismic divers, but like everyone else I have many fond memories of "our Scouse." He was the first diver I ever meet in Hong Kong and this made up my mind that's what I wanted to be. Scouse I will always be forever in your debt may you rest in eternal peace until we meet again my friend for that beer in the clouds.
Ozzie Hammond.

What a sad day. Scouse was my Coxswain on Maxton and I had the honour to serve with him later. I have many fond memories of our time together in Rosyth. Rest in peace good friend. -Martin

This is to add my own commiserations and condolences to Scouse's family and close friends. Scouse worked and played as hard as anyone and could be pretty tempestuous at times. In his quieter moments he showed he was a deeply thoughtful man who cared about others around him and the world at large. A true 'character', he was a thoroughly professional diver, supervisor and EOD operator and his untimely departure will leave a significant gap in our ranks.
Rob Hoole

The loss of Scouse is just so so sad; along with my personal memories, I can only endorse the tributes you have received. I served with him in both Plymouth and Faslane and I can say that I knew him well (both socially and professionally). He was a larger than life character, who wore his heart, as well as his branch-badge, firmly on his sleeve; he was the epitome of a Clearance Diver and will be sadly missed. My heartfelt condolences to all his families. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend his funeral, but rest assured, I will be able to have a pint of the 'black stuff' in memory of those days, and his life.
Spike

Just got the news. Can't believe it. Thought Ray would live forever! Many fond memories of the time we spent together on the Guzz team - especially in Falmouth. Not felt like this since Big Alf!! Agree with the comments before hand. Characters like Ray are very few and far between. I have no doubt that we will all be talking about our experiences with Ray for many a year to come. RIP son. Condolences all all his family.
Rick

Very sad to hear of Ray's death, I only received an email from him the other day and was hoping to have a beer with him later this year, he was a good mate when I was in the mob with him and have good memories of him. He will be sadly missed. Kind Regards
George Melling

Gutted to hear the sad news at the loss of a great mate & real character
Jan Sewell

Ray was my Coxswain on the Sheraton and a dam gooden too.
Ray was the ultimate hedonistic Diver
Loved his beer, his jokes and his songs
He will be sorely missed
Sleep well mate
Dickie Peake

Scouse Was The Coxs On the Maxton With Myself ,Oz Hammond, Ned Kelly (RIP), & (Jacko) Chris Jackson People Would Not Beleive The Things We Did , Somrtimes I Still Don't They broke The Mold After Scouse Was born RIP.
With Deepest Sympathy To All His Family.
Scouse O'Brien

I was deeply shocked to hear that my good mate had passed away so soon in the prime of his life. He will be missed by many of the CD branch & also his civilian colleagues. Its the end of another ERA. God Bless mate .
With Deepest Sympathy To All His Family.
Harry Cripps

THE COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

ALL

Heavenly Father

In your Son Jesus Christ

You have given us a true faith and a sure hope.

Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days,

That we may live as those who believe in

The communion of saints

The forgiveness of sins and the resurrection to eternal life

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

Messages from around the world

The family would like to express their sincere appreciation for all the kind words, deeds, prayers and support. Here are but a few of the many messages that have been received from around the world.

This is very sad news, Scouse was a good mate, (we kept in touch on a regular basis by e mail).

A character and a professional rolled into one, he will be missed.

Good night and God bless mate.

Harry

Ray,

You are infamous in your current profession as you were in the branch. I owe you then as I owe you now.

"Tears are sometimes an inappropriate response to death. When a life has been lived completely honestly, completely successfully, or just completely, the correct response to death's perfect punctuations mark is a smile."

Rest in Peace mate

Aye

AJ

The branch, diving and EOD world will be empty now without this charismatic, happy go lucky professional that was Ray Roland's. Scouse was my mentor when I joined the Scotland Team in 1976 and was also my Coxswain on the Maxton. I am sure there will be many stories going around the net now by people that knew him. I can remember when I first left the Navy in 1983. I had just spent my first 6 weeks offshore and was slowly making my way down from Aberdeen to Portsmouth. I wanted to see Ray to tell him how great it was in the big world and George Kent and myself met him onboard HMS Wilton in Rosyth, where he of course commenced forcing us to drink copious amounts of CSB. After 6 weeks of no alcohol it did not take me to long to get the desired effect and the need to find myself a bunk in an attempt to sleep it off in order to commence my trip to Portsmouth. Of course I awoke with the distinct groan of a Mine Hunters main engines and realised I was now at sea. There was not much I could accept, well, have another beer. Only Scouse could pull this off. This is of course one of the publishable events I experienced with Scouse. There are many more. I will never forget the times I had with Scouse and never did get the chance to thank him properly for taking me under his wing when I was a Baby Diver. The world has lost a great man and my thoughts go to his family and to his children during this difficult time. Sleep well my friend, men like you are never forgotten. Tony (Tommo) Thompson.
