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# IN DEPTH

Official Newsletter of the Submariners Association

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*Patron: Admiral the Lord Boyce GCB OBE DL*

**Issue 031**

[www.submarinersassociation.co.uk](http://www.submarinersassociation.co.uk)

**December 2010**

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## PRESIDENT

Admiral Sir James Perowne  
K.B.E.



### The Submariner

"Of all the branches of men in the Forces there is none which shows more devotion and faces grimmer perils than the Submariner; great deeds are done in the air and on the land, nevertheless nothing surpasses your exploits."

*Sir Winston Churchill 1943*

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## EDITORIAL

Well, here we go with Issue No. 31 of 'In Depth' - providing you with some interesting reading. This issue covers a wide range of topics starting with the Association Presidents Address to the 2010 Annual Reunion. Various issues relating to the Royal Navy Submarine Museum and its relationships within the new National Naval Museum set up are covered. There are contributions from a number of Branches reporting on events they have arranged or supported. December has seen several significant Submarine milestones achieved. HMS ASTUTE has been formally handed over to the Royal Navy and now flies the White Ensign, HMS SCEPTRE 'Paid Off' in a service at Devonport on 10<sup>th</sup> December - the last of the SWIFTSURE Class - after some 32 years of service and HMS AMBUSH was 'named' by Lady Soar at a ceremony in Barrow on 16<sup>th</sup> December and is to be 'Rolled out and Launched' early in the New Year - plans to complete the 'Roll Out and Launch' on 17<sup>th</sup> December were ruled out owing to 'slight technical problems' with the transfer mechanisms and then the

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adverse weather intervened and the ship lift became unsafe to access owing to ice and snow.

Thanks to all who have contributed to 'In Depth' over the last year. It has been difficult to get everything in this time and some items have been slightly shortened to fit. Hopefully all of the stories and reports still make sense.

Please keep your contributions coming – let everyone in on that story you have always wanted to tell! I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and will enjoy a prosperous New Year.

Barrie

### **STOP PRESS**

Since the above was written, Ambush has been successfully 'Rolled Out' lowered into the water and is now berthed at the wet dock quay to complete the build and commissioning phases before leaving Barrow later this year.

## **CHAIRMAN'S CHAT**

### ***Fellow Submariners***

**A** Happy New Year to you all. I trust you all had a good time over the Christmas period and you are getting your waistline back in trim. I apologise for the delay in getting this edition out to you. Barrie had done all the hard work and got it to me in plenty of time but, unfortunately, my PC has decided to call it a day despite the best efforts of my friendly repair man. My daughter has donated her old PC to me and this is in the process of being wiped, reformatted and then loaded with all my applications and bumf. So, I am doing this on a very old laptop which is steam driven and water cooled. So what has been happening since the last edition hit the streets.

### **New Association Website**

We have a new webmaster in Mike Kemp. You will recall that Dave Hallas had decided to call it a day to concentrate more of his time to his personal life which is richly deserved as he has done a tremendous job in running the website for the past 10 years or so. Mike decided to start from scratch

and totally redesign the site and a great job he has made of it too.

If you haven't already done so please visit the site, which has exactly the same name as before and is in the footer of every page in the newsletter. Mike will welcome any constructive comments and of course this is your site so if there is anything you want to put on then send it in. The site is only as good as the content so please use it to advertise your branch functions and events. The guest book is there and is a handy way to try and locate your long lost buddy. You can link to loads of other sites including the branch websites. If you make any changes to your branch site make sure Mike is aware so that the link can be maintained.

All in all a great start Mike, and please accept my personal thanks for the work you have put in so far.

### **Sam Salt – by his widow Penny**

Sam wanted his ashes scattered over HMS Sheffield, so last week our three sons (George, Charlie and Tom) and I carried out his wishes with the help of HMS Clyde, the Falkland Island's protection vessel.

Atrocious weather delayed our plans but we finally went to sea on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December and at 2045 on a calm, clear night we scattered his ashes, dropped the casket and laid a wreath over the place where Sheffield lies. It is good to know Sam is finally with his beloved ship and with the men who gave their lives in 1982. In his jottings he wrote:

“My three months in command of *Sheffield* were amongst the happiest and most rewarding time of my naval career. We were a team in a ship that had a marvellous personality and was well received wherever she went. The ship and her men had a great affinity for each other and the whole company had a fine spirit and an individual proud identity. *Sheffield* was our ship, our home, our life ....”

We are so grateful that our trip to the Falkland Islands was possible and are indebted to those who

helped us to undertake Sam's request. May he now rest in peace.

### **Membership Secretary**

After more years than I can remember Tex Golding has finally decided that it is time to hang up his mouse and keyboard. I think Tex was maintaining our database before PCs were invented or at least very shortly after. On top of managing the membership he has made himself invaluable by being our link with you when we have wanted to pass information to you. This has evolved over the years so that he is currently being used by you all whenever you wanted to get information out to the rest of us.

We will now have to make alternative arrangements. What Tex has done for us is so time consuming that it may need two to carry on if we want to continue with all that Tex did for us. So I am looking for someone to take over as Membership Secretary. This position requires a good working knowledge of the Microsoft Access application with which we manage our database. If you are interested in taking on this task I can provide a full sets of terms and details of what it entails. The secondary task is to be our global communicator. This is to forward to an extensive distribution the varied communications sent by all and sundry. Again, contact me for more information. As with all the positions in the Submariners Association it is all done on a voluntary basis albeit we do offer a modest annual Honorarium.

### **Members Contact Details**

Jim McMaster has over the last 18 months been collating the contact details of individual members. Despite assurances that these details will be kept by the Secretary and Membership Secretary only there are still half the branches who have yet to forward their members contact details, albeit we this covers about 70% of the membership. The advantage is that this newsletter for example will be sent to all those who have given us their email addresses. Unfortunately this precludes those not email due to the high cost of hard copy.

So if you want to receive your copy direct, then send Jim your details or chivvy your secretary to do so.

### Full Members Reunion

Time is running out very fast if you want to attend the Full Members Only Reunion to be held at the 4\* Imperial Hotel in Blackpool over the weekend of the 18/19/20 March.

We have to declare our final requirements to the hotel at the end of the month so I will have to give up those rooms not taken. Even if you haven't got all your money in yet please let either me or Bas Bowyer know if you will be attending.

### SA and Direct Debits

Ian Atkinson was tasked to establish the feasibility of introduced the option to pay the annual subscription by Direct Debit. This is the result of his investigation.

One of the points raised by the "Sub Committee" was the possible payment of our subscription's by "Direct Debit," and it was presumed that it would be more convenient and helpful to us all.

As the new Treasurer, I was tasked by the "Committee" with a fact finding mission to see if we could adopt the system. Our President Admiral Sir James Perowne suggested I contacted "ARNO", (Association of Royal Naval Officers) who had recently finished setting up a similar system themselves.

I duly did this, and arranged a meeting with the person who had set up, and was now running, the "ARNO" system. He actually worked full time in their office and handles all the administration (joining, subs, direct debits etc. etc.)

They have a rolling membership (and a much larger membership around 6000, than we have), which lends itself well to the monthly payment scheme used to run the system. They had to change Banks to adopt the system, because "NatWest" (We bank with them!!) didn't want to know. They also

had to have a full-scale, up and running data base in order to go through the agency which is sent the monthly lists, for onward transfer to the bank (and returns them if there is the slightest error). All of which costs money. Note that we are struggling to collate the full membership individual contact details.

It would certainly not be worth our while to attempt to set up and use the system at the present time. Initial set up would be in the region of £2000 - £2500, and a further sting in the tail, is the fact that we would need to provide a bond of several thousand pounds to allow for instances of fraud.

The Association is not in a position to move forward with this plan at the present time and I would strongly recommend we do not proceed.

By the Chairman - The NMC having received and accepted the results of the investigation by Ian have dropped any plans to introduce subscriptions by Direct Debit unless and until such time as the circumstances permit. However, you should be aware that we do encourage members to pay their subscriptions by Standing Order. If your branch has not set up that option for your particular branch then this can be done directly with the National Treasurer.

An elderly couple was on a cruise and it was really stormy. They were standing on the back of the boat watching the moon, when a wave came up and washed the old woman overboard. They searched for days and couldn't find her, so the captain sent the old man back to shore with the promise that he would notify him as soon as they found something. Three weeks went by and finally the old man got a fax from the boat. It read: "Sir, sorry to inform you, we found your wife dead at the bottom of the ocean. We hauled her up to the deck and attached to her butt was an oyster and in it was a pearl worth £1000. "Please advise" The old man faxed back: "Send me the pearl and re-bait the trap"

An Irishman, Australian and a Scouser....

An Irishman, an Australian and a Scouser are in a bar on Christmas day. They notice a dishevelled man with a long beard drinking on his own at a table in the corner. He seems very familiar, but they are unable to remember who he is.

They stare and stare, until suddenly the Irishman twigs: "My God, it's Jesus!" Sure enough, it is Jesus, a little worse for wear and nursing a pint.

Thrilled, the Irishman sends him over a pint of Guinness, the Australian sends over a pint of Fosters and the Scouser sends over a pint of bitter.

Jesus accepts the drinks, smiles over at the three men, and after raising the pints aloft, downs them quickly, one after another.

Jesus approaches the trio. He reaches for the hand of the Irishman and shakes it, thanking him for the Guinness. When he lets go, the Irishman gives a cry of amazement: "My God! The arthritis I've had for 30 years is gone. It's a miracle!"

Jesus then shakes the Aussie's hand, thanking him for the lager. As he lets go, the man's eyes widen in shock: "Strewth mate, the bad back I've had all my life is cured! It's a miracle."

Jesus then approaches the Scouser who pulls away in horror: "Back off, mate, I'm on disability benefit

**Well that's all for now.**

Finished with Main Engines and Steering. Coxn, pipe leave to the non duty watches...



*Dave*

## President's Address at Submariners Association Reunion 2010

Captain Edgell, Chairman, Ladies at the Mixed Dinner, Members and Guests. I must first thank Dave Barlow and Jim McMaster for all the work they have put in to ensure the success of this reunion. It has been as always great fun meeting many old friends, having a few wets and then completely forgetting their names.

This is my ninth address to the Association I have given and the last in this format with two dinners. This has been a sea changing year for the SA with a number of updates that I feel bring us into a more modern format that I hope will fit all tastes, ages and desires. First I must thank Ted Hogben, Rick Rothwell, Ian Atkinson and Bas Bowyer for the work they all did in sounding out the branches to see what the true feelings of the members was. As ever there was quite a mix but there were some definite trends. The first was that the Management was talking to the membership but the messages were not getting through. We hope by using email and post, by small adjustments to In Depth and the 183 this can be rectified but in the end it is up to branch secretaries to keep the dialogue going and to try to ensure your members are kept up to date.

There have been a number of other changes, some small to reduce costs, some to bring us in to more modern ways but the biggest change was voted for by Conference at that excellent weekend we had in Weymouth in March. My thanks to David Heap and the entire Dorset branch that did so well they are now to host some of the Olympics. The conference weekend is now to be the members' only reunion to encourage more people to see their association at work, taking decisions that will affect all, and to satisfy those who would quite rightly want to have a "men only" weekend. The date for this weekend next year is slightly earlier than normal and is the 18 - 20 March and is to be held in Blackpool. In Mid September we will have a Mixed Weekend at the very much up rated Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool on the weekend 16 - 18 of the month. This will be a very much more relaxed affair aimed very much at wives, partners and girlfriends. By splitting the traditional reunion in to two weekends we do not need to have the split dinner anymore and therefore we have a much larger choice of hotels that can fit us in. Please try to get as many people as possible to come to both weekends and let's make the new format a success.

I am really hoping with this double format we can cater for all and get more members involved in the SA than just going to their local meetings, important as they are. We may not have reached the Promised Land but we have made progress thanks to the review. There is more to do and these further changes will be debated and instituted this year. It is a slow process but better to be careful and correct than make an expensive or unpopular move.

Over 5000 years ago Moses said to the children of Israel "Pick up your shovel, mount your asses and camels, and I will take you to the Promised Land." Nearly 50 years ago, Harold Wilson said, "Lay down your shovels, sit on your asses, light up a camel, this is the Promised Land." Gordon Brown has stolen your shovel, taken your asses, taxed Camels and mortgaged the Promised Land.

The appalling state of the country's economy and the size of the fiscal deficit are frightening. We are not out of the woods yet at all. The spending cuts are necessary there is no doubt about that, and it is probably correct that defence must take some of the pain. I just hope that the review is conducted from a strategic policy and then worked from there and not a treasury driven bottom up slice up with no coherence or relevance to today's risks in the world order. The USA could become unreliable in the next 30 years with the rise of the Tea Party and the religious right. The threats are becoming more sophisticated and need to be stopped at inception which could be many thousands of miles from UK. Some quarters would fall into the trap that Admiral Fisher ensured we avoided in 1908 when the country was embroiled in the Boer Wars, not unlike Afghanistan today, with a very effective but unsophisticated enemy. And yet 6 years later a little local difficulty in the Balkans blew up into the most bloody war the world has ever seen but thanks to Fisher we had our Dreadnought Battleships and we could hold the German fleet at bay and prevent Britain starving. We need the carriers and more Astute class as well as Trident replacement in the future to avoid an unacceptable risk to the country in the uncertainty of the future. I do want to say to you all I have been lucky to look round an Astute and a Daring class destroyer and I am very impressed with them both. We can make some very fine ships today, so well done to all that have procured and designed them.

One thing I hope this era of austerity will not dampen is our desire to see HMS Alliance returned back to her former glory as she is presently a sorry sight and is in urgent need of a refit. The National Lottery has come up trumps and Vice Admiral Sir Tim McClement is doing a great job fundraising for the matching funding. He is about half way there but still needs about £1.7m to ensure her full revival complete with new visitor centre. The Bear has sent out details to all branches and I do hope all will do what they can to raise funds to help preserve our heritage. For those who have already donated I thank you. There is a display downstairs for you to look at what is planned.

We all hope that Europe win the Rider Cup this weekend which reminds me. The Pope and Tiger Woods die on the same day but because of an admin error their draft chits got muddled up, the Pope was drafted to hell and Tiger Woods to heaven. The Pope was furious and tackles the Regulator in hell and pulls a bit of rank. The Reggy checks the paperwork and realises the mistake. Unfortunately it will be 24 hours before all the paperwork is sorted. The next morning the Pope is called and Hell's gangway staff bid him farewell. On the way up the Pope meets Tiger Woods coming down and they stop to chat. "Sorry about the mix up," says the Pope, "but I can't wait to get to heaven." "No problem," says Tiger, "But why the rush." "All my life I have wanted to meet the Virgin Mary," says the Pope. Tiger replies quietly, "Pity, you're a day late"

Thank you all very much.

## **You Can Take the Man out of the Navy, But You can't take the Navy out of the Man.**

By Don Cleavin

One morning, every year or so, I wake up with a startle. A sudden fear of having forgotten to do something important :- To bring the 'Fuel Book' up to date.

Every hour of every day, when the Submarines main engines had been used, the Engine room Killick recorded the amount of fuel used by each engine in the Engine room Log sheet. He took a reading from each fuel flow meter, deducted the last reading and that told him how much fuel each engine had used in the last hour. At the end of the day he would calculate the total for each engine and record that in the 'Log sheet'. The following day, I, the Chief Stoker, would collect the log sheets from the Engine room desk and at a convenient moment would open the 'Fuel State Book', a large Rexine covered book, very similar in size and appearance to the Trim Book, both of which, not having a designated 'home' were very often kept under the Chief Stokers pillow.

'A' and 'P' & 'O' class submarines had five fuel groups, each group consisting of between two and three fuel tanks each. A bit of a nightmare. Opening the fuel book, he would write in the last fuel flow meter reading for each engine and the daily usage for each engine. Then deduct the total amount from the amount remaining in the fuel group that it was taken from,

giving a fuel state for the Submarine. When on passage, on the surface, Vickers 'A' class engines would use approximately 42 gallons each per hour, and the boat carried around 400 tons of diesel. The Engineer Officer, at his convenience and as required, would come along to collect the fuel book (Some Engineers would just broadcast for the book to be taken to the Wardroom), so that he could advise the Captain of the fuel state and complete the 'fuel returns' sheets for 'inboard'.

During maintenance periods, or any of the rare periods when the boat wasn't in maintenance or at sea, such as on visits to other ports, the main engines would only be used for a few hours some days to charge the batteries. On completion the killick would make up the log sheets and leave them in the engine room desk to be collected later. My startling fear was, that for a good few days, I had forgotten to collect the log sheets and to make up the fuel book. This after not having to do it for 32 years.

Do any Cox'ns have similar dreams? I would be surprised if they don't. As I said,

**You can take the man out of the Navy, but you can't take the Navy out of the man.**

### Natives

A missionary in Africa realizes that the one thing he has never taught the natives is how to speak English, so he takes the Chief for a walk in the forest. He points to a tree and says to the chief,

"This is a tree." The chief looks at the tree and grunts, "Tree." The missionary is pleased with the response. They walk a little further and the missionary points to a rock and says, "This is a rock." Hearing this, the chief looks and grunts, "Rock." The missionary is really getting enthusiastic about the results, when he hears a rustling in the bushes. As he peeks over the top, he sees a couple of natives in the midst of heavy sexual activity. The missionary is really flustered and quickly says, "Riding a bike."

The chief looks at the couple briefly, pulls out his blow-gun and poisoned darts and kills them. The missionary goes ballistic and yells at the chief that he has spent years teaching the tribe how to be civilized and kind to each other, so how could he kill these people in cold blood that way? The chief replied, "My bike."

### News from Foreign Navies

#### Algeria receives Kilo Class Submarines

Algeria has reportedly received two Kilo Class (Project 636) diesel electric submarines from Russia, ordered as part of an arms package signed in mid 2006. The new arrivals take the fleet to four, French media say.

Wikipedia notes this class is mainly intended for anti-shiping and anti-submarine operations in relatively shallow waters. The tear drop hulled submarine is 72.6m long, 9.9m wide and can dive to 300meters. She displaces 3076 tons and reportedly can achieve 25 knots underwater. Has a complement of 52 and an endurance of 45 days. She is fitted with 6 torpedo tubes and carries up to 18 homing or wire guided torpedoes, or 24 AM-1 mines.

#### Collision grounds Dechaineux

One of the navy's Collins class submarines has been damaged in a collision with a tug while leaving port in Western Australia to take part in a major exercise. HMAS Dechaineux will be docked for between 8 and 10 days for repairs after an incident involving the civilian tug as it was leaving its berth at Fleet Base West at HMAS Stirling.

The Submarine was carrying out a routine manoeuvre with the tug when it crossed over the submarines stern, the navy said in a statement. "No one was injured but a subsequent inspection has confirmed repairs are needed" it said.

### Walking in the footsteps of Heroes

In the Submarine Memorial Chapel, Fort Blockhouse

During the two World Wars Submarine Captains preparing to leave on patrol would come to the Chapel and then pass through the door on the left to a small room where there is a chart table and charts. Here they would receive their sealed orders for the patrol. They would then leave by another door at the back, leading straight down to the jetty and their waiting Submarine.



**The Chapel**



**Many of them never came back!**

### TWO PRAWNS

Two prawns were swimming around in the sea - one called Justin and the other called Kristian. The prawns were constantly being harassed and threatened by sharks that inhabited the area.

Finally one day Justin said to Kristian, 'I'm fed up with being a prawn; I wish I was a shark, and then I wouldn't have any worries about being eaten.'

A large mysterious cod appeared and said, 'Your wish is granted'. Lo and behold, Justin turned into a shark! Horrified, Kristian immediately swam away, afraid of being eaten by his old mate.

Time passed (as it does) and Justin found life as a shark boring and lonely. All his old mates simply swam away whenever he came close to them. Justin didn't realize that his new menacing appearance was the cause of his sad plight.

While swimming alone one day he saw the mysterious cod again and he thought perhaps the mysterious fish could change him back into a prawn. He approached the cod and begged to be changed back and, lo and behold, he found himself turned back into a prawn. With tears of joy in his tiny little eyes Justin swam back to his friends and bought them all a cocktail.

*(The punch line does not involve a prawn cocktail - it's much worse).*

Looking around the gathering at the reef he realized he couldn't see his old pal. 'Where's Kristian?' he asked. 'He's at home, still distraught that his best friend changed sides to the enemy & became a shark', came the reply.

Eager to put things right again and end the mutual pain and torture, he set off to Kristian's abode. As he opened the coral gate, memories came flooding back. He banged on the door and shouted, 'It's me, Justin, your old friend, come out and see me again.'

Kristian replied, 'No way man, you'll eat me. You're now a shark, the enemy, and I'll not be tricked into being your dinner.'

Justin cried back 'No, I'm not. That was the old me. I've changed.'.....

'I've found Cod. I'm a Prawn again Kristian'

*Now look here! I don't write this stuff - I only pass them on!!!!*

### HMS AMBUSH SPORTSMANS DINNER

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December the Crew of HMS AMBUSH (building at the BAE Shipyard in Barrow) hosted a Sportsman's Dinner at the Chequers Hotel in Dalton near Barrow in Furness. The purpose of the Dinner was to raise funds in support of the HMS ALLIANCE Appeal and the Submariners Benevolent Fund. Over 200 attended the Dinner (tables of ten at £300 per table) and those attending included Crew Members (headed by the CO - Commander Peter Green), Members of the Barrow in Furness Branch of the Association, the Mayor of Barrow (Councillor Rory \*\*\*), representatives from BAE Systems, Submarine Solutions and many others from the Barrow area.

The evening's events – apart from a dinner enjoyed by all - included a Raffle, a comedian from the North East (who

only just made it in time owing to the adverse weather – snow and ice) and an auction of sporting memorabilia (including a shirt signed by Wayne Rooney) and a bottle of genuine 'Pussers Rum'. The Auction was carried out by the Mayor – a professional auctioneer and large sums were bid for the various items – needless to say the bottle of 'Pussers' raised far more than the Wayne Rooney shirt. In all the evening raised some £5,000 which is to be divided equally between the Alliance Appeal and the Benevolent Fund.

The HMS AMBUSH Crew are to be congratulated on a very well organised and enjoyable evening in support of two very deserving causes.

### HMS ALLIANCE APPEAL

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> of November, some Members of the Portsmouth Branch of the Submariners Association went to the Memorial Service on the Embankment of the River Thames very close to HMS President, the Royal Naval Reserve headquarters ship. This is located near to Temple underground railway station.

After the Remembrance Ceremonies were completed, two members of the Branch carried out a bucket collection around the Embankment and also onboard HMS President. The collection amounted to £449.90 and the secretary of the Branch, Ernie Williams, who was one of the collectors, threw in an extra 10p to make the total up to around figure of £450.00.

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of November, John Baber, the Vice Chairman of the branch, took a cheque to the Submarine Museum and presented it to George Malcolmson, on behalf of the Director of the Museum Bob Mealings. So far, the Portsmouth Branch of the Submariners Association have raised in the region of £2000.00.

I, and the Branch members, would like to thank all those who have given their hard earned money to help this cause.

John Baber  
Vice Chairman Portsmouth Branch

### A SMELLY STORY

There's an old sea story about a Submarine Captain who inspected his sailors, and afterward told the First Lieutenant that his men smelled bad.

The Captain suggested perhaps it would help if the sailors would change underwear occasionally.

The First Lieutenant responded, "Aye, aye sir, I'll see to it immediately!"

The First Lieutenant went straight to the sailors mess and announced, "The Captain thinks you guys smell bad and

wants you to change your underwear." He continued, "Pittman, you change with Jones, McCarthy, you change with Witkowski, and Brown, you change with Schultz."

#### **The moral of the story?**

Someone may come along and promise "**Change**", but don't count on things smelling any better.

### SUBMARINERS GENEROSITY

At the Nottingham Reunion members had the opportunity to contribute towards the ALLANCE Appeal and the response was magnificent. Clearly, the saving of Alliance, which is the only remaining link left to the classic submarines of World War, 2 is something close to many people's hearts and no doubt the odd tear was shed into the collecting boxes along with the many coins and notes as submariners recalled that the 'A' Class of boat was in fact improved 'T' Class.

Counting the monies raised back at the Museum revealed how unsparing members had been:

Collecting Boxes:           £389

Church Service collection: £160

To all those who contributed to make this marvellous total of £549 your efforts are really appreciated.

In addition to the above I was also able to return from Nottingham with Branch cheques totalling £320. The Branches concerned will, of course, be receiving letters of thanks from the Appeal organisation.

Dave Ottley  
SA Rep Friends of Submarine Museum

### Northern Ireland Submariners Association

On 24<sup>th</sup> September six Members made the long journey down to Oranmore Castle in Galway where they met with Commander Bill King, DSO, RN whom it is believed is the on of the last surviving Submarine Captains from the Second World War.

Bill as he likes to be known had just celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and was in fine form when we met him. He lives in a 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> Century Castle just outside Galway City with his daughter and son-in-law.

On the journey down we were concerned Bill's health might make the meeting awkward but our fears were unfounded as we found him to be 'bright eyed and bushy tailed'. When we arrived he was sitting bolt upright in his chair and although his hearing isn't what it was he recognised the badges on our jackets and bade us welcome.

The visit lasted over two hours during which Bill regaled us with some of his stories relating to WW2 - when he sank a Japanese submarine - and a few other dits. Bill joined us as we raised a glass to him. His obvious love of Rudyard Kipling and the Gilbert & Sullivan operettas became clear as he recited Gunga Din in a firm clear voice.

Eamon Doyle, one of our Members, was lucky enough to find an edition of his book written after he became the first Irishman to sail single handed around the world and Bill was able to inscribe it for him.

All too soon our visit was over and it was time for us to leave but what an honour and privilege it was to speak to one of our forerunners in submariners who did his duty during that period when submariner losses were high and to survive was an achievement in itself



**Commander Bill King with Northern Ireland Branch Members**

John Erskine  
Chairman, NI Branch

### ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINE MUSEUM TRUSTEES REPORT DECEMBER 2010

Since my last report in July I am now in a position to report that the transition of our Museum into the NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR THE ROYAL NAVY (NMRN) has taken a giant leap forward and in an Extraordinary Trustees meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November the Board unanimously voted for and subsequently formally posted the following statement to The Director General of the NMRN:

**"THE TRUSTEES OF THE RN SUBMARINE MUSEUM HAVE UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE PROPOSED ARTICLES PRESENTED BY THE NMRN ON 17 NOVEMBER 2010. THE RNSM WILL INTEGRATE INTO THE NMRN BY INCORPORATION TO BE EFFECTIVE ON 1 APRIL 2011."**

Due in no small part to the efforts of our Chairman Rear Admiral Roger Lane-Nott, CB and the Chairman of our Finance Committee, Mr Phillip John Webb. We have, in Phillip's slightly paraphrased words, "Made more progress in the last two weeks than in the previous year".

He was referring in the main to the minefield in the Articles of Association which we have fought tooth and nail to tailor to our needs and at the same time accommodating the larger picture needs of the NMRN. There is still some fine tuning to be done but the key principles are in place. The core articles of Association need minor realignment to ensure all the Maritime Museums benefit from best practice thereby enabling flexibility. It should be reported that at this moment the Royal Marines are ready to sign the Articles but we

are given to believe that the Fleet Air Arm Museum will be conducting a postal vote early in the New Year. In both cases they too have been awaiting improved Articles.

What appears to have been a lack of trust on both sides has hopefully been resolved and maybe we can now get on with the enormous task of resurrecting Alliance to her former glory. And it is with great pleasure I can inform you that we have received £600,000 from a famous foundation after the gentleman in question visited the Submarine Museum and was escorted by Commodore Chris Munns who, as you know, is 2 i/c to Vice Admiral Sir Tim McClement. In the meantime, gentlemen, the fight goes on and whatever SA branches and individuals can do is just as important.

There is some bad news for our Museum in that Rear Admiral Submarines, Rear Admiral Mark Anderson has come to the end of his tenure and we will miss him. His contributions to the Board have been outstanding and I am sure you will join me in wishing him well in whatever he chooses to do in life. In the meantime, we await his relief in the knowledge that the strong link with the Submarine Service is to be maintained.

At a time when we could well do without it I have to report that our Chairman, Rear Admiral Roger Lane-Nott, is to leave us in the New Year. Roger has steered us through the most difficult times and at the same time running his own business. With the advent of the NMRN, the number of meetings per

year has multiplied for our Chairman since he has had to attend all meetings in the Portsmouth Naval Base in addition to all those in the RNSM. Living, as he does in the heart of the country, travelling on 400 mile round trips has impacted on his private life in business. Once again, I am sure you will all join me in wishing Roger God speed in all his endeavours. I am able to report that a formal Service of Remembrance was held at the Submarine Museum on Armistice Day and, despite a deluge raining down on us, we had a platoon of about 30 Submariners and a 'Congregation' of about 40. One or two of us

provided a 'tot' after the service which went down well. Our thanks go to Mr Bob Mealings, the Director of the Museum, and Mr Andrew Poole. There will be a full Social Evening on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011 in the RNA Gosport. It will be in aid of The ALLIANCE and HELP FOR HEROES equally. Shep Woolley has volunteered his services for the evening and we are expecting a good turnout. Please come along and support these two worthy causes.

Roy Dixon, Trustee, Royal Navy Submarine Museum

### RE-ORGANISATION OF THE NAVAL MUSEUMS

Following the recent reorganisation of the four Naval Museums (Royal Navy, Fleet Air Arm, Submarine and Royal Marines) to come under the umbrella of the National Museum of the Royal Navy our National President, Admiral Sir James Perowne wrote to Rear Admiral Roger Lane-Nott, CB as Chairman of the Friends of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum to represent concerns of Submariners over the possible consequences of the re-organisation. Sir James' letter and Rear Admiral Lane-Nott's reply are printed here:

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#### **Sir James' Letter:**

Since the AGM of the Friends of the Museum and the subsequent promotion of it within the Submariners' Association, there has been some concern among the members about the amalgamation of the Submarine Museum into the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

These concerns are in essence:

1. That they feel it is the last vestige of our heritage left in Gosport and it therefore has an emotional dimension for them.
2. They are worried about it being lost in a bigger organisation that may not understand submariners' needs and attachments.
3. That we as submariners lose an element of control of our museum.

4. They were particularly concerned about the change in status this may bring and what has horrified them is the need for VAT to be paid on top of the Alliance Appeal repair bill adding a further one million pounds or even more. This was something they cannot understand as being a benefit and could to a great extent put them off contributing to it.

I have to say their concerns do mirror my own in many ways, and if you could explain to the community what is happening and the consequences of it, maybe we can allay some of their fears. If there is a way of at least delaying the decision until these matters are openly debated and resolved, I feel the Old Boys would be very relieved. I look forward to hearing from you.

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#### **Rear Admiral Lane-Nott's Reply:**

Thank you for your letter of 12<sup>th</sup> July outlining the concerns of the Submariners Association with reference to the Royal Navy Submarine Museum [RNSMM] and the National Museum of the Royal Navy [NMRN].

Following an initiative from the Navy Board some 3 years ago the MOD decided to remove Non Departmental Public Body [NDPB] status from the Royal Navy Museum [RNM], Royal Marines Museum [RMM], Fleet Air Arm Museum [FAAM] and the Royal Navy Submarine Museum. They also decided that in order to consolidate heritage "to preserve the past and promote the future" they would also create a National Museum of the Royal Navy. This was, I believe, also influenced by the Heritage Lottery Fund [HLF] who was finding it difficult to identify priorities within the Naval Heritage sector.

The main result of the loss of NDPB status is that all Grant in Aid [GiA] is now channelled through the NMRN and not to individual museums directly. This also means that the NMRN is the Accounting Officer and holds the allocation of grants to individual museums.

The impact this had on the RNSMM was that we had to decide whether to join the NMRN and thus be eligible for GiA or go it alone. The negotiations have been protracted and difficult but on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010 the RNSMM Trustees decided unanimously that they would 'incorporate into the NMRN' subject to a few issues being resolved. The reality of the situation is that the RNSMM in its present form is untenable without GiA. We have been guaranteed by the MOD that GiA will be continued until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 but as you will appreciate what happens in the aftermath of the current Defence Review is anyone's guess but I believe that GiA will be curtailed significantly. So the only option for the RNSMM's future was to go in with the NMRN and be part of a centralised organisation. The RNM have already joined and the RMM like us have agreed to join. The FAAM are making a decision in October. There are ongoing discussions with Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, The Mary Rose and HMS WARRIOR and I believe they will all eventually come in under one banner. The bottom line is that this is what the First Sea Lord, The Navy Board, RASM and the MOD want. We have looked in detail at fighting this but to stay out makes no political or economic sense at all.

So, to take each of your points in turn.

1. The RNSMM is the last vestige of our heritage in Gosport and although there is a case to move to Portsmouth the cost is prohibitive. HMS DOLPHIN is about to be vacated, Haslar already has and it is likely that any decision on the future of these areas will be taken in the short term. Fort Blockhouse is an ancient monument and thus there will be considerable restriction on what can be done with it not forgetting that the Chapel is very much part of our heritage as well. My view is that much of HMS DOLPHIN will be sold off to developers but that the Fort will remain. This may seem a bad thing but it could have advantages for the RNSMM as we are currently talking to Defence Estates to obtain further land from HMS DOLPHIN to expand. The emotion is high for all of our generation and I understand and share that too, but we have to move with the times and this is the best option to remain sustainable.
2. As far as being lost in a bigger organisation that is a concern but the Chairman of the RNSMM sits on the NMRN Board and the Director sits on the NMRN Executive Group. It is enshrined in the Vision of the NMRN that the tribal elements of the Royal Navy are to be maintained. I was worried at the beginning but have come to the view that this is the best – and probably the only option – that will ensure the long term survival of the RNSMM. Our voice is heard – perhaps too loudly at times – but we have to recognise that our geographical position is a difficult one at the end of peninsula and visitor numbers are reducing. We are tackling that head on and we know that we have to market ourselves better and to a wider audience. The last Government wanted free entry for all museums but this is not realistic without some form of subsidy.
3. We will lose an element of control but then we lost that when we lost NDPB status and we have been living beyond our earning power for too long. We have to ensure that our voice is heard in the NMRN arena and I am pleased to say that the close working relationship between Terry Loughran, David Pennfather and me over the last 5 years has been very good and the other NMRN Trustees know only too well that we will continue to fight our corner hard.
4. The VAT status is a difficult one and the responsibility for this problem lies directly with the MOD who removed the NDPB status from us without considering the implications fully. That is history now and there is no going back. We have to find a solution and we are close to doing that. The NMRN has taken a cultural exemption on income with HM Revenue and Customs and this does have implications. We believe we have a solution which will remove the need to find the VAT for the capital expenditure of ALLIANCE. We are also talking to the Heritage Lottery Fund to see if we can add the potential VAT bill to our bid.

Notwithstanding all of these difficult financial elements I believe that we have a very good chance of raising the money required for the ALLIANCE appeal and I would urge Submariners Association members to have faith and help to raise as much as we possibly can. Vice Admiral Sir Tim McClement and his team are doing a great job and there is real understanding throughout the corridors of power that this appeal is very important. The ALLIANCE Appeal is the number one priority of the NMRN and this has been made clear to the HLF, MOD and Royal Navy.

I hope this helps to allay some of the fears. Inevitably in a period like this the rumour mill is very active and with such a fast moving picture accurate information is not always immediately available. As you know the Submarine Association is represented amongst the Trustees and we recognise and appreciate the concern and interest that members will have. I share them, but my Trustees and I are trying to ensure there is a proper sustainable future for the Royal Navy Submarine Museum. I have no difficulty in you sharing this letter with Submariners Association Members.

### Royal Navy Submarine Museum News

A meeting of the committee of The Friends of the Museum was held at the Museum on the 20<sup>th</sup> October. The meeting was addressed by Bob Mealings, the Deputy Director of the Museum, who gave a general report on Museum activities and the Alliance Project informing as follows:

Approximately one third of total income is derived from admission fees, catering and shop sales, but visitor numbers was around 20% down on 2004/2005, although there was only a 1% drop on last year's numbers. Nevertheless, it was expected that completion of the Alliance project will have a very positive impact on visitor numbers. However, despite the small drop in visitors, income had increased due to tightening up on free admissions and increasing the admission fees, which still remain highly competitive in the museum field.

The waterbus operating from the Dockyard and Gunwharf Quays had provided around 2,000 visitors who may not have otherwise travelled to Gosport.

The Museum Website has now been vastly improved with the removal of original errors and this is also expected to make a real contribution to improving visitor numbers.

Grant in Aid - monies from government - which the Museum is dependant upon to balance its books is liable to be cut next year as a part of economic cut backs. This money is now dispensed from the MOD through the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) and it remains to be seen how the NMRN will apportion the money between the four Naval Museums. The terms and conditions on which the museum joins the NMRN still remain unresolved. The Trustees wish to retain the unique identity and autonomy of the Submarine Museum whilst accepting that the NMRN will have overall strategic control. A meeting to renegotiate and hopefully satisfactorily resolve this difficult issue has been scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> November (see Report from Roy Dixon which follows this Report). A speedy resolution is essential in order to prevent a negative impact on the Alliance project.

The Alliance Appeal fund currently stands at £1.6M with several high potential/high value donors still being pursued and other money raising activities ongoing. For example, a recent dinner and auction in the gun deck aboard HMS Victory had

generated £48,000. Another piece of encouraging news was that BAE Systems have agreed to cover the cost of the restoring the 187 Asdic system.

The ALLIANCE Appeal target figure was £6.2M (inc. VAT). With £3.3M being covered by the Heritage Lottery Fund leaves around £1.3M still to be raised. Nevertheless, the difficult question of whether VAT payment is payable on the project (arising from NMRN membership) remained outstanding as of date.

As part of the redevelopment of the Haslar Hospital and HMS Dolphin sites it is the intention of the museum to rationalise its site by moving the existing Torbay office block, shop and weapons gallery to a new location adjacent to the John Fieldhouse Building. Associated costs are included in the aforementioned £6.2M. There are several listed buildings (and artefacts in Thames block etc) within the two redevelopment sites, including the St. Nicholas Chapel, which the museum will be closely watching and taking much interest in to ensure best preservation of the heritage of the submarine service.

Progress is being made on the Alliance Project with a cost saving exercise of the coffer damn being completed, restoration tenders being sent out, a project board established and a project manager appointed. Actual work is now scheduled to commence next September 2011 with the coffer dam taking six months to complete plus an additional twenty four months allowed for completing Alliance's restoration. Thus project completion is expected to be around autumn 2013.

Further to Bob Mealings report, The Friends agreed to support the repair and incorporation of modifications to two interactive museum displays (hydroplane operation and submarine escape) with a contribution of £6,500. In addition they also agreed to cover the costs, estimated at £1,000, to mount the brass Dolphins (originally located by HMS DOLPHIN main gates) on a stone plinth with a wooden cap so that they can be properly displayed within the JFB Building. These expenditures and the previously awarded £25,000 to the Alliance Appeal fund still leave the accounts in a reasonably healthy state.

Friend's membership subscriptions/donations currently generate around £9,000 per year. Membership costs £15 per year and is a particularly cost effective way of supporting Alliance and the museum in general. This is because of the extremely low overheads of the Society which means that, of the £15 subscription, nearly £13 goes into the museum and its projects with the vast majority of the remaining £2 being utilized in the production of its very interesting yearbook, "All Round Look".

The Society of the Friends of the Royal Naval Submarine Museum, to give it its formal title, unfortunately appears to have an undeserved reputation as being some kind of Officer's club. This is certainly not the case and your representative on the committee has no hesitation in encouraging all members of the SA to become part of the museum's essential supporting organisation. You could not spend money in a better cause. It goes without saying that the larger the membership the better the level of support available. Think about it. Join now. Your museum and your submarine, the Alliance, need you.

David Ottley SA Rep. Friends Committee [moulinropley@btinternet.com](mailto:moulinropley@btinternet.com)

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## SUBMARINERS NEWS – The Peculiar Press of the Underwater Mariner

By Keith Hall

Did your Boat have its own Ships Newspaper? Did you contribute or were you just a reader? If you miss all that irreverent humour and the 'Gen Dits' and like a good snigger then you will enjoy Keith Hall's latest production.

Published by 'The History Press' (ISBN 978 0752 45 7932) and priced at £12.99 this book is well worth a read – and all profits from the sale of the book go to the West of Scotland Branch!

### Dive – Barrow Built Submarines.... The Best



The Submarine Heritage Centre (SHC) and the Submariners Association (SA) of Barrow in Furness have commissioned a series of Paintings, by a notable local Marine Artist – Tom Murphy - of all the Classes of Submarine built in the Barrow Shipyard over the last 120 years. The Barrow Shipyard has been involved with the design and built over 72% of all UK Submarines plus a good number for foreign Navies. This Paintings Series represents the development of the Submarine over that period and reflects the development of the Submarine - from the first basic vessel in the 1880's to the sophisticated Nuclear powered Submarine of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The SHC and the SA have now put together a Book to showcase these paintings and supporting data. The Book contains 44 plates covering the Classes of Submarine built in Barrow together with a number of Submarines built for other countries. It also includes twelve 'Decade' paintings reflecting the products - other than the Submarine - produced by the Shipyard over that same period and a further ten plates of 'Miscellaneous' paintings of Ships, Submarines and topics related to the Barrow Shipyard. This is a "Coffee Table" hard back product with the Painting Plates on the right hand pages with associated information on the left hand pages.

The Book was 'launched' by Rear Admiral Paddy O'Riordan – the 6<sup>th</sup> Commanding Officer of HMS DREADNOUGHT - during the recent 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nuclear Submarines celebrations in the Dock Museum in Barrow-in-Furness.

It is available at £27.50 per copy (UK P & P £5.00). Overseas P & P – price on application.

To obtain your own copy contact Submarine Heritage Ltd - [tps@submarineheritage.com](mailto:tps@submarineheritage.com) (Tel 01229 820993 or 07900 920385) or Barrie Downer [barrie@downer55.freemove.co.uk](mailto:barrie@downer55.freemove.co.uk) (Tel 01229 820963)

### The DUNDEE MEMORIAL SERVICE (11<sup>th</sup> September 2010)

The day commenced with the fall of very heavy rain and fears were being felt that it would be a wash out. Somebody had control of the tap and the rain stopped at 10 o'clock with the Service scheduled for 11 o'clock. 'Mad Dog' Mac Kenzie, MBE as Parade Marshal mustered the various groups to their positions for the Service.

The main participants were the Provost of Dundee - John Letford accompanied by Commodore Jon Westbrooke, M.B.E. – COMFASLOT and Deputy RASM, both

Dundee Members of Parliament and our Submarine Association representative Cdr Seaward, OBE.

Five Standards were present, representing all three Scottish Branches, the Manchester Branch and the Queen's Colour carried by Bas Bowyer, BEM of the NMC. The Wreath Bearers were the Attaches of the Polish, Russian, French, Dutch and Norwegian Navies of the Allied boats which made up the Dundee Squadron. Representatives of the SA Scottish Branches, Royal Marines and the families of those lost also laid wreaths.

The Russians had held a Service at the Memorial previously on their Russia Day.

A Platoon of approximately 40 was made up of SA Members and serving Submariners. Also a similar number of relatives of the submariners lost, made up the remainder of the congregation.

There were two WWII submariners present who had served on submarines operating from Dundee. CERA Cyril Southcott of HMS/M SATYR and, unfortunately, one who attended whose name was unknown to the Organizing Committee and who slipped away before any details could be obtained.

The Service was conducted jointly by Reverent Pat Lang and Reverent Eric Milton. At the appropriate stage in the Service, following the Last Post and Reveille, wreaths were laid by the main dignitaries followed by the other representatives. At the end of the Service the Standards were 'Marched Off' and 'Marched Past' the Platoon of Submariners and Submarine Association members.

The Provost invited all participants back to the Council House to a Reception where the Provost made a welcoming speech and made reference to Submariners seemed to be a different breed of men with people being known as 'Mad Dog MacKenzie' or 'Plugger Rawle' both of whom had contributed a lot to the day. He also apologised that the City had failed to recognise the deeds and sacrifice the Squadron had made and took so long to have the Inaugural Dedication only last year. The Commodore made the reply to the Provost's speech commencing by stating both his father and grandfather had been submarine captains both of whom later in life

had become cantankerous old bastards and looking around the room he noted that there were quite a few who were about to enter the same 'time zone' - which went down very well!

In the evening several Association Members returned to the Holiday Inn with fish and chips as it was impossible to get a table at a restaurant anywhere in the city.

Unfortunately the day had clashed with an Open Day at the RAF Leuchars Air Station nearby and the place was full of the ex-boys in the light blue. As the evening wore on a 'Sod's Opera' took place to entertain the 'Brylcream Boys' - also staying at the hotel.

Those who were Still on Patrol would have enjoyed it. A good and memorable day.

Last year the initial Dedication of the Memorial, as previously stated was brought about mainly due to a lot of research by Dr. Andrew Jefferys - a local historian. The funding for the building of the Memorial was kindly donated by the construction company Unicorn who are redeveloping the dockside into luxury accommodation. Following this research and several meetings with all the interested parties, the City decided that those on the six boats - lost running out of Dundee should be remembered by the erection of a memorial. These boats were two of the Royal Navy, the OXLEY and the THAMES, the UREDD (Norwegian), B1 (Russian) and 013 and 022 (both Dutch). Also remembered were the Marines who were executed following an ill fated clandestine landing in Norway. The Duke of Gloucester and R.A.S.M were present at the Inaugural Dedication.

## Colchester and District Branch

### **Fred Henley (The last of the few)**

Fred Henley was born on September 28<sup>th</sup> 1923 at Gillingham Kent. He left school at 14 and join his father as 'mate' on the sailing barges. He joined the Navy at HMS GANGES in 1939 and at the outbreak of WW2 he was drafted to the Isle of Man to make room for H.O. (Hostilities Only) conscripts at GANGES.



**Fred Henley**

In August 1940 Fred got drafted to Chatham where he joined HMS LONDON which was to patrol and protect the convoys and later to do the same for the Russian convoys. On his first Russian convoy his ship took Lord

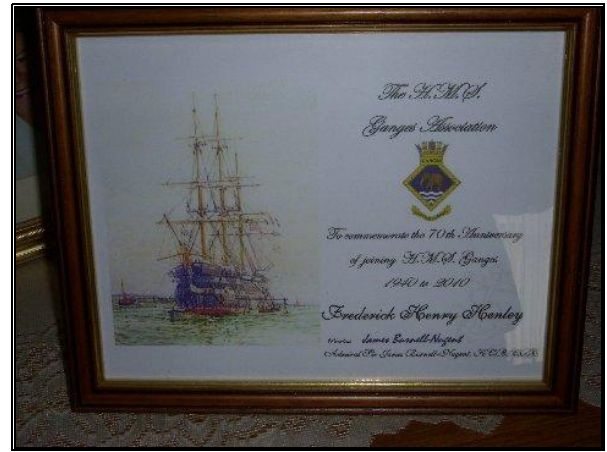
Beaverbrook to Archangel to negotiate with Stalin the transportation of supplies.

At 18 he was sent to the ASDIC Training School in Scotland after which he volunteered for coastal forces and joined ML463, a gunboat, at Brightlingsea, Essex and proceeded to Gibraltar to assist the Americans in their landings in Nov 1942 at ORAN. His ship was also in assistance in the landings at Sicily and in 1944 the landings at the South of France (St. Tropez). In early 1945 his was the first boat into Piraeus after the surrender. Having spent three years in the Med., he joined the occupational forces on ML909. In 1947 he left ML909 and volunteer for 'Boats'.

His first 'boat' was the SPITEFUL which was taken to Northern Ireland and 'paid-off' (put into mothballs). Back to 'Blockhouse' as reserve crew looking after five boats. After spare crew in 1949 drafted to Chatham where he joined HMS TRUCULENT. On January 12<sup>th</sup> The TRUCULENT sailed from Chatham with crew and 20 dockyard 'matey's' for sea trials. On completing initial trials was returning to Chatham and at 0700 entered the Thames Estuary where she was in collision with a Swedish tanker, the 'DVINA'.

The 'DVINA's' navigation lights were not recognized by the Officer on the bridge and he called down from the bridge for someone to take to the bridge a seamanship

manual. Fred was that man. At that time the officer of the watch, assumed that the DVINA was 'Not under command and Stationary' as the Port of London Authority stated that a red light on the masthead denoted 'Ship Stationary-----Not under command'. In fact the DVINA was approaching us at 20 knots. Having got the manual Fred was just leaving the bridge when the collision occurred. The DVINA hit the Starboard side by the Fore-ends and the 'boat' sank in 4 minutes.



**Fred Henley's Certificate marking 70 Years since joining HMS GANGES**

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nuclear Submarines Celebrations in Barrow**

The Barrow in Furness Sea Cadet's Trafalgar Night Dinner/Dance at the Lisdoonie Hotel on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October kicked off the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nuclear Submarines celebrations in Barrow. With the assistance of a large group from the Dreadnought Association and a good sprinkling of Barrow Branch Members over 160 sat down to one of the Lisdoonie's trademark dinners and, during the course of the evening, well over £1,000 was raised towards the Sea Cadets Funds.

The rest of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend went very well. On Saturday morning (23<sup>rd</sup> October) the Dreadnought visitors went on tour of the Devonshire Dock Hall in the BAE Shipyard after a Safety Brief and a Yard presentation by Brian Benn. The visitors were split up into six groups for the tour of the Hall and they were able to view the three Submarines (AMBUSH – almost ready for launch, ARTFUL well on towards completion and AUDACIOUS still in pieces at the back of the Hall) from the Galleries and the Hall Floor. The groups were escorted by Brian Benn, Terry Spurling, Peter Dismore, Barrie Downer and two volunteers from the HMS AMBUSH Crew.

The Yard Tour was followed by the unveiling and dedication of a headstone for Leading Stoker John Henry Curtis in the Thorncliffe Cemetery. John Curtis was drafted to HMS HAZARD (the first Submarine Depot Ship) which was '*commissioned for Special Service*' on 20<sup>th</sup> Aug 1901 with the Holland Class at Barrow. John Curtis, who was drafted to HMS HAZARD on the same date, is believed to have served in Holland No. 2 and he was accidentally drowned in the Devonshire Dock at Barrow in early May 1902 whilst the Holland Class Submarines were being built. John Curtis had laid in an unmarked grave for 108 years and the headstone was provided by the Barrow in Furness Submariners Association. The

dedication was very well attended by Branch Members and the Dreadnought Association and the unveiling was carried out the Mayor of Barrow and the Dedication Service was conducted by Alan Jones – Barrow Branch Chairman and Lay Chaplain. The Headstone looks very impressive.

Next was the unveiling of an HMS DREADNOUGHT Bench in Dalton Road in Barrow Town Centre and, after an introduction by the Mayor, the Bench was unveiled jointly by the Mayor and Paddy O'Riordan. After this the Dreadnought visitors were able to have a welcome cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit in the Town Hall and then a guided tour of the Queen's Gallery and the Mayor's Parlour.

The main contribution of the Town Council to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend was a Civic Reception in the Dock Museum for invited guests which included a good number of Barrow Branch Members and their wives and, of course the Dreadnought Association. Unveiled by the Mayor and Paddy O'Riordan during the Reception was a new Exhibition commemorating the launch of HMS DREADNOUGHT on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1960. A Fireworks Display (sponsored by the Barrow Borough Council) from the Channel Side Walk which followed the reception was quite spectacular.

The final event of the Weekend was a Social for the Dreadnought Association visitors hosted by the Barrow Branch in the Royal British Legion in Holker Street. Billy Daniels and Brian (Shindig) provided the entertainment and with a Tot Time, a Raffle and the auction of a HMS DREADNOUGHT Zippo 'ladies' lighter (donated by Blood Reed) a good time was had by all. It only goes to show that the Barrow Branch can always put on a good show when required.

**South Kent Branch Visit to Fremantle,  
Western Australia**

*From Ken Budd*

During a recent visit by Members of the South Kent Branch to Fremantle, Western Australia a Wreath was laid by their Branch Vice President at the Periscope Memorial on 24 Oct 2010.

These photos were taken during my recent trip to Australia where Rose and I were hosted by the Australia Branch Submariners Association and invited to attend their 'Periscope Memorial' where I laid a wreath on behalf of the South Kent branch. We met some very interesting people including an old 'Boatmate' who served with me on our first boat, the P614. The last photo is that of Tom Oates, the Australia Branch Secretary, from whom I was given the original invitation to attend.



**The Periscope Memorial**



**Boat Mates**



**Letters and E Mails to the Editor**

**With Tom Oates – Mine Host!**

**CLAUDE ROBERTS**

The following was received from Tex Golding:

Gents,  
Thought you might like to see the following E Mail from the North Queensland Branch of the Submariners Association of Australia. It refers to Claude (Deadlight) Roberts (an ex Coxswain) and a member of the Coxswains Association and the Barrow-in-Furness Branch of the Submariners Association, on the occasion of him being made a life member of the North Queensland branch of the Australian Submariners Association.

Regards, Tex

**Northern Queensland Branch**

The North Queensland Branch had a small but very enjoyable general meeting last weekend at the Herbert River RSL in Ingham. The newly renovated club was extremely warm and welcoming to our members and is a credit to the President and committee of the RSL.

It was a shame that Claude Roberts was unable to attend the meeting. Undeterred, the meeting went to Claude at the Blue Haven nursing home, where he was presented with a life membership of the North Queensland Branch of the Association. Claude is in good spirits and is doing as well as can be expected.



**Claude Roberts – Front Row Centre**

By Editor – Claude Roberts is also a Life Member of the Barrow in Furness Branch – awarded for more than 15 years continuous Branch Membership and having passed retirement age

From Commodore Faslane Flotilla and Deputy Rear  
Admiral Submarines  
The Editor "In Depth", Sir,

I write in response to the letter you published in the October 2010 issue of your Newsletter from Mr Billy Smith of the North Staffordshire Branch. I fear that Billy has missed the point of the Deterrent Pin, not the Polaris Patrol Pin as he misquotes, that will be introduced from 28<sup>th</sup> October this year. The deterrent Pin is to mark the contribution made by submariners who have served in SSBNs over the last 41 years in the delivery of the longest continuous UK military operation; namely the provision of the UK's Independent Nuclear Deterrent. Anyone who has completed a deterrent patrol is entitled to wear a silver pin and those who have completed 20 (or more) will have a gold pin. I would say that the introduction of the pin has been received with almost universal enthusiasm amongst the submarine force.

I also think that perhaps he underestimates just what an achievement this has been and the absolute isolation that SSBN operations entail both on behalf of the crew and families at home; a point recognised recently by some very senior political leaders and acknowledged as being unique across all military operations. There are no feelings amongst serving submariners that this is in anyway creating divisions amongst the submarine Flotilla and there have been no suggestions that SSBNs are 'better' than SSNs. The award of Dolphins is still the universal, and international, recognition of being a submariner and one that ensures we are all of one company. What is more likely to cause resentment are ill informed and emotional comments about 'relative luxury', 'insulting pins' and blatant misunderstandings of the rigours associated with providing the deterrent.

Yours faithfully Jon Westbrook

The following reply was sent to COMFASFLOT and DRASM:

Jon

Thanks very much for your letter which I have filed away in the 'In Depth No. 31' folder. The next issue is due in late December/early January and your letter will be included.

As you know we first published details of the Pin in the previous issue of 'In Depth (No. 29) – virtually a direct crib from the MoD information without any comment one way or another – and as a way of circulating the information of its introduction to the retired submariner community and how to claim a Pin if entitled.

I have the feeling that the Deterrent Pin is going to be the subject of some considerable discussion in the Retired Submariners circle and I anticipate more letters and E Mails on the subject!

I have taken the liberty of copying this E Mail exchange to Dave Barlow – the SA National Chairman – for information

Regards

Barrie Downer

## HELP PLEASE

Jim McMaster recently received the following e-mail. If anyone can help please let Jim know and he will pass your information to the lady in question.

Dear Jim

Lennox Inglis on Facebook suggested I contact the Submariners Association in response to my quest to find David Fitch. I was also advised by Norrie Millen and Alex Pattie from HMS ULSTER to try your association. My name is Barbara Robson (nee Winders). My husband Jon and I may be visiting the UK in 2011, and I was hoping to be able to catch up with David Fitch, whom I met when he was a submariner with the British Royal Navy, based in Gosport, in 1968/1969.

We corresponded for a few years after my return to Australia, whilst he was still submerged under the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. I know he married and had children, but have no further details than that to help you.

I would appreciate any assistance you can give me. Another source found a David Fitch at 11, Sovereign Drive, Southsea, Hants PO4 8XX, but my letter to that address back in May this year remains unanswered.

I'm hoping that David is a member of your Association, and that you can forward this email to him. But I am not presuming any response - I am fully aware of privacy laws, etc. Thanks, yours sincerely

Barbara Robson

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## **BEDS & HERTS BRANCH**

From Dennis Pipe

I would like to thank, through 'In Depth', all the Members of the Beds & Herts Branch and some former Members of the defunct Bristol Branch and one Member of the Barrow in Furness Branch for their fine efforts in raising £230 for the HMS ALLIANCE Fund and £230 for 'Help for Heroes' which was raised through raffles whilst on our 'Turkey and Tinsel' weekend in November.

Bravo Zulu to you all

Dennis Pipe

Treasurer, Beds & Herts Branch

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## MORE HELP PLEASE

From John Huntley

Is there anyone out there that was in ANDREW with me for the Atlantic Crossing in 1953? Please see <http://www.britishpathe.com./record.php?id=38763>. If so could you contact me on [JohnhuntleyRN@aol.com](mailto:JohnhuntleyRN@aol.com) – I would be very pleased to hear from anyone onboard at the time.

Cheers

John

## NATIONAL DRAW 2011 LIST PRIZE WINNERS

[www.submarinersassociation.co.uk](http://www.submarinersassociation.co.uk)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS/BRANCH</u>	<u>TICKET NO./PRIZE</u>
A.W.ELDRIDGE	WATFORD	07323 £1000.00
G. COX	SIDCUP	02779 £500.00
BUNGY WILLIAMS	LINCOLN	27415 £250.00
J. KERSHAW	RNA GOSPORT	13306 CASE OF WINE
A DAY	PORTSMOUTH	28198 £50.00 GARDEN CENTRE VOUCHERS
MRS. H. SHANNLY	EH4 3EX	00659 BOTTLE 15YR. OLD PUSSERS RUM
LES TAYLOR	DORSET	06982 BOX LUXURY CHOC'S
LES TAYLOR	DORSET	06985 £50.00 M & S VOUCHERS
BARNEY C/O LES BROWN	SUNDERLAND	00030 DIGITAL CAMERA
A.DOUGHTY	GOSPORT	13151 LTD. EDITION PRINT SUBMARINE HERITAGE
D. CROTHERS	SHERBORNE	22820 BOTTLE MANDARIN NAPOLEON BRANDY
A.DOUGHTY	GOSPORT	13141 PORTABLE DVD PLAYER
E.J. HOGBEN	MEDWAY TOWNS	2218 NTER PUSSERS RUM
A.HILL	LINCOLN	27439 CHEQUE £50.00
D.HALLAS	GLOS.	12380 BOTTLE WOODS RUM
G. BETTS	BLYTH	23239 BOTTLE WHISKY
S. GOULD	BASINGSTOKE	23079 SUBMARINE WATCH
MR. SWETMORE	ANDOVER	12399 £50.00 M & S VOUCHERS

#### NATIONAL DRAW 2011

Ian Atkinson recently received the following letter from the Winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Annual Draw:

7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2010

Dear Ian

Thank you so much for choosing my ticket in the raffle. The cheque will replace some of the coat of a party we had on the occasion of our 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

Yours faithfully  
Tony Eldridge  
A W C Eldridge

#### THE SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION DVD

'A Breed Apart – A Band of Brothers'  
(A Year in the Life of the Submariners Association)

In case you didn't take the opportunity to buy your Copy the first time around the Submariners Association DVD is still available.

With a running time of 48 minutes the DVD takes a twelve months overview of the Submariners Association describing our Aims and Objectives and shows what we do and how we do it and, more importantly, why we do it! Interviews with Members of the Association (young and old) are interwoven with footage of the Annual Reunion, the National Council Conference, Branch Meetings, the Embankment Memorial Parade and archive material from the Submarine Museum. It is well worth owning and watching. All income from sales of the DVDs goes to the Submariners Association funds. Priced at £10.00 per copy (plus £1.00 P & P) send your order with your payment (cheques payable to the Submariners Association) to Barrie Downer, 37, James Watt Terrace, Barrow Island, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 2TS.

**Obituaries - Members 'Crossed the Bar' 16<sup>th</sup> Sep 2010 to 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010**

NAME	RANK/RATE	BRANCH	SM SERVICE	SUBMARINES
G H (George) Badland	Engine Room Artificer	Colchester	1941 - 1945	TAKU
W (Bill) Bennett	Chief Petty Officer TGM	Essex	05/42 - 01/46	H32 and UNIVERSAL
D (David) Burns	Commodore	Dolphin	09/64 - 01/00	ASTUTE, ANDREW, CHURCHILL and SPARTAN
E (Ted) Coll	Able Seaman (LR3)	New Zealand	09/44 - 11/45	URTICA and TRUCULENT
C J (Charlie) Deleay	Able Seaman (ST)	Essex	12/42 - 04/46	TANTALUS
H (Harry) Edwards	Leading Stoker	Dolphin	11/41 - 05/46	SEADOG, H28, L26 and OBERON(1)
G (Gordon) Faithfull	Able Seaman (AA3)	Medway Towns	04/43 - 04/46	SIBYL, SIMOON, STOIC and SPUR
S A (Stan) Gosden	Stoker Mechanic	East Kent	1947 - 1950	SPITEFUL, SLEUTH and SATYR
D (Chick) Henderson	Leading Stoker	New Zealand	1949 - 1954	AMPHION, ALCIDE, ALARIC, SEASCOUT and TIRELESS
R (Ron) Holbrow	Chief Engine Room Artificer	Welsh	1941 - 1945	P222, SHAKESPEARE, UNSHAKEN, STORM, TRUCULENT and SEADEVIL
A (Tony) Massey	ME(1)	Middlesex	1966 - 1971	TIPTOE, ANDREW and TABARD
I A (Iain) Nethercott	Petty Officer (LTO)	Essex	04/42 - 11/47	OTWAY, H43, TACTICIAN, UPSTART, SPIRIT and SELENE
J T (John) Onions	Petty Officer (GL)	Colchester	1942 - 1950	SHAKESPEARE, TACITURN and TABARD
R R (Roy) Oram	Petty Officer (2 <sup>nd</sup> Coxn)	Poole & District	07/46 - 04/62	SAGA, TIPTOE, TRADEWIND, SPITEFUL, THOROUGH, SEASCOUT, SCYTHIAN, THULE, SENTINEL, TALENT and ARTEMIS
J T (Jim) Owens	Able Seaman (UW2)	Welsh	01/55 - 09/63	TAPIR (55-57), TURPIN (57), ACHERON (58-61), SEA DEVIL (62), TOTEM (62-63) and TIRELESS (63)
P J (Peter) Parry	Able Seaman (HSD)	Welsh	08/43 - 06/46	H32, UNSEEN and AFFRAY
G (George) Pickup	Leading Telegraphist (WT2)	Dolphin	09/33 - 11/39	L18, L19, PHOENIX, L23, SUNFISH, H43, H49 and SEVERN
D (Derick) Ramsdale	Able Seaman (RP3)	Australia	12/53 - 10/56	TRUNCHEON, TOTEM and ACHERON
J R (Rex) Richards	Cook (S)	Dolphin	06/49 - 11/58	SLEUTH, AMBUSH, TOTEM and THERMOPYLAE
T (Tom) Smith	Able Seaman (ST)	Derbyshire	1943 - 1946	OBERON (1), UNRUFFLED and P46
C (Cliff) Summerhayes	Telegraphist	Essex	1941 - 1947	L27, OTWAY, P555, SURF, TALENT, TOTEM and TALLY-HO
D C R (David) Walters	Captain	Colchester	1942 - 1954	P555, ULTIMATUM, SPUR, ALDERNEY, SEASCOUT, ALARIC and AENEAS

**New Members joining the Submariners Association 16<sup>th</sup> Sep 2010 to 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010**

(\*\*\*\* - indicates a Serving Member)

NAME	RANK/RATE	BRANCH	SM SERVICE	SUBMARINES
N F (Nick) Alton	CPO(T)	Scotland North East	1980 - ****	RESOLUTION (81-83) (86-87), COURAGEOUS (83-85), CHURCHILL (85-86), REVENGE (87-90), VALIANT (92-96), TALENT (99-01) and VIGILANT
J H (John) Andrews	CPOMEM(P)	Welsh	1967 - 1979	CONQUEROR, REVENGE and SWIFTSURE
G A (Allan) Battersby	LMEM(M)	Hull	1974 - 1988	REPULSE (S) (75-80), RESOLUTION (P) (84 - 85) and REVENGE (P) (86-89)
G (Gordon) Baylis	Petty Officer	Dolphin	1948 - 1955	TURPIN (48-49), SANGUINE (2), AMBUSH and TEREDO
P (Peter) Birch	Able Seaman UC3	Gosport	1954 - 1958	ASTUTE (54 - 57) and ALLIANCE (57-58)
M J (Michael) Blake	CPOMEA(L)	Nottingham	1973 - 1993	ODIN (74-76), PORPOISE (76-79), ORACLE (81), ONYX (83), OSIRIS (83-86) (88) and OPPORTUNE (90-93)
W S (Walter) Bore	CPOWEA	Lincoln	1974 - 1993	COURAGEOUS (74-75), REPULSE (76-79), RESOLUTION (81-85), RENOWN (85-89) and REVENGE (91)
J T (John) Davies	NK	West of Scotland	1974 - 1995	NK
D C (David) Evans	CPOMEM	Gosport	1967 - 1986	OLYMPUS (67-68), ONSLAUGHT (68-70), PORPOISE (70-73), OCELOT (73-74), OBERON (75-77) (78-80) and FINWHALE (81-85)
D P (Duncan) Flaxington	CPOMEA (EL)	West of Scotland	1977 - 1999	REVENGE, RESOLUTION and VICTORIOUS
R J (Raymond) Ford	CMEM (L)	West of Scotland	1983 - 2004	CHURCHILL (83-86), CONQUEROR (89-90), REPULSE (92-96) and RENOWN (97-01)
S (Stephen) Gregory	MA	Dolphin	1969 - 1973	DREADNOUGHT and SWIFTSURE
D (Donald) Griffin	CMEM (L)	West of Scotland	1976 - 2004	CONQUEROR (77-81)(87-90), CHURCHILL (82-85), SUPERB (92-95)(96-00) and SPARTAN (95)
T (Terry) Heeney	CPOMEM (M)	West of Scotland	1973 - 1996	OLYMPUS, SEALION and REPULSE (2)
S A (Scott) Hird	CPOMA	West of Scotland	1988 - ****	REPULSE (S) (88-89), RENOWN (S) (89-91) (93-95), VALIANT (91-92), SPARTAN (92-93), SPLENDID (95-03), SOVEREIGN (03-04) and VIGILANT (04-**) )
P W (Peter) Hurford	Lieutenant Commander	Australia	1953 - 1969	SEASCOUT, AUROCHS, TIRELESS, ARTEMIS, SCORCHER, TALLY HO, TRENCHANT, TACITURN and ORACLE
S (Steven) Johnson	LMEM (M)	Northern Ireland	1987 - 2001	WARSPITE (87-88), VALIANT (89-92), REPULSE (94-96), SPLENDID (97-99) and SCEPTRE (99-01)
D T (Derek) Jones	Petty Officer (OEL)	Australia	1962 - 1970	NARWHAL, TABARD, TACITURN and TIPTOE
N D (Nigel) Kew	Lieutenant	Northern Ireland	1992 - ****	TRAFALGAR (96), TIRELESS (97-01), SPLENDID (02) and TURBULENT (02-05) (09-**) )
S M (Stephen) Lennon	CPOMEA	Merseyside	1974 - 1988	VALIANT (82-84) and CONQUEROR (84-88)
J (John) Macleod	POSA	West of Scotland	1988 - 2006	SUPERB, TURBULENT, TRAFALGAR, TRIUMPH and TORBAY
R J (Roy) McGunigall	POMA /Lieutenant Commander	Dolphin	1980 - ****	RESOLUTION (80), RENOWN(80-84), OLYMPUS(Loan 85) and REPULSE (87-94)
S W (Scott) Nicholls	ET (WE)	West of Scotland	2009 - ****	VICTORIOUS (10 - **)

S D (Steve) Osliff	WO2WEA	Dolphin	1982 - 2006	VALIANT (82-85), SPLENDID (85-96) (FTRS 03-05) and SPARTAN (FTRS 05-06)
F E (Frank) Powell	Lieutenant Commander	Lincoln	1973 - 1992	RORQUAL (65-69), ANDREW (69-70), AURIGA (71), ORPHEUS (73), OTUS (76-77) (82-84), ONYX (77-79), ORACLE (78) and ODIN (79-80)
D N (David) Rogers	LSA	Barrow-in-Furness	1989 - ****	REVENGE (89-90), RENOWN (90-95), SPARTAN (95-98), SPLENDID (98-00), SUPERB (00-07) and AMBUSH (09-**) )
A (Alan) Ross	CPOMEA (EL)	West of Scotland	1972 - 1995	COURAGEOUS (72-79), SUPERB (81-77) and TALENT (87-93)
M W (Mike) Shepherd	Lieutenant RAN	Australia	1955 - 1960	RN (55 - 60) UNTIRING, TRESPASSER, THOROUGH and TELEMACHUS RAN (76 - 81) OXLEY, OVENS and OTWAY
M (Michael) Speedie	Leading Hand	Barrow-in-Furness	2003 - ****	SOVEREIGN (03), SCEPTRE (03-08), VANGUARD (08-09) and AMBUSH (09-**) )
D P (David) Stokes MBE	WOMEM (L)	Dolphin	1968 - 1997	OTUS (69-70), ORPHEUS (71-72), WALRUS (72-74) and ONYX (76-80)
J (James) Studds	CPOWEA	Plymouth	1979 - 1992	SPARTAN (79-80), SUPERB (80-82), TORBAY (85-87) and SPLENDID (89-92)
S A (Steve) Towsey	CCMEA (ML)	Plymouth	1986 - 2003	TRAFALGAR (86-93) and TRIUMPH (95-97) (99-01)
M (Malcolm) Turner	Petty Officer (UW1)	Bath	1951 - 1962	ALCIDE (51-53), ALLIANCE (53-54) (61-62), ASTUTE (54-57), TALENT (58-59), SPITEFUL (59) and AMPHION (59-61)
I (Ian) Watson-Smith	ME(1)	Welsh	1962 - 1970	ASTUTE (2) and TALENT
D A (David) West	LMA	West of Scotland	2003 - ****	SOVEREIGN (03-06), SCEPTRE (06-07) and VICTORIOUS (10)
P F (Peter) Wright	CPOEL	Lincoln	1969 - 1978	OTUS (69-70) and ODIN (71-74)

### Obituaries - Other Submariners 'Crossed the Bar' 16<sup>th</sup> Sep 2010 to 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010

NAME	RANK/RATE	SM SERVICE	SUBMARINES
Paul Hoggarth	Chief Engine Room Artificer	1953 - ????	ALLIANCE, AENEAS, TELEMACHUS, THOROUGH, CACHALOT, TOTEM and OTUS
Trevor May, BEM	CPO (OE) Mech 1	????	Submarine Service including CONQUEROR
K G Turner	Able Seaman (SD)	1944 to 1946	TAURUS
Hugh Tyrell Verry	Commander	1947 to ????	SENESCHAL, TRUMP, TOKEN, SIDON (CO) and AENEAS (CO)
Bob Galloway	CPO MEA (P)	1976 to ????	OTUS, ONSLAUGHT (81-86) and OPOSSUM (87-89)
John (Jack) Blair	Leading Cook	????	CONQUEROR, VALIANT and COURAGEOUS
M B (Mike) Godly	Radio Supervisor	1958 to 1967	TACITURN (58 and 61), TACTICIAN (59), ALCIDE (61), OTTER (62), ONSLAUGHT (63) and ARTFUL (66)
Alistair Tulloch	Electrical Artificer	????	Submarine Service including RENOWN
William (Bill) Buckoke	Lieutenant	Jan 1944 to 1950	RORQUAL, SCOTSMAN and TRESPASSER
Roger J (Dusty) Miller	Lieutenant Commander (WESM)	????	Submarine Service including RENOWN & REPULSE (P)