



# IN DEPTH

Official Newsletter of the Submariners Association

Patron: Admiral Sir James Perowne KCVO, KBE

Vice Patron: John Weale CB, OBE

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**PRESIDENT**  
**Commodore J Le S Perks CB**

**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**

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Hello Everyone

Welcome to Summer – well it was here last week but it seems to have gone back into hibernation up here in Barrow!! I have included most of the usual items in this In Depth No 85 - except for 'New & Rejoining Members' where no information is currently available and 'Around the Branches' where not too many reports have been received. In this Issue there are Reports and Photos from the recent Remembrance Ceremony at the Arboretum including a presentation to Nigel Mellor who has stood down from his position at We Remember Submariners plus there are reports from SAC Officers.

There is a request from Nigel Mellor for volunteer 'Crossed the Bar' coordinators willing to liaise with family and friends when that time comes – see Page 25. If you think this is something you could do put your name forward.

Three book Reviews for to this Issue – the first is 'Salt Horse' - the autobiography of Admiral Claude Cumberland – a bit of a maverick and slightly eccentric (non-submariner) naval officer from the early years of the last century. There is a foreword by Admiral Mike Harris who some of you will know. The second book is 'Shipwrecks of the Dover Straits' by Stephan Panis. This is a book for all you divers but surprisingly – as there are many submarine wrecks in the Dover Straits mainly from WWI - none of them get a mention. The third book is 'Down to the Sea in Submarines' by Captain Dan Conley covering his year in the Navy & Submarines. This one has a foreword by Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope – again someone many of you may know! Before you ask – I have read all three and all are interesting in different ways and are well worth the effort of reading them. I hope you will find something of interest to read in this Issue – if there is anything else you think I should include please let me know!

Please note that 'In Depth' Issue No. 86 will be published on 1st October 2024. Contributions are required to be with the Editor (me) by 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024 - see contact details below. Please make sure I get your contributions in good time!

Regards

Barrie Downer

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## CHAIRMANS DIT

Welcome to summer!

I guess you will all be off on your summer holidays (T-Rex, 1968) soon? Just make sure you save enough money for 21-23 March 25. AGM/Family weekend. Being held in the Holiday Inn Leicester.

Andy Knox is now the Association Social Secretary and will be sending out all the details and booking form/menu choices.

D-Day celebrations are now over and both Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer promised that they would look after veterans should they be elected. Hmmmm, call me a doubter but promises like this we have heard before. I am not wanting to sway any voters but I say "Maddog for Prime Minister"!

The Submariners Association Committee (SAC) are in need of three volunteers to join us in making sure the association runs smoothly and efficiently.

To make a difference you need to be in a position to change things. So raise your head above the parapet and volunteer.

I hope you are as pleased as I am regarding the SA Website. It is vibrant, up to date, informative and easy to navigate. But it could be better!

That is down to you the members. Gary has built the website from scratch now it's your turn to provide him with the contents and, if you have ideas or opinions on why this is not already in the Newsletter, contact Gary with your ideas.

Finally I urge you all to ensure you are REGISTERED on the website, don't forget from now, our OMOV is done via the website.

The SA now have four Gazeebos and four Feather flags, full emblazoned with the SA and TSF Logo. The branches holding the Gazeebos are Sunderland, West of Scotland, Morecambe and East Kent.

Should you wish to borrow the Gazeebos contact Graeme McCabe (graememccabe@icloud.com). Don't forget to send an article and photos to Gary off your event for the website.

On a final note, I shall not be putting my name forward for re-election for National Chairman at the 2025 Conference and Families weekend in Leicester on Saturday 22nd March 2025. In accordance with our face to face committee on Saturday 1st June 2024 it was decided that to ensure continuity and a seamless handover we would advertise for volunteers. Take a OMOV on the webpage to start double-banking 6 months (Saturday 21st September 2024) prior to the official handover. The successful candidate would then be ratified in as National Chairman at the AGM 25.

If you have served on the committee in any position at any time and wish your name to be put forward for consideration, please contact myself: sachairman@submarinefamily.uk with your CV and an explanation on what you could offer the association.

I have attached a basic Chairmans Guidelines

All the best to our members and - please remember - we are a special breed belonging to an exclusive club. Shout about it.

**Iain**

**National Chairman**

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## HM THE KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 2024

14 June 2024

Sailors and Royal Marines have been recognised by His Majesty the King for their dedication and ingenuity on operations around the globe. Among those singled out on the Operational Honours and King's Birthday Honours lists is a sailor who has reduced the risk of the entire submarine fleet from being detected by the enemy.

Petty Officer Matthew Connick is made an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours for demonstrating "innovation and vision" by developing and coding communications software – entirely in his own time – that reduces the time Royal Navy submarines spend at periscope depth. Submarines are stealthy, operating in deep water and by his innovation he has reduced the amount of time the submarine remains at Periscope Depth and therefore reduced the risk of counter detection. In the words of his citation: *"The implications of his efforts are far reaching and have considerable benefits on the effectiveness of the Submarine Flotilla – most notably for nuclear powered attack submarines operating in high-threat environments."*

### SUBMARINERS

#### Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

Commander Stephen Brian

Commander Iain Fergusson

Commander James Howard

**Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire**

Petty Officer Engineering Technician (CISSM) Matthew Connick

Chief Petty Officer Engineering Technician (CISSM) Adrian Grimes

**First Sea Lord's Commendations**

Chief Petty Officer Engineering Technician (Marine Engineering Submarines) G Foster

**Royal Navy Commendations**

Chief Petty Officer Warfare Specialist (Tactical Submarines) J Blight

Petty Officer Engineering Technician (Marine Engineering Submarines) C Love

Chief Petty Officer Warfare Specialist (Sonar Submarines) E Neeson

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**VETERANS IDENTITY CARDS**

Not got your Veterans ID Card yet?

Please see the link below for an update on applying for Veterans ID Cards:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hm-armed-forces-veteran-cards-will-officially-launch-in-the-new-year-following-a-successful-assessment-from-the-central-digital-and-data-office?fbclid=IwAR0Vp4vH\\_D7kQUr6N96pgKEz5zZteXeCPgNj2wVHLt8SGEbPqGxjBUcQW8M](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hm-armed-forces-veteran-cards-will-officially-launch-in-the-new-year-following-a-successful-assessment-from-the-central-digital-and-data-office?fbclid=IwAR0Vp4vH_D7kQUr6N96pgKEz5zZteXeCPgNj2wVHLt8SGEbPqGxjBUcQW8M)

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**Cover Picture: Some of the Faslane Field Gun Team at the Practice Run**

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**NEW & RE-JOINING MEMBERS 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

No Report on New & Rejoining Members is currently available but I expect to reintroduce this feature in future issues.

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**Submariners Remembrance Service at the National Memorial Arboretum**

A Submariners Remembrance Service, arranged by the Submarine Family and We Remember Submariners Charities, at the National Memorial Arboretum was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024.



It was a well-attended event with Rear Admiral Andy Perks MBE Director of Submarines, COSM Paul Dunn, Vice Admiral Peter Wilkinson CB, CVO TSF Chair, and all elements of the Submarine Family present. That included family members of those Submariners who had Crossed the Bar in recent years.



A Roll of Honour has been produced listing all those who had CTB in the last two years, since the inauguration of the SM Memorial.



The weather stayed fine for the short but poignant service led by Rev Mark Street with readings by Holly Elliot (Sea Cadet), Steve Phillips (SA Norwich Branch), and Cdre Dunn OBE (COSM). Lunch was provided for 250 guests in the Aspects Restaurant upon completion of the service. This allowed old friends to meet up and talk about those who had passed and reminisce over past times.

It was also Nigel Mellor's last day as WRS Operation Manager, and his birthday, as he is retiring. He has been involved with the WRS for more than 10 years, from its creation to today. In that time, he has held the key positions of Chairman, Trustee, Treasurer, and Operations Manager. In recognition of Nigel's service and dedication to the WRS, he was presented with a gift from the Charity's Chairman, Michael Dewhirst.



**The Presentation to Nigel Mellor**



**The WRS Team**



**The Director of Submarines and COSM**




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## SUBMARINE & SUBMARINER LOSSES OF WWII

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### APRIL 1944

No Submarines were lost in April 1944, but six Submariners are reported to have died in separate incidents:

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#### **Telegraphist James G Hibbert D/SSX 29430**

He was a Prisoner of War in Italy after HMS SARACEN was sunk. He is reported to have died in Rome on 6th April 1944 from injuries received whilst attempting to escape. Twenty two year old James Hibbert was from Sheffield and he is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval War Memorial on Panel No. 101 Column No. 3.

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#### **Lt Geoffrey Claude Edwards Stuart**

The First Lieutenant of Submarine HMS TAKU is reported to have died on 14th April 1944. Geoffrey Stuart was born in Portsmouth on 27th February 1921 and he was the son of James Arthur Penrhyn Stuart (Imperial Indian Police) and Norah Stuart. He served in Submarines from October 1941 in DOLPHIN, PARTHIAN, P555 (IL), STORM (IL) and TAKU (IL) from 28th January 1944 to 14th April 1944. He is reported to have died in an accident at Cold Ash, Newbury, Berkshire whilst on leave. He was the husband of Isobel Stuart (nee Newbold) of Birch Tree Cottage, Cold Ash who died in the same accident. He is buried in the Speen (St. Mary) Churchyard in Plot N, Row 3, Grave 58.

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#### **A/Sub Lieutenant Peter James Hunt RNVR**

One 'X' Craft submariner was lost on Saturday 22nd April 1944. He is reported to have been lost overboard.. No Next of Kin or other family details are available for Sub Lieutenant Hunt who is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval War Memorial on Panel No. 88 Column No. 1.

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#### **AB James Fulton D/JX 293419**

One member of the crew of the Submarine Depot HMS AMBROSE is reported to have died (illness) on 29th April 1944. He was the son of Wiliam and Eliabeth Fulton and the husband of Annie P Fulton of Paisley. He is buried in the Paisley (Hawkhead) Cemetery, Section D Grave No. 52.

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#### **Commander (E) Barrie Warsop Cooper Leonard**

Barry Leonard born in Portsmouth in 1911 and he was the youngest son of Paymaster-in-Chief William Vancouver Theodore Leonard, RN, and Georgina Maud Leonard. His siblings were Mercedes Kathleen, Edward Mailand Cooper, Theodore Cooper Leader, and Lois Monica. At the time of the 1911 Census on 2nd April 1911 the Leonard family were living at No. 7, The Parade, in HM Dockyard, Portsmouth. In the 1921 Census he was listed as a boarder at 37, Watts Avenue, Rochester in Kent – both of his parents were noted ss deceased and he was a pupil in the Junior School of King's Cathedral Grammar School in Rochester. He joined the Royal Navy as a Midshipman (E) at the Royal Naval Engineering College at Keyham in Devonport on 10th January 1929 for Engineering Training. He was promoted to Sub Lieutenant (E) on 1st May 1931 and to Lieutenant

(E) on 16 April 1933. On 29th August 1935 Barry Leonard was appointed to the Battleship HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH – 1st Battle Squadron in the Mediterranean 'and on recommissioning, He joined Submarines on 4th January 1937 when he was appointed to HMS DOLPHIN 'for the Submarine Course'. He embarked in SS RANPURA at London for Hong Kong on 22nd October 1937 and joined Submarine HMS RORQUAL 'as the Engineer' on 15th May 1938. On his return to UK he was appointed to HMS PRESIDENT on 26th December 1939 'for the Engineer-in-Chief's Department'. Promotion to Lieutenant Commander (E) followed on 6th April 1941. On 15th March 1943 Barry Leonard was appointed to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS FORTH. On 15th April 1944 he was further promoted to Acting Commander (E) and was appointed to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS CYCLOPS at Rothesay 'as the Engineer Commander and for Flotilla duties'. Barry Leonard was accidentally drowned in Rothesay Bay as a result of a sailing accident on 30th April 1944. Barry Leonard was the husband of Patricia Beatrice Eden Neate - eldest daughter of Commander Charles Eden Neate, RN and Dorothy Tucker. Barry Leonard is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial on Panel 85, Column 1. Note: Patricia Leonard later married to Lt Cdr (A) William Francis Cuthbert Garthwaite, DSC and Bar, RNVR.

**Temp Acting Lt Cdr Edgar Beldon RNVR** of the Submarine Depot Ship HMS CYCLOPS is reported to have been drowned in the same accident as Commander (E) Barry Leonard (see above) on 30th April 1944. Forty two year old Edgar Beldon was the son of Albert Beldon (a Solicitor) and Bertha Lawson Beldon. He first joined the RNVR in September 1918 and served in the Cruiser HMS VINDICTIVE but was demobilised after the 1918 Armistice. He was a Director of the firm of Langley, Beldon & Gaunt Ltd Wool Merchants and Wool Brokers. He volunteered for further service in the 2nd World War although details of his service are limited. In April 1944 he was serving in the Submarine Depot Ship HMS CYCLOPS at Rothesay when he was drowned in a sailing Accident. He was the husband of Maria Lambert Beldon (nee Gaunt) and he is buried in the Calverley (St Wilfred) Cemetery. It is noted that in his younger days he was a Player Member at Headingly Rugby Football Club.

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### MAY 1944

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No Submarines were lost in May 1944, but three Submariners are reported to have died in separate incidents. They were:

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One Member of the crew of submarine **HMS SIRDAR** died in an accident on 6th May 1944. He was:

**AB Oliver Gaffney P/JX 291388**

Submarine HMS SIRDAR was on passage to Trincomalee in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and was on a stopover at Aden. Oliver Gaffney died in the RAF Hospital at Aden from a fractured vertebra/spinal cord injury – the result of a diving accident. Twenty three year old Oliver Gaffney originally from Willington, County Durham was the son of James William and Mary Ellen Gaffney of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. He is buried in the Maala Cemetery in Yemen in Grave no F.101.

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One Member of the Crew of the Submarine Depot Ship **HMS WOLFE** is reported to have died on 15th May 1944. He was

**Able Seaman Ernest Frank Hay P/JX 426018**

Eighteen-year-old Ernest Hay was the son of Charles Edward and Lily Hay of Holmer Green, Little Missenden, Buckinghamshire. He is understood to have been accidentally drowned in the River Tyne. He is buried in the Holmer Green (Christ Church Cemetery.

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One Member of the Crew of Submarine **HMS THRASHER** is reported to have died on 26th May 1944. He was:

**AB James Derrick Choulerton D/SSX 30564**

Twenty six year old James Choulerton is reported to have been accidentally drowned in Wallasey Dock at Birkenhead in Cheshire.. He was the son of James and Bertha Choulerton of Sale and he is buried in the Birkenhead (Landican) Cemetery. Non-conformist Section 6, Coll, Grave No C4.

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### JUNE 1944

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One Submarine was lost in June 1944 and one other Submariner from the same submarine died in separate incidents.

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**HMS SICKLE**

**AB David James Mackay D/JX 304833**

Twenty year old David Mackay is reported to have died on 4th June 1944 from wounds received in a surface gun action in which two others were wounded and AB Richard Blake was lost overboard. AB Blake was rescued by German Forces and, accidentally and very luckily, became the only survivor of HMS SICKLE which was 'sunk with all hands' twelve days later on 16th June. He did however spend the rest of the war as a Prisoner of War!

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### **Submarine HMS SICKLE**

The Submarine lost was HMS SICKLE which was assumed to have been 'lost with all hands' on 16th June 1944. It is possible that the Submarine hit a mine in the Kythera Channel on or about 16th June 1944. The Crew of Submarine HMS SICKLE was as follows:

#### **Officers:**

Lieutenant James Ralph Drummond, DSO, DSC  
Lieutenant Anthony Douglas Sinclair, DSC  
Temp Lieutenant Percival David Goodman, RNVR  
Temp S/Lieutenant Patrick Baddeley Jakeman, RNVR  
Temp Sub Lieutenant V P Walker, RNVR  
Warrant Engineer George Francis

#### **Ratings:**

CPO Cecil John Mitchell P/J 114226  
A/CPO David Rolph C/JX 135449  
PO Robert Edwards P/JX 149577  
PO Arthur Edward Tugwell TBA  
PO Frederick Ellis Pope D/JX 152043  
LSea Arthur Frank Grounds D/JX 287352  
LSea Thomas Jack P/JX 175589  
AB Stanley Norman Mobbs C/SSX 32208  
AB Harry Arthur Yeilding C/JX 344182  
AB William Bonner McNeill D/JX 346302  
AB Cyril Charles Green D/SSX 27969  
AB Frederick Charles Crook P/JX 132095  
AB George William Hockless P/JX 235902  
AB Richard Marshall P/JX 350158  
AB Nicholas Charles Stevens P/JX 358538  
AB George Herbert Harratt P/JX 274024  
AB Ernest Edward Hallatt P/JX 388577  
AB John Raymond Stewart P/JX 324209  
LSig Alfred William Ernest Cuthbert C/JX 157097  
PO Tel Walter Davidson D/JX 141071  
LTel George Owen Brookes C/JX 233276  
Tel David Hughes Dunstone C/JX 194734  
Tel Harry Dudley Bigglestone C/SSX 21035  
L/Cook (S) Cyril Thomas George Lee P/MX 109654  
A/CERA John Nettleton, DSM D/MX 54330  
ERA3 Thomas Allenby Stark C/MX 77329  
ERA3 George Raymond Hancock C/MX 64427  
EA3 David Hamilton P/MX 62015  
ERA4 Duncan Henry Learmouth C/MX 102529  
ERA4 Leslie Jones P/MX 88530  
SPO Arthur Albert Woollatt P/KX 83280  
SPO Harry Wilfred Bowen P/KX 85690  
LSto Sidney Martin P/MX 139537  
LSto Roy Gilmore P/SKX 278  
LSto Alfred Edward Evans P/KX 97034  
LSto Raymond Norman George Seymour D/SKX 1253  
LSto Edward William Davies C/KX 97357  
Sto1 Henry Arthur Wilcocks C/KX 145585  
Sto1 Alexander Durham McGregor Duncan D/KX 101132

Sto1 John James Cooke D/SKX 988  
Sto1 Major Victor Sturgess P/KX 95156  
Sto1 John Telfer Pearson P/KX 138006

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### **SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREW LISTS**

Do you have any Submarine Commissioning, Decommissioning or Re-dedication Crew Lists. These are required for an ongoing 'Chronology of Submariners' Project. What is required are 'First Commission' Crew Lists as follows: PORPOISE, GRAMPUS, CACHALOT, WALRUS, OBERON, ONYX, ORPHEUS, ODIN, OTUS, UNICORN, AUDACIOUS & ANSON. Also Crew Lists for subsequent Commissions of any 'S', 'T', 'A', 'O' Class or 'P' Class Diesel Boats, 'V', 'C', 'S', 'T' & 'ASTUTE' SSNs & 'RESOLUTION' or 'VANGUARD' Class SSBN. Crew Lists for any Commissioning or Decommissioning of any Diesel 'A', 'S' or 'T' Class Boat refitting in Home Dockyards or in Malta, Singapore or Sydney are also required. Have a look through your records and 'Ditty Boxes' and see what you can find. Any lists sent will be copied and the originals returned. You can contact me by E Mail, Snail Mail or Telephone - see Page 2. Thanks, Barrie Downer

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### **DONATIONS & BEQUESTS**

For anyone thinking about making Donations or leaving a Bequest in your Will please remember one of the following:

- (1) The Submariners Association
- (2) The Submarine Fund – part of the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) – details can be found on RNRMC Website.
- (3) The Submarine Family
- (4) The Royal Navy Submarine Museum. Any Donations or Bequests for the Submarine Museum should be directed to either the 'Friends of the Submarine Museum' or to the 'National Museum of the Royal Navy'.

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### **WEBSITE & MEMBERSHIP UPDATE JUNE 2024**

#### **Website**

The website continues to be what we hope is a useful source of information and the usage data highlights that many of us are making good use of it.

The request for Branch & Member articles does not and will not change in so far as it is our 'shop window' and the more we all contribute to it the better it will be for all. All Association Members are therefore asked to consider writing and submitting relevant articles along with good quality images. Images are requested in landscape and jpg format. Content would

ideally be around 300 words, but anything is better than nothing.

A massive thank you goes out to everyone who has helped to make the website what it is by contributing articles thus far, and long may it continue.

### **Website Registrations**

We continue to make steady progress in respect to getting all members registered on the national website, accepting that this will not be 100% possible.

To ensure as many Members as possible can fully partake fully in Association business for example, in voting on Proposals or entering competitions etc. we have been sending emails to all Members email accounts where we have the information. Additionally, we have asked all Branch Secretaries to spread the word as well as highlighting the requirement on the website itself.

Where we have sent emails, they invite the recipient to register, acknowledging that they may have already registered under a different email address. In the latter case, we ask that they inform us, in order that any redundant email addresses can be removed from our records. This process is ongoing and as it stands the following is true.

|                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Registered Members</b>             | <b>967</b>   |
| <b>Members not registered</b>         | <b>332*</b>  |
| <b>Members via TSF not registered</b> | <b>239**</b> |

The above numbers indicated by \* may be due to incorrect emails being held or members having registered using a different email. All members have been emailed on several occasions to confirm or deny this.

Those numbers indicated by \*\* are those who have indicated on the TSF website they want to join the SA but have not registered on the SA Website. Again, these may be incorrect emails and all these individuals have been emailed on multiple occasions.

In respect of the TSF there has also been a breakdown in process (not on the part of the SA) which has we believe lead to confusion for some. We have as a result sought and had changes implemented by the TSF which will we hope address this in time, though further discussion is needed in this regard.

### **Registrations: Specific Request**

All branches are asked to continue to promote the need to register on the national website. In promoting this branch secretaries are also asked to highlight the FAQ page on the website which may save time and frustration where issues are experienced.

With nearly 1,000 registered users we know the registration process works, though we also accept some users have experienced issues and felt frustration as a result, again check the FAQ page for more information in this.

### **Joiners & Leavers**

There are two things that prevent an update in this regard. GDPR is one and the other is data accuracy. GDPR prevents publication of members information without specific agreement, and we have not thus far sought it. Data accuracy is the other, as the registration process explains.

Additionally, and perhaps not unsurprisingly considering the findings of the registration activities, some branches also report that not all their data with respect to individuals is 100% accurate and up to date. This further means that reporting accurate figures is currently not possible, certainly in the format it has been in previously.

### **Member Searches**

It has been commented on a few occasions that members can't see other members when doing a website search. Searching is a function of the website, however if you want to be found by former colleagues or perhaps by other members of your branch then you need to make your profile searchable. There is nothing the association can do more in this regard it is down to the individual to do this.

### **Branch Data**

Branches may want or even need to keep records of their own members, there is nothing to prevent this from happening. Individual branches would therefore be responsible for ensuring compliance with any regulations.

At this time the Webmaster will not be supplying to branches member data for this purpose, though as previously stated individual members can if they choose to do this by making their profiles public.

experience.

Regards

Gary

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## **THE ONLINE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE (OBOR) - AN UPDATE**

The Online Book of Remembrance is live. Sponsored by the Friends of the Submarine Museum it all started with a need for a complete and accurate record of all those who had lost their life during submarine service, which could be easily updated to correct any inaccuracies – which have been found to be all too plentiful on the current Memorial Wall at the Museum.

You can access the OBOR at [submarinefamily.uk/remembrance](http://submarinefamily.uk/remembrance) or by simply pointing your smartphone camera at this QR code. You will then be able to read the story of the development of the OBOR, a short history of the

Submarine Service, by Iain Ballantyne, and browse



The OBOR contains the names of over 5,900 submariners and over 450 units in which they served, including 174 submarines which sank in peace or wartime. Each Unit and each Submariner has their own page which can contain pictures and stories. Each Unit Page lists those from that Unit who died. Any visitor to the OBOR is also able to submit comment and pictures to enhance the entries about an individual submariner or a submarine. Do have a look!

The OBOR is an element of The Submarine Family (TSF) Website and hosted on their Servers. Its development is funded by the 'Friends of the Submarine Museum'. Both the TSF site and OBOR have been created by MindWorks Marketing and managed by the huge efforts of our Digital Lead, Tom Herman.

The 'Friends' Treasurer (Peter Jeanneret) has been responsible for collating the data that is now contained within OBOR. This started well over a year ago by entering into a database all the names on the Submarine Museum Memorial Wall, assisted by Jock McLees. There has been considerable checking to iron out the many errors, omissions, and duplications. In this work there has been a major contribution by Barrie Downer (Barrow) and Malcolm Blenkinsopp (Espana Levante), both of whom have been researching details of deceased submariners for many years.

Here's some numbers: There are currently about 5,955 names in the OBOR for whom some 600 stories have been completed. But due an enforced break last Summer when the site was being updated, and some slowness in getting the team back on the job since, we have a backlog of completed minibios which have not yet been uploaded. So, when they are done, we will have just over 12% complete. Not bad going, but still a way to go.

"The OBOR site, along with the whole TSF site, has undergone a major redevelopment, translating it into a WordPress based environment. This has really, just been done to make future upkeep and development easier and cheaper, and from the user's point of view, there should be very little change. You are all encouraged to visit OBOR and post comments or personal tributes on any relatives who may be found

therein. If you do happen to spot any issues as a result of the recent redevelopment, then the OBOR team would be pleased if you would report them, or submit any general comments about OBOR, to [obor@submarinefamily.uk](mailto:obor@submarinefamily.uk)."

We think that the list of names is now about as accurate as it could be but, please contact us by email to [obor@submarinefamily.uk](mailto:obor@submarinefamily.uk) if you can provide any further information, particularly with stories and pictures of people and units where we currently don't have them.

We hope that work will soon start on the next part of the Project to replace the 'Submarine Museum Memorial Wall' with better quality engraved stone or slate panels, and the effort to get the OBOR data in good shape will allow us to provide an accurate list of names for the new Wall.

A Memorial Wall Project Brief has recently been compiled by the NMRN Staff, reviewed by the Friends and an 'Invitation to Tender' sent out to prospective suppliers shortly.

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## **HM NAVAL BASE, CLYDE & RN SUBMARINE NEWS**

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### **HMNB CLYDE STAFF BRING OUT THE BIG GUNS**

ROYAL NAVY MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 28 June 2024

This week the HMNB Clyde Field Gun Crew put on a show for Base staff, families, and friends when they completed the annual Public Run just outside the South Gate.

This year there are 31 Royal Navy sailors and marines in the crew, which includes a medic, a physio, track judges and timekeepers. Together they will compete in the Brickwood's Field Gun Competition which starts at HMS COLLINGWOOD on 1st July with the final on the Saturday 6th July during the site's open day.

Commander (Cdr) Gareth Batsford, the Field Gun Officer for Clyde was there to support the team and watch their progress.

"With just eight days to go until the Brickwoods Field Gun Competition, the crew remain in good spirits and are quietly confident of bringing some silverware home this season," said Cdr Batsford

"This week's public demonstration was the highlight of our season so far and it was a privilege to be able to invite friends, family, colleagues, and our sponsors along to see the progress we have made. For the newest members of the crew this was their first opportunity to perform in front of an audience and is a vital part of preparation for the competition."

Cdr Batsford also gave special thanks to the team sponsors who are Babcock, Bowens Fluid Engineering, Lockheed Martin UK, Pure Storage, Roll

Royce Submarines, Thales, and We Remember Submariners.

The traditions of the Field Gun competition date back to 1899 and simulate the Naval Brigade's heroic mission to relieve the besieged British Army during the Second Boer War.

As the British Army was besieged by Boer fighters in the garrison town of Ladysmith, Natal, the Royal Navy landed guns from HM Ships TERRIBLE and POWERFUL to help in the relief of the siege. The six field guns, each weighing nearly half a metric tonne, were carried over rough terrain to assist their opposite numbers in the British Army.

The Brickwood's competition began in 1907 and was the idea of Sir John Brickwood, Chairman of the Brickwood Brewery. Initially it was only open to Portsmouth crews and the first trophy, a silver replica of a 12-pounder field gun mounted on a black ebony stand, was won by the Royal Marines Light Infantry Field Gun Crew from Forton.

The competition opened up to units from around the country in 1975 and the trophy left Portsmouth Command for the first time in 1978 going home with the HMS FISGARD team. It wasn't until 1997 that the trophy came north of the border to Scotland for the first time with a win from HMS GANNET.

Let's hope we can bring it back to Scotland this year with a win from our own HMNB Clyde Field Gun Team.



Sent by: Royal Navy, Communications & Influence (RNCI) Regional Press Office (Scotland & Northern Ireland), HM Naval Base Clyde.

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## **HMS ANSON ON THE AUTEC RANGE**

The Royal Navy's newest and most advanced hunter-killer submarine, HMS ANSON, is on the verge of joining operational duties following intensive tests in the Atlantic. HMS ANSON, the fifth Astute-class submarine, underwent rigorous trials off the east coast of the United States and in the Caribbean Sea, testing her state-of-the-art systems and weaponry. The Astute-class submarines, the largest and most advanced attack submarines operated by the Royal Navy, are equipped to launch long-range Tomahawk missiles and lethal Spearfish torpedoes, capable of hitting land targets accurately and defeating enemy submarines.

ANSON, which left the shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness in February last year, underwent thorough trials and tests before joining her sisters in operations. She spent time in waters off the UK coast and then sailed north of Scotland, successfully firing both Spearfish torpedoes and Tomahawk test missiles.

The trials intensified in the Atlantic as ANSON headed to the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Centre (AUTEC) in the waters around the Bahamas. The AUTEC base, operated by the US Navy, is a hub of world-leading experts and technology. The ranges off Andros Island – southwest of Nassau – are centred on the Tongue of the Ocean (TOTO), a deep-water bowl crammed with sensors and hydrophones to record data on submarine, torpedo, and sonar performance.

Tests at AUTEC are crucial for ANSON's future operations, ensuring she can hunt adversary submarines without detection. These sea trials also provided the crew with the opportunity to rest on Andros Island.

"The opportunity for the majority of the Ship's Company to spend a few days on Andros was fantastic" a submariner said. "This afforded us a few days of rest from the sea trials we were conducting and allowed us to spend time on the beach in the sun relaxing and playing volleyball with base personnel."

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## **AUKUS UPDATES**

### **Rolls-Royce selects construction firm for AUKUS expansion**

Rolls-Royce has announced that infrastructure group Balfour Beatty will be its non-fissile construction partner to help deliver the expansion of its Raynesway site in Derby, according to a press release.

In June of last year, Rolls-Royce revealed plans to double the size of its Submarines site in Derby to meet growing demand from the Royal Navy and in response to the AUKUS agreement.

This expansion is part of a broader strategy to support the UK's SSN-AUKUS programme, with Australia committing £2.4 billion over ten years to the initiative. This funding will support the enhancement of Rolls-Royce Submarines infrastructure and contribute to costs associated with boat design.

The expansion will involve the construction of new manufacturing and office facilities, creating 1,170 skilled roles in various disciplines, including manufacturing and engineering. Balfour Beatty will oversee the construction of these new facilities and the adjoining site infrastructure.

"We cannot deliver against our commitments to the MOD and the AUKUS programme on our own. It will require a strong and reliable supply chain bringing their expertise to enhance and enable the critical work we do. The selection of Balfour Beatty as our expansion construction partner is a prime example of that," said Terry Meighan, Rolls-Royce Submarines Infrastructure Director.

"Their experience in delivering major infrastructure, as well as their long history of complex project delivery in secure environments, were important factors in our decision. This is an exciting milestone as we grow our site and our business to meet the enhanced demand for our expertise."

Leo Quinn, Balfour Beatty's Group Chief Executive, added, "Today's announcement marks an important step forward in ensuring Rolls-Royce has the infrastructure in place to support the strategic requirements of the MOD and the AUKUS programmes. I'm delighted Balfour Beatty has been chosen to support this critical work for a project that will see us unite our unique multi-disciplinary expertise and experience in delivering large scale complex projects within live, operational nuclear environments."

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### **Plymouth-based Babcock signs nuclear skills charter for 'national security and energy resilience'**

The charter is to underpin the successful development of a 10-year strategy in the sphere. Plymouth-based Babcock has signed up to a nuclear skills charter which it says will serve 'national security and energy resilience'. Alongside Nuclear Skills Executive Council members, Babcock CEO David Lockwood signed the new UK Nuclear Skills Charter, a collaborative approach.

It is a commitment to deliver the 10-year National Nuclear Strategic Plan for Skills (NNSPS), Babcock says, to upskill and retain the current workforce, to attract skilled employees from across the UK, to significantly increase the investment in early careers, as well as investing in the nuclear leaders of the future.

David Lockwood said: "The defence and civil nuclear sectors underpin thousands of jobs across the UK and this collaborative national endeavour is about making sure the UK has the skills it needs.

"With Government, academia and industry working together, we will upskill today's UK nuclear workforce and open up career opportunities to a broader range of people. Attracting people with different backgrounds and experience will help ensure the UK has the nuclear skills needed for today and tomorrow."

In a statement, Babcock said that it "plays a critical role across the nuclear enterprise, delivering nationally important programmes such as the maintenance of the UK's fleet of nuclear submarines and the provision of critical support to the country's nuclear power facilities".

It goes on: "As a key industrial partner delivering the NNSPS, Babcock is taking a leading role in developing the Southwest regional hub, working collaboratively with industry and education partners to identify areas of opportunity for enhancing nuclear skills. Babcock is actively supporting Destination Nuclear, the first ever national nuclear communications and recruitment campaign, and has provided full-time executive support to the government-led task force."

Last year, Babcock launched a Skills Academy which is focussed on developing the current and future nuclear skills it says it needs to support the UK's civil and defence sectors, including supporting the submarine enterprise. More than 2,000 people are expected to pass through the Skills Academy in its first three years, and a further 10,000 over the following five years.

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### **HMS AGAMEMNON Naming Ceremony – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024**

Royal Navy's latest submarine named after mythical Greek king

The vessel is equipped with world-leading sensors and can manufacture its own oxygen and fresh water from the sea



**The submarine is 97 metres long and weighs 7,400 tons**

The Royal Navy's latest [Astute-class submarine](#) has been officially named at BAE Systems' submarines site in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

HMS AGAMEMNON– named after the mythical Greek king – is the sixth of seven Astute submarines being built by the company.

The vessel is set to be launched later this year, ahead of being commissioned into the Royal Navy.

At 97 metres long and weighing 7,400 tons, the Astute-class submarines are fitted with advanced nuclear technology meaning they never need to be refuelled. They can manufacture their own oxygen and fresh water from the ocean and are able to circumnavigate the globe without surfacing.



### **The Astute-class submarine will be launched later this year**

Pictures: CREDIT: BAE Systems / SWNS

Equipped with world-leading sensors, the Astute-class carry both Tomahawk Land Attack Cruise Missiles and Spearfish heavyweight torpedoes.

Monday's ceremony was attended by James Cartlidge, the Minister for Defence Procurement, and included an address by the boat's Lady Sponsor, Lady Sedwill, the wife of Lord Sedwill, the former UK National Security Adviser.

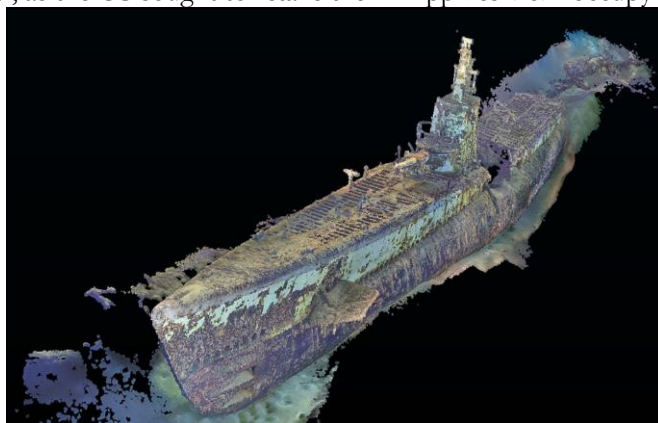
Steve Timms, Managing Director at BAE Systems' submarines business, said: "This is a key milestone for AGAMEMNON and the UK Nuclear Submarine Programme and contributes to the Government's defence nuclear enterprise command paper, which underpinned the importance of our business and Barrow in delivering this national endeavour."

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## **USS HARDER**

### **Wreck of famed US Navy World War II sub found off the Philippines**

The wreck of one of the most storied US Navy submarines of World War II has been found in the South China Sea eight decades after its last patrol, the Navy's History and Heritage Command said Thursday. The USS HARDER lies under 3,000 feet (about 900 meters) of water off the northern Philippine Island of Luzon, sitting upright and intact except for damage behind its conning tower from a Japanese depth charge, the NHHC said in a press release. HARDER was lost in battle on August 24, 1944, along with its entire crew of 79 submariners, while on its sixth patrol of the war, as the US sought to retake the Philippines from occupying Japanese forces.



**4D photogrammetry model of USS HARDER (SS 257) wreck site**

By Tim Taylor and the Lost 52 Project/Courtesy US Navy

The Lost 52 Project scanned the entire boat and stitched all the images together in a multi-dimensional model used to study and explore the site off Luzon, Philippines.

“HARDER was lost in the course of victory. We must not forget that victory has a price, as does freedom,” NHHC Director Samuel J. Cox, a retired US Navy admiral, said in the press release.

According to a US Navy history, HARDER sank two Japanese escort ships off the Bataan Peninsula on August 22, 1944, and then headed north along the Luzon coast with two other subs in search of more targets.



**U.S. Navy archive photo of USS HARDER**

(Naval History and Heritage Command)

In a battle with Japanese escort ship CD-22 on the morning of August 24, HARDER fired three torpedoes that missed and was later sunk by the Japanese ship's fifth depth charge attack, according to Japanese records cited by NHHC. The NHHC said the wreck of the HARDER was confirmed by data provided by the Lost 52 Project, an effort led by Tim Taylor, CEO of Tiburon Subsea, to find the 52 US subs lost in World War II. The group has previously located at least six WWII subs, the NHHC said. “We are grateful that Lost 52 has given us the opportunity to once again honour the valour of the crew of the ‘Hit ‘em HARDER’ submarine,” the NHHC’s Cox said, in reference to the vessel’s motto.

The NHHC said the wreck is “the final resting place of Sailors that gave their life in defence of the nation and should be respected by all parties as a war grave.”

The Philippines was a US territory attacked by Japan just after its strike on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. By the spring of 1942, US and Philippine forces on Luzon surrendered to Tokyo’s forces and Japan used the captured archipelago to protect its supply lines from the East Indies and Southeast Asia. But by mid-1944, the US was rolling back Japanese gains across the Pacific and was planning landings to do the same in the Philippines. HARDER, which had the motto of “Hit ‘em HARDER,” was captained by Cmdr. Samuel Dealey, who would be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the US military’s highest decoration, for his actions in HARDER’s fifth patrol, from March to July 1944.

During that time HARDER sank three Japanese destroyers with another two likely destroyed or heavily damaged over the course of just four days, according to the National Medal of Honor Museum. The museum’s page on Dealey described one particularly harrowing encounter. Coming under attack from a Japanese destroyer, Dealey ordered a head-on torpedo shot at the bow of the charging enemy, known as a “down the throat” shot, according to the museum account.

“At 1,500 yards, Dealey fired three torpedoes and ordered the sub to dive. As the HARDER passed 80 feet underneath the destroyer, two of the torpedoes struck the ship, sending shock waves through the submarine.” On its first four patrols after commissioning on December 2, 1942, HARDER sank 14 Japanese warships and merchant vessels, according to the Medal of Honor Museum.

#### **By Editor**

In the early years of WWII USS HARDER and three of her sisters suffered from a new design of diesel engines subject to repeated breakdowns and poor performance. They became known for unreliability and were the subject of an unkind poem in the submarine service – ‘HARDER, DARTER, TRIGGER, TROUT - *always in -and never out!*’ Eventually all four were re-engined with known reliable diesel engines and performed well - although not all survived the war.

### **Harland & Wolff looking to build floating docks for Faslane**

Two shipyards in Scotland, run by Harland & Wolff, are positioning themselves to build two new floating dry docks to maintain submarines at Faslane. John Wood, CEO of Harland & Wolff, recently took to social media to outline the company's clear intentions and strategic plans for its Methil yard.

In a detailed post, Wood announced: "Our Methil yard announced last week it's clear plan to build two floating dry docks at our biggest facility in the UK, the project known as Project Euston has been worked on for several months so we are in a strong position when the bid pack is released."

Wood mentioned the company's readiness and capacity, noting that their Methil and Arnish yards have the surplus capacity required to manage this project, while other yards remain engaged with ongoing orders for Type 26, Type 32, and Fleet Solid Support ships.

"Harland and Wolff with 51% of the marine fabrication capacity in the UK are the only yard that will have that surplus capacity between its Methil and Arnish yards at that time to build this project with T26, T32 and FSS keeping all other yards busy with the expected follow on orders." Addressing recent media speculation regarding the future of Harland & Wolff's facilities, Wood firmly dismissed any rumours of closure or mothballing of the Methil or Arnish yards. He highlighted the ongoing growth and business as usual at these facilities: "Whilst there is lots of speculation in the press Methil and Arnish are clearly front and centre of our continued growth." Wood also addressed the financial aspects, noting their efforts to secure more cost-effective financing and expressing confidence that political changes, including a potential new government, would not significantly impact their strategic goals:

"I think a certain journalist at the Telegraph has had a few too many glasses of wine over the holiday weekend a "Source" told me earlier. It is business as usual in our facilities as work progresses at pace, are we fighting to get a cheaper rate of finance yes – why not. We do not see the General Election causing us any major issues in our efforts to close the deal. In any event in six weeks' time things may change again with a new Government and different Ministers."

He concluded by reiterating Harland & Wolff's commitment to their strategic aims and the ongoing development of their key facilities. "To be clear, we have no plans or intention to shut or mothball either of our Methil or Arnish delivery centres. This goes completely against our strategic aims and increases risks on our other major programs."

Earlier this year, we reported that the Ministry of Defence had provided an update on the plans for two new floating docks to maintain submarines at Faslane in Scotland. The confirmation came as a response to a Written Parliamentary Question. John Healey MP, Labour Defence Spokesman, asked:

"To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when his Department plans to tender for two new submarine floating docks."

James Cartledge MP, Minister of State (Ministry of Defence), responded: "An early market engagement notice was published on 7 November 2023 for Programme EUSTON. This engagement will inform the delivery strategy required to procure the planned out of water engineering maintenance facility at His Majesty's Naval Base Clyde. Following completion of the market engagement exercise this year, the Ministry of Defence intends to initiate a procurement programme for this additional capability. Programme EUSTON is currently in its concept phase and no date has yet been set for the tender process."

Recently, the Ministry of Defence announced plans to procure two new floating docks along with associated infrastructure for Faslane, the primary hub for the UK's nuclear deterrent and the home of the Vanguard-class ballistic missile submarines. The AFTDC Programme, as outlined in the MoD's Prior Information Notice (PIN) published on 7 November 2023, details a strategic initiative to enhance the docking capabilities at HM Naval Base Clyde.

"The United Kingdom Ministry of Defence ('the Authority') has initiated the Additional Fleet Time Docking Capability (AFTDC) Programme to procure two floating docks and associated infrastructure to be located at HM Naval Base Clyde. As the single integrated operating base for UK Royal Navy Submarines, HM Naval Base Clyde is the home of fleet time docking capability to support submarine availability. Following completion of a period of market engagement with industry, the Authority intends to formally commence a procurement for AFTDC."

John Healey, the Shadow Secretary of State for Defence, queried about the Ministry's plans in relation to the National Audit Office (NAO) report titled "The Equipment Plan 2022 to 2032," asking: "To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the report published by the NAO entitled The Equipment Plan 2022 to 2032, HC 907, published 29 November 2022, whether his Department plans to procure a submarine floating dock." In response, James Cartledge, the Minister of State for the Ministry of Defence, highlighted the department's proactive approach in assessing its needs, stating: "The Ministry of Defence has conducted an assessment on its docking needs. This assessment has identified that two floating docks are required to enhance the out of water

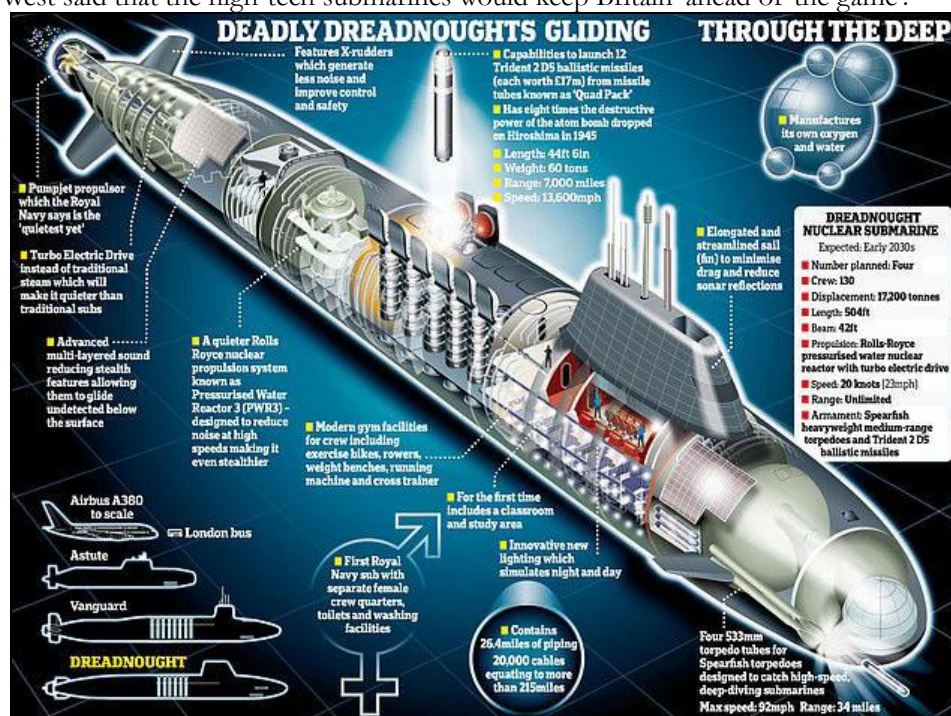
maintenance capability and meet future demand for submarine maintenance at His Majesty's Naval Base Clyde." He further added: "Market engagement has recently commenced to better understand the delivery strategy required to procure floating docks and the associated infrastructure necessary to create an additional out of water maintenance capability."

### The Royal Navy's 'silent enforcers': How a new generation of nuclear submarines loaded with weaponry will keep the UK safe

Lurking stealthily below the surface and armed with devastating weaponry, the Royal Navy's new generation of nuclear submarines is set to become a fearsome adversary in the oceans. Dubbed the 'silent enforcers', the Dreadnought-class submarines are said to be as quiet as an idling car, allowing them to avoid detection.

The four vessels – HMS DREADNOUGHT, HMS VALIANT, HMS WARSPITE and HMS KING GEORGE VI will replace the ageing Vanguard fleet and become the nation's main nuclear deterrents. BAE Systems is working alongside Rolls-Royce and the Submarine Delivery Agency to deliver the programme, with the first of the vessels – HMS DREADNOUGHT – to be completed in the 2030s.

Admiral Lord West said that the high-tech submarines would keep Britain 'ahead of the game'.



The Royal Navy's 'silent enforcers': How a new generation of nuclear submarines loaded with weaponry will keep the UK safe. We do everything we can to ensure they are undetectable and we are ahead of the game.' He added that the multi-billion-pound programme to deliver the nuclear subs was as complicated as 'putting a man on the moon', but said he was pleased with the progress so far, and that his 'only regret is that it was not started sooner.' Lord West said that the new fleet would also see improvements to lighting and living facilities to 'minimise the impact' on submariners, who can spend several months submerged.

Each Dreadnought-class submarine will house a crew of 130 members, including three chefs and one doctor. They will have separate female crew quarters, toilets and washing facilities for the first time since a ban on women joining the service was lifted in 2011. Other improvements include a state-of-the-art medical centre, a classroom, and a study area. The submarines will also have fully equipped gym facilities and a new lighting system will be used to simulate day and night, no doubt to improve crew wellbeing.

The submarines are able to generate their own oxygen and fresh water, meaning they can stay deep in the water for months at a time. The largest class of submarine ever built for the Royal Navy, each will weigh 17,200 tons and measure 154 metres long – the length of three Olympic swimming pools.





A section of the Royal Navy's new nuclear submarine being moved along a street in Cumbria in September last year© Provided by Daily Mail



Rishi Sunak during a visit to BAE Systems, Submarines Academy for Skills and Knowledge on March 25 in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria

Each submarine boasts 26.4 miles of pipework and more than 20,000 cables stretching 215 miles – which would cover the distance from London to Paris. They are also packed with sound reducing features, allowing them to glide undetected below the surface.

The submarines are powered by Rolls-Royce, with a nuclear propulsion system known as Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) 3.

#### **1,500 firms to benefit**

The Dreadnought submarine programme involves 1,500 companies in the supply chain employing 11,800 staff around Britain. Work is under way to build the four submarines for the UK's nuclear deterrent at the BAE Systems shipyard in Barrow, Cumbria. The scheme – the biggest in the defence sector in Britain today – will see BAE spend £7.5billion with firms in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The identity of many is protected for security reasons.

But among those known to benefit are Plymouth-based Babcock – an employer of around 22,000 UK workers. Thales UK has been contracted to make periscopes for the submarines, supporting more than 150 jobs in Scotland. Stephen Phipson, of manufacturing body Make UK, said: 'The Dreadnought programme is a critically important project not just from a national security perspective but also in maintaining key engineering skills.'

It is said to make less noise than an idle modern car but designed to have the power performance of a gas turbine. It does not need refuelling, which has the benefit of giving the submarine unlimited range.

The Dreadnought class will also be the first British submarine to feature X-rudders, rather than the traditional type. These will sit in front of the Pump Jet propulsor, which the Royal Navy has described as the 'quietest yet' and is designed to reduce the noise of the submarines, particularly at high speeds. In addition, a new turbo electric drive will replace traditional steam, which will make it quieter than other subs.

An elongated and streamlined fin will minimise drag and reduce sonar reflections, while an outer hull will be angled to deflect incoming active sonar. Describing the class as the 'epitome of naval engineering', the Royal Navy said the fleet will feature ballistic missile launchers, providing 'unrivalled strength and security' for the nation.

Each vessel will have the capability to launch 12 Trident II D5 ballistic missiles from four missile tubes, known as 'Quad Pack'. The devastating weapons, which are each worth £17million, have the ability to reach enemy targets within a range of 12,000km. The Dreadnought-class submarines will also feature four 533mm tubes for Spearfish heavyweight medium-range torpedoes. The powerful underwater weapon is the Navy's frontline defence against surface and underwater threats.

Welcoming the new generation of submarines, Rear Admiral Dr Chris Parry said: 'If you've got to have nuclear deterrent you may as well as have the Rolls-Royce of nuclear deterrents. Otherwise there's no point... and that is exactly what this is.'

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### **Australia Proceeds With Collins Class Life Extension but Drops the Tomahawk And Optronic Mast requirements**



**Collins-class submarines HMAS COLLINS, FARNCOMB, SHEEAN and DECHAINEUX at sea in Western Australia**

**Image Australian Defence.**

The Collins Class life extension Programme narrows in scope, subject to funding pressures and American advice on Tomahawk-integration.

By Alex Luck 6<sup>th</sup> Jun 2024

The Australian government in an official announcement on June 5<sup>th</sup> declared their intention to proceed with the next phase of the life extension for Collins-class submarines dubbed "*Life Of Type Extension*" (LOTE). The Collins-class comprising six boats represents the current submarine capability of the Royal Australian Navy.

#### **Life extension to keep Collins operational for two more decades**

Collins originally commissioned with RAN after significant development troubles, in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Australia then pursued a successor dubbed 'Attack'-class under its SEA 1000 program. That effort however saw cancellation in 2021. Instead Canberra is now determined to introduce nuclear powered submarines in cooperation with the USA and UK under AUKUS. Due to the resulting significant gap for a timely replacement

Collins will now have to serve throughout the 2030s and possibly into the 2040s. To enable this plan, the design requires significant life extension measures keeping the boats operational exceeding 40 years of service. In this context all six boats are to undergo a package of modernization including propulsion, weapons and sensors. However the new announcement now shelves the previous plan of integrating Tomahawk land attack cruise missiles (TLAM) and a new optronic mast produced by French supplier Safran.

### **Torpedo tube launched Tomahawk unfeasible**

RAN intended to equip Collins with the Tomahawk missile for providing additional *“strike and deterrence capability”*. The phrase is ironically again used in the June 5th statement dropping the capability. Australia took this decision based on *“advice from Defence, in consultation with the United States, that adding Tomahawk cruise missile capability to the Collins class submarines is not viable and does not represent value for money.”* Collins would have to use the torpedo-tube launched variant of TLAM, which, as *Naval News* understands, has been out of production for over 12 years.



**Torpedo tube-launched Tomahawk Blk IV, fired from USS Pasadena (SSN-752) in 2007**  
Image NAVAIR)

Pursuing this plan therefore necessitates renewed production through a meaningful bulk order. Alternatively Australia would need to buy suitable weapons from remaining stock, if any, of the US Navy. The USN only operates three Seawolf-class SSN equipped to use TTL Tomahawk. The current status of the remaining USN stockpile of weapons remains unclear. The UK is another existing user, operating the type on Astute SSN. The Netherlands previously intended to modify its old Walrus-class SSK for use of TLAM. The Dutch Navy was furthermore planning to use the tube-launched TLAM also on their Walrus-successor dubbed ‘Orka’. Recent Dutch media reports suggest this plan is in trouble over American unwillingness to approve integration on the French-designed ‘Orka’-class. Dutch officials have dismissed related problems in response.

### **Modern optronics dropped from LOTE**

In addition the announcement clarified that the Safran-developed optronic mast system will not be part of LOTE. Safran originally developed the Australian variant for use on the cancelled Attack-class submarines. The shifting Australian attitude on using the optronic mast for Collins was apparent already in a Senates Estimates exchange with ADF officials back in February. At the time senator Jacqui Lambie grilled Defence officials including the Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Hammond on expenses incurred for the mast. According to the estimates hearings in February and June, Defence has already spent AU\$33 million on the optronic mast before deciding to abandon the effort of integrating it in the Collins.

Other aspects of LOTE continue to be more obscure. As indicated above, the total package also includes modernisation of the diesel engines - considered the top priority for LOTE. In addition work on the electric motor, sonar and hull regeneration measures are also key aspects. The first boat to undergo LOTE is HMAS FARNCOMB, second of the class. Recent media reports highlighted the discovery of unprecedented levels of corrosion on both FARNCOMB and her sister ship HMAS SHEEAN. Government officials have yet to clarify how these issues will impact the overall time frame and scope of the life-extension for Collins going forward.



Safran Attack (L) and Search Optronic ® Masts at Pacific 2019.

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### Mystery solved after Guernsey divers find missing German U-boat



**The dive team located the resting place of the submarine and its 28 lost crew**  
IMAGE SOURCE: THE HUNT FOR LADY OLIVE AND THE GERMAN SUBMARINE

A mystery has been "finally solved" after divers found the resting place of a missing German U-boat. The vessel - UC-18 - was lost in 1917 after a battle with a secret Royal Navy ship, Lady Olive, which was also sunk. It took a team four years to locate and verify the find in the English Channel, which has been filmed for a BBC documentary. Underwater filmmaker Karl Taylor said he was "elated".



A UC class submarine and crew during World War One

The battle between UC-18 and Lady Olive is the only known altercation where a submarine and a Royal Navy ship sank each other. In addition to the resting place of the submarine and its 28 lost crew, the dive team also located what they believe to be Lady Olive. Mr Taylor said the project had been "very demanding" with deep dives in very low light. The U-boat was eventually found at a depth of over 70m (230ft). The team worked closely with U-boat expert and marine archaeologist Tomas Termote to identify the wreck which "remains in amazing condition". Original historical accounts reported the battle took place about 13km (eight miles) off the coast of Jersey, but the sunken vessels were finally discovered about 64km (40 miles) further west, Mr Taylor said. He said two other wrecks were also discovered and identified during their extensive search. All findings were passed to the French authorities and the German Navy. The French authorities have since closed the UC-18's location to divers as it is a designated war grave. Mr Taylor said, "the circumstances of the sinkings had been an enduring mystery finally solved" and he hoped that the film would help people realise the sacrifices that all sides made during a "very turbulent period of European history". The documentary film "*The Hunt for Lady Olive and the German Submarine*" will air on the BBC in June 2024.

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## **WE REMEMBER SUBMARINERS - CROSSED THE BAR COORDINATORS**

"Are you able to listen with compassion to a bereaved person?

Can you offer a willing ear?"

---

If so, would you like to become a 'Crossed the Bar' (CTB) Co-ordinator for We Remember Submariners (WRS)? As a CTB Co-ordinator you will liaise with the bereaved relatives, close friends and funeral directors of submariners who have 'Crossed the Bar'. You will ensure the submariner is remembered according to the wishes of the family.

These are challenging but very rewarding roles within this active charity".

This is a voluntary post within the charity, and we would require the successful applicants to complete a full DBS disclosure. We will provide suitable training in safeguarding and working with vulnerable people".

If you are interested and would like further details, please contact [graham.bishop@weremembersubmariners.com](mailto:graham.bishop@weremembersubmariners.com) or [nigel.mellor@weremembersubmariners.com](mailto:nigel.mellor@weremembersubmariners.com)

Nigel Mellor, Operations Manager

**We Remember Submariners**

Charity Number 1176446

[www.we-remember-submariners.com](http://www.we-remember-submariners.com)

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## **BOOK REVIEWS**

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### **SALT HORSE**

**Memoir of a Maverick Admiral, Claude Lionel Cumberlege**

Edited by Robin Knight

Foreword by Rear Admiral Mike Harris

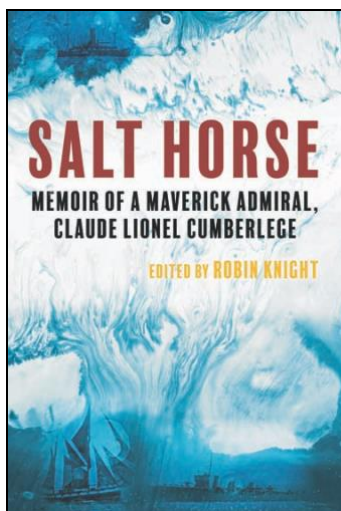
A vivid memoir recalling a lost world in peace and war, on land and sea. The autobiography of an individualistic, larger-than life sailor who lived by his wits. Easy to read, colourful, full of scarcely believable anecdotes, vignettes and pen pictures highlighting a long life well-lived. An insightful and unusual look at the development of two navies the Royal Navy 1889 - 1913, and the Royal Australian Navy 1913 – 1922.

Written originally in 1936 to 1938 by Admiral Cumberlege as a record of his life it was never published. The original record of his life, Salt Horse manuscript has been expertly edited and made readable in terms of language to a modern reader. It now comprises Chapters on Cumberlege's Naval Career in the Royal Navy and the Royal Australian Navy and also on the 1922 - 1938 period when he lived year-round on two large sailing craft, cruising the coasts of France and Spain.

Cumberlege writes with some verve. He has strong views, made numerous friends wherever he and his second wife Nora went, and lived a spirited, irreverent and fortunate existence in peace and war. Some of his stories (for instance, about WW1 in New Guinea, or about his 1905 lunch in Gibraltar as a young officer with Kaiser Wilhelm II) are historic and eye-catching. In many ways, the book describes a world, and a way of life, that has disappeared for ever.

Salt Horse is complemented with a timeline, family tree and Introduction which trace Cumberlege's background. An Afterword takes his life story from 1938 to 1963 when he died. The numerous black-and-white images and short footnotes bring many of the people mentioned in the text to life.

**Readership:** this immensely readable book will appeal to all those interested in British naval & maritime history, social change in the UK, Europe and Australia in the first half of the 20th century, the development and history of the Royal Australian Navy, and perhaps anyone seeking an alternative lifestyle afloat



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ISBN 978-184995-572-0. 234 × 156mm 192pp c.100 b/w photographs. Softback. £18.99. April 2024

**Available from:** Whittles Publishing, Dunbeath, Caithness, Scotland UK KW6 6EG

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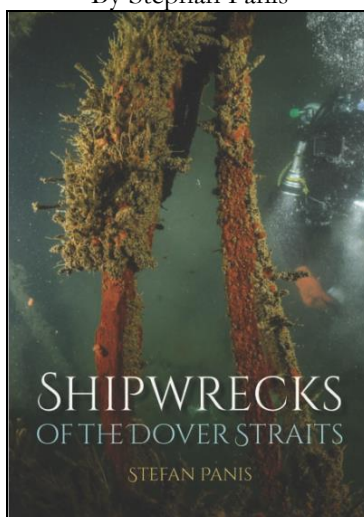
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**About the editor.** Robin Knight is a former foreign correspondent, a contributing editor at several news magazines and a corporate writer with years of international experience. His work has appeared widely in US and British publications and he is the author of eight books

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## SHIPWRECKS OF THE DOVER STRAITS

By Stephan Panis



An amazing combination of true wreck-diving adventures complemented with stunning underwater photography. The book includes full historical details of the ships, contributes to a rich and continually revealing maritime history and hundreds of colour photographs. The Dover Straits is the resting place for many wrecks and this book reveals the stories behind a selection of these unfortunate vessels. This highly pictorial account shows the wrecks and the numerous artefacts found. The gallery of photographs for each wreck is accompanied by a brief summary of the history of the vessel and the actual dive, providing an insight into diving in these challenging waters and also the excitement of discovering age old artefacts. The book unearths some amazing stories and shows the objects in situ or recovered for purposes of identification - many in remarkable condition - all declared to the receiver of wrecks. There are many hundreds of wrecks in these waters that form a perfect site for wreck divers and this book describes just a fraction of what may be found. This new book will be a valuable and an enticing introduction for all divers

wishing to explore the huge number of wrecks to be found in the Dover Straits as well as a useful point of reference.

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**Readership:** this will be a fascinating read for all divers and anyone interested in ships, shipping and maritime history.

ISBN 978-184995-496-9. 240 × 170mm. 208pp profusely illustrated in full colour plus. Softback. £18.99. April 2024

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**About the author:** Stefan Panis began diving at the age of 6, gradually progressing to developing an interest in wreck diving, photography and research. He has dived many wrecks in the North Sea and is part of the expedition team diving the English Channel. He has also taken part in many cave and mine dives and, in 2020 was awarded a Member of the Explorers Club in New York. He is the author of numerous articles, and has co-written four books, including *Diving for Treasure*.

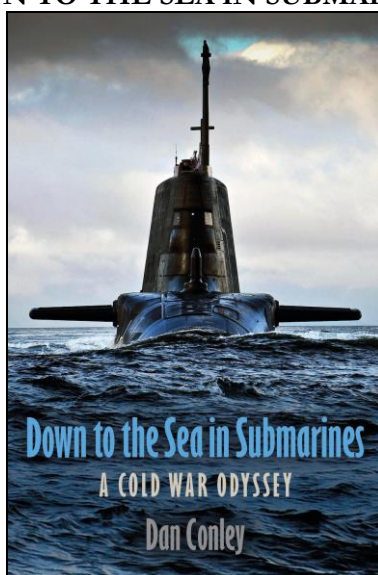
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### DOWN TO THE SEA IN SUBMARINES



By Dan Conley

Foreword by Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope

This unique memoir charts the career of the author in the Royal Navy Submarine Service during the period 1967 to 1997, and in doing so details many of the Silent Service's remarkable achievements since the end of the Second World War. And it provides a dramatic first-hand account of the underwater confrontation during the Cold War between submarines of the West and the huge submarine force of the Soviet Union. Dan Conley narrates the successive stages from his basic submarine training to taking command of two nuclear attack submarines, but he does not demur from describing the personal and professional difficulties he encountered in this journey. He sets out in detail what life was like serving onboard both diesel and nuclear submarines, and in particular, the book describes the British submariner's remarkable transformation from the somewhat buccaneering, free spirit serving on a clapped-out WW2 boat during the sunset of the British Empire, to the highly professional individual who spends prolonged periods under the sea in a platform which matches the complexity of a space craft.

The book describes the long and difficult challenges encountered in developing effective weapon systems for the British submarine force and discusses the difficulties and shortcomings in the UK's defence procurement system, a situation which still exists today. Ultimately, however, Western technological superiority and crew proficiency enabled the submarines of the Royal and United States Navies to match those of the Soviet Union, and he describes vividly the suspense and tension of underwater confrontations which might so easily have escalated to another dimension of warfare. And the book sets out hitherto undisclosed details of submarine activities during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, when the world confronted the real possibility of a massive nuclear exchange.

But it is not all serious content, and he also offers a glimpse for the reader of many humorous situations and events, of animals that found themselves under the sea in a submarine, in one case during a war patrol, and other moments of levity that broke the tension of serving in a highly complex and sophisticated fighting machine.

The Cold War era is now long past. However, it is evident that as the West now confronts an aggressive, recidivist Russia and a more aggressive China, Britain's submarine force once again will be key to the security of all its citizens. This fine memoir captures vividly the key events and history of the Cold War, and in doing so will open the reader's eyes to the significance and importance today of the Royal Navy Submarine Service.

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### **AUSTRALIAN SUBMARINE OFFICERS TO SERVE/TRAIN IN USN NUCLEAR SUBMARINES**

Three Royal Australian Navy officers will be assigned to US Virginia class submarines based at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii after graduating from their submarine training in Groton, Connecticut.

Lieutenant Commander James Heydon, Lieutenant Commander Adam Klyne and Lieutenant William Hall are the first Royal Australian Navy officers to graduate from the Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC), following their studies at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command and Nuclear Power Training Unit in South Carolina. The officers have now completed the US Navy's 15-month nuclear submarine training pipeline with the SOBC being the last step. Over the last two months, the trio trained alongside US Navy sailors, learning the fundamentals of operating nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs).

Lieutenant Commander Heydon, Lieutenant Commander Klyne and Lieutenant Hall will now serve as division officers on Virginia class submarines, leading a team of highly trained US submariners.

At Groton, the Royal Australian Navy officers experienced the same training as US Navy officers entering the submarine force. Their training at the SOBC involved the hands-on experience needed to safely operate Australia's future conventionally armed SSNs. The number of Royal Australian Navy personnel training across the US will increase to over 100 in the next 12 months.

Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond said: "I could not be more proud of Lieutenant Commander Heydon, Lieutenant Commander Klyne, and Lieutenant Hall. Their commitment and dedication over the past 15 months has paid off, and they are now well-equipped to put their training into action aboard Virginia class submarines.

They have set a high bar for Navy officers who will follow in their footsteps, and demonstrated that Australia's future fleet of conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines will be in safe hands."

Director-General Australian Submarine Agency, Vice Admiral Jonathan Mead said: "The Royal Australian Navy's greatest strength is its people and I commend Lieutenant Commander Heydon, Lieutenant Commander Klyne and Lieutenant Hall on their achievements.

The AUKUS program for Australia to acquire conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines will succeed because of our team of hard-working, driven people like these three Officers, working alongside thousands of other Australians from welders and engineers to electricians and scientists. Already we have made remarkable progress as we build a new high-tech industry and I strongly encourage young Australians to consider a submarine career and being part of this exciting opportunity to design, build, sustain and crew nuclear-powered submarines."

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# SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' (Reported 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 (\*\*\*) WWII Service)

Information on 'Submariners Crossed the Bar' compiled from CTBs reported by all available sources.

| NAME                                     | DATE/AGE                     | RANK/RATE                                                  | BRANCH                     | SM SERVICE                               | SUBMARINES                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Roy A Donovan<br>RCN 14652-H             | 27th June 1987<br>aged 54    | Petty Officer 1 UW                                         | SAOC                       | Not given                                | THERMOPYLAE, ALLIANCE & OJIBWA                                                                                                                |
| Sidney W Foster<br>P/MX 887797           | July 2023 aged 89            | Chief Marine<br>Engineering Artificer (P)                  | We Remember<br>Submariners | Not given                                | TACITURN, TIRELESS, TIPTOE, SCORCHER, RORQUAL, ODIN,<br>DREADNOUGHT, VALIANT (1st Commission Crew on 18th July 1966 to<br>1970) & SWIFTSURE   |
| Howard Augustus<br>Parsons               | 30th October<br>2023 aged 98 | Not given                                                  | SAOC                       | 1947 to 195*                             | TOKEN (1947 to 1948, TRUCULENT (1949 to 1950) & TRESPASSER<br>(195*)                                                                          |
| George Brett Aubrey<br>RCN               | 24th November<br>2023        | Radar Plotter                                              | SAOC                       | April 1968 to 1972                       | ONONDAGA & OKANAGAN                                                                                                                           |
| James Radford<br>Burrows                 | 24th January<br>2024         | Leading Seaman (RP)                                        | We Remember<br>Submariners | 1961 to 1978                             | TALENT, TIPTOE (on Commissioning at Chatham on 24th February 1967,<br>FINWHALE, OBERON, PORPOISE & OTUS (also served in VALIANT &<br>OLYMPUS? |
| Michael Ernest<br>Winter<br>CO 10776M    | 8th March 2024<br>aged 82    | Commander (E)<br>(WESM)                                    | Dolphin Branch             | April 1965 to April 1994                 | DOLPHIN, ORACLE, OCELOT, SEALION MERCURY, NEPTUNE,<br>REPULSE (P) (PSO 14th June 1974 to 1976), MoD (PE) & FOSM<br>Northwood)                 |
| John Sheridan                            | 8th March 2024<br>aged 98    | Lieutenant (E) (ME)                                        | Eastern States<br>Branch   | 1958 to 1962                             | TACTICIAN, SCYTHIAN, TANIN, RAHAV, TAPIR (EO on<br>Commissioning at Malta on 27th January 1961) & TERROR (Spring 1962)                        |
| James (Jim) Currie<br>D082117U           | 12th March 2024<br>aged 76   | Chief Petty Officer<br>Marine Engineering<br>Artificer (P) | Portsmouth<br>Branch       | August 1974 to<br>December 1987          | FINWHALE (Final Commission Crew' on 15th November 1974 to 1977),<br>ODIN (1979 to 1981) & OSIRIS (1982 to 1987)                               |
| Nigel Milnes                             | 17th March 2024              | Marine Engineering<br>Mechanic                             | We Remember<br>Submariners | 1990s & 2000s                            | REVENGE, RENOWN & VANGUARD                                                                                                                    |
| Frederick Kingsley<br>Morgan<br>D102727E | 17th March 2024<br>aged 71   | Stores Accountant                                          | Wales Branch               | February 1974 to May<br>1979             | OLYMPUS (1974 to 1979)                                                                                                                        |
| Leslie William David                     | 17th March 2024<br>aged 97   | Not given                                                  | We Remember<br>Submariners | 10th January 1945 to 9th<br>January 1947 | DOLPHIN, CYCLOPS, DOLPHIN, TELEMACHUS (1st November 1945 to<br>17th June 1946), STATESMAN (18th June 1946 to 28th October 1946) &<br>DOLPHIN  |
| William Ross Beebe<br>RCN                | 17th March 2024<br>aged 72   | Admin Clerk                                                | SAOC                       | Not given                                | OJIBWA, ONONDAGA & OKANAGAN                                                                                                                   |
| David James Devins<br>P/J 982566         | 22nd March 2024<br>aged 80   | Radio Operator 2                                           | Merseyside<br>Branch       | May 1963 to August<br>1970               | AUROCHS, TRUNCHEON & RENOWN                                                                                                                   |
| Ralph Keenan<br>D149923V                 | 23rd March 2024<br>aged 66   | Chief Petty Officer<br>Weapons Electrical<br>Artificer     | We Remember<br>Submariners | February 1976 to April<br>1997           | ODIN, SEALION, ORACLE & OLYMPUS                                                                                                               |
| John Lawrence<br>Simpson                 | 23rd March 2024<br>aged 91   | Lieutenant (L)                                             | Friend of RN SM<br>Museum  | to 1963                                  | THULE, EXCALIBUR, Refit Group Plymouth, ORPHEUS (LO) &<br>DOLPHIN (Training Electrical Officer)                                               |
| M J (Yorkie) Pearson<br>D145882V         | 23rd March 2024<br>aged 65   | Leading Seaman (UC2)                                       | Gosport Branch             | 1975 to 1998                             | OSIRIS, OPPORTUNE, SEALION, ONYX, TIRELESS & TRENCHANT                                                                                        |
| Malcolm Turner                           | 24th March 2024              | Petty Officer                                              | Bath Branch                | 1951 to 1962                             | ALCIDE (1951 to 1953), ALLIANCE (1953 to 1954), ASTUTE (1954 to                                                                               |

|                                                              |                            |                                                        |                                            |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| P/JX 836709                                                  | aged 91                    | (Underwater Weapons 1)                                 |                                            |                                 | 1957), TALENT (1958 to 1959), SPITEFUL (1959), AMPHION (1959 to 1961) & ALLIANCE (1961 to 1962)                                                                                                                                                      |
| John F (Sid) Cusse<br>D181052R                               | 25th March 2024<br>aged 85 | Charge Chief Marine<br>Engineering Artificer (P)       | Medway Towns                               | Not given                       | AMPHION, ODIN on Commissioning at Rosyth on 19th August 1966, FINWHALE, CACHALOT, OPOSSUM 'on Commissioning' at Chatham on 2nd August 1974, ONYX (inc. April to June 1982) & OTTER (on commissioning at Humber Ship Repairers on 29th November 1986) |
| George H Goodwin                                             | 25th March 2024            | Charge Chief Marine<br>Engineering Artificer           | We Remember<br>Submariners                 | Not given                       | RESOLUTION (S) (2nd Commission Crew) on 10th July 1971, RENOWN, REVENGE & VALIANT                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Christopher Gordon<br>Ousley 'Kipper'<br>Walker<br>CO 10725X | 26th March 2024<br>aged 89 | Lieutenant Commander<br>(X) (SM)                       | Dolphin Branch<br>& Friend of SM<br>Museum | September 1954 to<br>March 1980 | SLEUTH, SCORCHER, SPITEFUL, TALENT, THOROUGH, AUROCHS, ANDREW, ARTEMIS (IL), CACHALOT (IL 5th April 1964), USS THORNBAC, AMPHION (CO 1966), NARWHAL (CO) & DREADNOUGHT (IL)                                                                          |
| Derek John Fruen                                             | March 2024 aged<br>92      | Not given                                              | We Remember<br>Submariners                 | 1950s                           | SCORCHER & THERMOPYLAE (one of a draft of 39 Ratings embarked in SS STRATHENDEN at Tilbury for Sydney on 21st September 1954)                                                                                                                        |
| Anthony Richards                                             | March 2024                 | Not given                                              | We Remember<br>Submariners                 | Not given                       | PORPOISE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| John P Goldsmith<br>D0809547                                 | March 2024 aged<br>75      | Chief Petty Officer<br>(Ops) (TS)                      | Peterborough<br>Branch                     | 1968 to 1988                    | ALARIC, PORPOISE, GRAMPUS, FINWHALE 'Final Commission Crew' on 15th November 1974 & OBERON                                                                                                                                                           |
| Matthew Richard<br>(Rick) Davidson                           | 2nd April 2024<br>aged 75  | Petty Officer 1st Class<br>(Sonarman)                  | SAOC (E)                                   | 1975 to 1989                    | DOLPHIN, OKANAGAN, ONONDAGA, OJIBWA & RN Exchange                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Stanley E Butler<br>M937294Y                                 | 2nd April 2024<br>aged 87  | Petty Officer Radio<br>Electrician                     | Gosport Branch                             | January 1963 to April<br>1977   | ALDERNEY, SEALION, OTTER (July 1970) & REVENGE (P) recommissioning at Rosyth in Aug/Sep 1975)                                                                                                                                                        |
| Paul Anthony<br>Moseley Thomas                               | 2nd April 2024             | Rear Admiral (E)<br>(MESM)                             | Friend of SM<br>Museum                     | 1970 to 1998                    | REVENGE (1976) in DOLPHIN. OCELOT, ORACLE, RNC Greenwich, RENOWN, DG Ships, REVENGE, FOSM Staff, CSSE Bath, DG Ships, MoD Bath, DGSM, MoD London, MoD Bath, CENTURION, RNEC Manadon, MoD CSSE London & CSSE Bristol                                  |
| William (Brigham)<br>Young                                   | 3rd April 2024             | Chief Petty Officer<br>Marine Engineering<br>Artificer | We Remember<br>Submariners                 | 1974 to 1997                    | SOVEREIGN, SWIFTSURE & TRAFALGAR (1st Commission Crew) on 27th May 1983                                                                                                                                                                              |
| George William<br>Crawley<br>D/JX 298135                     | 9th April 2024<br>aged 99  | Signalman (TO)                                         | Northeast Branch                           | 1944 to 1947                    | ULTIMATUM, UPROAR, CURIE (French), UNIVERSAL & UPSHOT                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Edward John (Fred)<br>Whitworth                              | 22nd April 2024            | Chief Engine Room<br>Artificer                         | We Remember<br>Submariners                 | late 1960's to late 1980's      | O Class & other boats & DOLPHIN Periscope Workshop                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Alistair (Ginge)<br>Parvin                                   | April 2024                 | Petty Officer Marine<br>Engineering Artificer          | We Remember<br>Submariners                 | Not given                       | SPARTAN & TRAFALGAR (1st Commission Crew) on 27th May 1983                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Timothy Paul<br>Courtney                                     | April 2024 aged<br>51      | Lieutenant (E) (WESM)                                  | We Remember<br>Submariners                 | Not given                       | VIGILANT (2006), SULTAN, VENGEANCE (2008 to 2010), SULTAN (2011 to 2013), VENGEANCE (2019)                                                                                                                                                           |
| Nigel Kennewell                                              | 1st May 2024               | Marine Engineering<br>Mechanic (M)                     | We Remember<br>Submariners                 | Not given                       | SUPERB (1st Commission Crew) on 13th November 1976 & SPARTAN (1st Commission Crew on 22nd September 1979)                                                                                                                                            |
| Michael Thomas<br>Dunne, AM<br>O2115                         | 6th May 2024<br>aged 79    | Commodore, RAN                                         | Friend of SM<br>Museum & SAA               | from September 1967             | DOLPHIN, ALARIC (November 1967), ONSLOW (SO on commissioning on 22nd December 1969), OVENS (IL), FINWHALE (CO) & OTAMA (CO) (1981 to 1983)                                                                                                           |

|                                           |                        |                                       |                                       |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Brian Smith BEM                           | 7th May 2024 age 74    | Chief Petty Officer Stores Accountant | We Remember Submariner                | Not given                   | SOVEREIGN & TRAFALGAR (1986)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Thomas George (Keith) Griffin RCN         | 10th May 2024 aged 86  | Leading Stoke                         | SAOC                                  | Not given                   | TRUNCHEON, AUROCHS, ANDREW, ANCHORITE, OPOSSUM, ORPHEUS, OSIRIS, RORQUAL, GRAMPUS, ONONDAGA, OKANAGAN on commissioning on 22nd June 1968 & OJIBWA                                                                                                                                    |
| Graham McGuinness D070927A                | 14th May 2024          | Warrant Officer 1 MEA(P)              | Morecambe Bay Branch                  | Not given                   | ANDREW, WARSPITE, RENOWN, SPARTAN & COURAGEOUS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Raymond E Peters RCN                      | 19th May 2024 aged 89  | Petty Officer 1 Radio Technician      | SAOC                                  | 1966 to 1974                | GRILSE (1966 to 1968) & RAINBOW (1968 to 1974)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| E G (Eddie) Munroe D226244P               | 29th May 2024 aged 53  | Leading Steward                       | Ex Barrow Branch                      | from September 2001         | SPLENDID (November 2001 to August 2003), SUPERB (August 2003 to January 2005), SCEPTRE (January 2005 to January 2006), SOVEREIGN (January 2006 to December 2007), SCEPTRE (January 2009 to January 2011), VICTORIOUS (August 2011 to October 2012) & ARTFUL (November 2012 to 2015). |
| Michael Farrow                            | 31st May 2024          | Steward                               | We Remember Submariners               | Not given                   | TRENCHANT (1st Commission Crew) on 14th January 1989                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Derek Royson Thorne P/MX 888669           | May 2024 aged 89       | Fleet Chief Electrical Artificer      | Dolphin Branch                        | August 1960 to January 1975 | FINWHALE, PORPOISE, DOLPHIN (July 1967) & RESOLUTION on 7th July 1967                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| James Robert Thornton                     | 7th June 2024 aged 42  | LET (MESM)                            | We Remember Submariners               | Not given                   | Submarine Service including SMERAS Faslane                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Travis Martin Allen RCN                   | 8th June 2024 aged 49  | Sonar Operator                        | SAOC                                  | Not given                   | ONONDAGA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Martin Douglas MacPherson, OBE            | 16th June 2024 aged 78 | Commodore                             | Friends of SM Museum & Dolphin Branch | September 1965 to 2002      | AMBUSH (NO), AMPHION (4th Hand 1966), REPULSE (S) (NO), RORQUAL (IL), ONSLAUGHT (CO 1st August 1975), DREADNOUGHT (IL), VALIANT (Rider), TRAFALGAR (CO 1982 to 198*)                                                                                                                 |
| Steven Alexander 'Rusty' Steele           | 17th June 2024         | Leading Seaman (TS)                   | We Remember Submariners               | Not given                   | Submarine Service including OCELOT & SSBNs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Alan James Burnett Laybourne              | 21st June 2024 aged 90 | Captain                               | Friend of SM Museum & Dolphin Branch  | June 1957 to May 1975       | TRENCHANT (1957 to 1958), TALENT (1958), NARWHAL (1958 to 1960), TIRELESS (1960 to 1962), CACHALOT (1962 to 1964), THERMOPYLAE (1964 to 1966), WARSPITE (1968 to 1970), SOVEREIGN 1972 to 1975                                                                                       |
| David Keith Van Valkenberg RCN            | 21st June 2024         | Chief Petty Officer 2 ME              | SAOC                                  | Not Given                   | OKANAGAN & ONONDAGA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Richard Grenville Sharpe OBE              | 22nd June 2024 aged 87 | Commodore                             | Friend of SM Museum                   | 1959 to 1986                | DOLPHIN, THULE, TEREDO, NARWHAL, ALDERNEY, TALENT, OBERON (IL), COQC No. 61, AENEAS (CO), COURAGEOUS, CONQUEROR (IL on commissioning on 9th November 1971), DOLPHIN, COURAGEOUS (CO 30th December 1974), WARRIOR, NORFOLK CO), AIB, DN Plans, RCDS & SULTAN                          |
| William (Bill) Frederick Archdale Ellison | 22nd June 2024 aged 85 | Lieutenant Commander (E) (WESM)       | Friend of SM Museum                   | 1964 to 1985                | DOLPHIN, OBERON, DG Ships, DOLPHIN, CENTURION, NEPTUNE DFM, DOLPHIN, DFM Bath, NATO & FO Portsmouth                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| David John Russell RCN 25507-H            | 25th June 2024 aged 95 | Chief Petty Officer Coxswain          | SAOC                                  | August 1949 to April 1969   | DOLPHIN, TALLY HO (Part 3 from February 1950), ASTUTE (February 1950 to October 1950), TRESPASSER (from May 1951), TURPIN (from                                                                                                                                                      |

|                              |                      |                            |                            |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                              |                      |                            |                            |                             | October 1952), TOTEM (from February 1953), ANDREW (from November 1954)<br>Transferred to RCN & drafted to UK to replace PO2 McLeod who died in SIDON explosion<br>DOLPHIN (from September 1955), TAPIR from February 1956), TALENT (from June 1957), TRESPASSER (from August 1957), ALDERNEY (6th Submarine Sqn) as Coxswain from October 1957 to March 1960), ARTEMIS (6th Submarine Sqn from August (1961) & ONONDAGA from May 1965 (Build & Commissioning Crew as CPO Coxswain from 22nd June 1967 to April 1969) |
| Matthew J Beeson<br>D235100M | June 2024 aged<br>54 | Operator Mechanic<br>(CSM) | We Remember<br>Submariners | June 1994 to August<br>2001 | VICTORIOUS, SCEPTRE, SUPERB, SOVEREIGN & VENGEANCE 1st<br>Commission Crew on 27th November 1999                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Harry A Bewick               | June 2024            | ME1                        | We Remember<br>Submariners | Not given                   | Submarine Service including GRAMPUS on recommissioning at Devonport on<br>4th April 1966                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |



## THE LOSS OF HMS THETIS - 1939



By Peter Tomlinson©

Dark murmuring water  
smother the intruding vessel  
in a moment of malevolent chance.  
The frail submarine is crippled  
as nature asserts itself  
over man and machine.

The builders watch from the quay,  
anxious faces deeply cut by experience,  
artisans proud of their skill  
to temper steel to their will  
and shape intricate artefacts.

Masters of their crafts  
who thought themselves  
masters of the sea.  
Wives and mothers watch from the shore  
with bitten lips

or mouths opened in speechless paralysis.  
Stifled echoes from the deep,  
metallic and hollow  
fade away as hope recedes.

Horried, the silent people return to their homes  
in private grief.  
Children burrowing their faces  
into comforting folds of mothers' clothes.  
The wreck is grappled and raised  
broken and clothed in mud and weed,  
the ghostly shroud of the sea.

The ship repaired, renamed and re-launched  
and defying what every sailor knows,  
ghosted out to sea  
to shadow its own death.

The Submarine HMS THETIS (Lieutenant Commander Guy Howard Bolus, Royal Navy) sank during Contractors Sea Trials in Liverpool Bay in June 1939. There were 103 Royal Navy and Civilian personnel on board. Four of these managed to escape - the rest were lost. The submarine was raised, refitted and re-commissioned as HMS THUNDERBOLT. HMS THUNDERBOLT (Lieutenant Commander Cecil Bernard Crouch DSO\*\*, Royal Navy) was lost with all hands in the Mediterranean on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1943.